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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

September 14, 2001
Volume 11 ▾ Number 1

# A NATION MOURNS

## *Bishop urges 'prayer for entire nation' in wake of attacks*

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin on Sept. 11 joined with religious leaders across the world in lamenting terrorist attacks against the United States, while at the same time calling for prayer and healing in the wake of the tragedy.

In three separate services on the day of the worst terrorist attacks ever against the United States, Bishop Curlin weaved a theme of asking God to guide people in achieving worldwide peace.

"Today is a day of mourning for our nation and our world," said Bishop Curlin during a morning prayer service in the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center minutes after news of the attacks was reported.

"The most horrible instances of violence have unfolded before our very eyes," he said as images of destruction wrought by four hijacked aircraft were broadcast from New York's World Trade Center, the Pentagon in Washington and a field outside Pittsburgh.

"So often in these times, we hear about the tragedy of violence in Israel, in Palestine, in Bosnia," the bishop said. "Now, that horror has come home."

Parishes across the diocese opened their church doors following



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

the terrorist attacks, inviting parishioners for personal prayer, Masses and prayer services.

More memorial services and Masses throughout the diocese were being planned for later in the week.

In Charlotte, Bishop Curlin offered his noon Mass in the pastoral center to the victims and their loved ones.

"In the wake of this profound attack on human life, we pray for those who have died and for God's mercy upon those who were wounded," he said during the Mass. "We pray for those whose loved ones will not be coming home tonight. Indeed, we pray for our entire nation."

In addition to the two services at the pastoral center, Bishop Curlin presided at an evening memorial Mass in St. Patrick Cathedral. Some who gathered wept as the bishop offered prayers for the deceased.

At each of the three gatherings, the bishop voiced his hope that people will redirect a desire for revenge into a positive, Christ-like response.

"We must not let hate rule our hearts," the bishop said. "If we do, then we are truly defeated. If we do, we will have lost as a nation. Yes, we must defend ourselves. But we cannot let our anger, our despair, our desire for revenge defeat us. That is not the way of Jesus.

"From the cross, Jesus Christ looked down upon his murderers and said, 'Father, forgive them.' We must keep that in our hearts as we pray for our brothers and sisters in this time of deep sorrow."

*Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org*

### Want to help?

To financially contribute to the relief effort, make checks payable to the Diocese of Charlotte and send to 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28203. Write "Victims of Disaster" in the memo.

To find out where you can donate to the much-needed blood supply, call **(800) GIVE LIFE** or visit the American Red Cross Web site at www.redcrosshelps.org.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Above: Firemen work around the remains of the World Trade Center after both towers collapsed. Planes crashed into the two towers Sept. 11, leading to their collapse. Above left: Smoke from the Pentagon building in Arlington, Va., billows across Washington, seen in this rooftop view from the offices of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. An American Airlines jet crashed into the building Sept. 11, shortly after two other planes flew into the World Trade Center in New York.**

### Treat embryos outside womb as human, bishops' official urges

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An official of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has urged the Bush administration to treat human embryos outside the womb as human subjects when it issues revised regulations on federal funding of medical research. Mark E. Chopko, USCCB general counsel, called for a clear rule on embryos in vitro "so that the federal government will fund no research in which a human embryo is created for research purposes or is destroyed, discarded or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death greater than that allowed for research on fetuses in utero." Chopko made his comments Aug. 31 in a 10-page letter to the Office of Human Research Protections of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He urged HHS to reverse its fundamental shift of style from restrictive language in the current HHS regulations to permissive language in the proposed revision. The permissive form states what the government will fund instead of what it won't.

### Priest celebrates funeral Mass for Aaliyah

NEW YORK (CNS) — A Jesuit pastor celebrated the Aug. 31 funeral Mass in New York for Aaliyah, the young singer and actress killed in a Bahamas plane crash. Jesuit Father Walter F. Modrys, pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola Church, a Jesuit parish on Park Avenue in Manhattan, was celebrant and homilist. In a later telephone interview, he said the singer, whose full name was Aaliyah Dana Haughton, had no personal or family connection to the parish. But he said the family was Catholic, and perhaps chose the church because it was near the funeral home handling arrangements, and could provide a controlled setting for an event receiving so much attention from fans and the media.

### Vatican calls on U.N. conference to affirm rights of all migrants

DURBAN, South Africa (CNS) — The Vatican called on the World Conference Against Racism to affirm the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their immigration status. This affirmation must include broad outlines on how governments and the international system should apply these rights, said the Vatican's statement to the conference, delivered Sept. 3 by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, permanent observer of the Holy See to U.N. offices in Geneva. Archbishop Martin said that, in meetings held to prepare for the U.N. conference, the Vatican has heavily focused on migrants and refugees. "Today the migrant, especially one who comes from a different cultural background, can easily become the object of racial discrimination, of intolerance, of exploitation and of violence," Archbishop Martin said.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Pipe bomb thrown in Belfast**

**Police assist an injured officer after a homemade bomb was thrown into a police cordon protecting Catholic school children in North Belfast Sept. 5. One officer was injured in the explosion as pro-British loyalists continued to protest and harass students attending Holy Cross Primary School.**

### Six, including CRS worker, die in attack in northern Uganda

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — An ambush on a Catholic Relief Services vehicle in northern Uganda killed the Sudanese driver and five other Sudanese, said a statement from CRS in Nairobi. The attack was carried out Sept. 1 near Adjumani, about 200 miles north of Kampala, the Ugandan capital. Ugandan authorities blamed rebels for the killings. CRS said Onen Joseph Clay, a CRS driver and mechanic, was killed when the vehicle was attacked by an unknown number of assailants. It was traveling from Nimule in southern Sudan, where CRS has an operations center. The five Sudanese killed along the road were not immediately identified. Northern Uganda is home to tens of thousands of Sudanese refugees.

### Pope calls interreligious dialogue critical to peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II called interreligious dialogue an urgent and critical task to ensuring peace in the new millennium. "Dialogue between different religions not only wards off the dread specter of those wars of religion which have so often bloodied human history, but above all establishes more solid conditions for peace," he said. The pontiff made his remarks in a message to a meeting of 200 religious leaders from around the world gathered Sept. 2-4 in Barcelona, Spain. The Vatican released his text Sept. 5. The annual meeting was organized by the Sant'Egidio Community, a Rome-based lay Catholic group.

### Church leaders condemn violence outside Belfast Catholic school

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (CNS) — Church leaders condemned continued violence outside a Catholic school as young schoolgirls continued to be the target of rock-throwing and verbal abuse by Protestant extremists. Belfast's Catholic bishop and the head of the Church of Ireland said children must be allowed to enter Holy Cross Primary School in North Belfast, while one parent compared the situation to the end of segregation in the United States in the 1960s. "No society has the right to deny young children access to education," said Anglican Archbishop Robin Eames, head of the Church of Ireland. Catholic Bishop Patrick Walsh of Down and Connor, the diocese where Belfast is located, said, "The school must be allowed to function properly, and those people in positions of responsibility must be able to come together."

### Catholic-Anglican commission drafts statement on Marian dogmas

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Hoping to overcome another hurdle in Catholic-Anglican relations, a joint dialogue commission has begun drafting a statement on the Catholic dogmas of the Virgin Mary's Immaculate Conception and Assumption. Members of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, known as ARCIC, met Aug. 27-Sept. 3 at the Church of Ireland College of Education in Dublin. Father Don Bolen, the commission's Catholic co-secretary and an official at the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity, said the members agreed on an outline for a joint statement on Mary's place in church life and doctrine and undertook some preliminary drafting.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**September 20-23**
NACDLGM Conference

**September 22 — 6 p.m.**
NACDLGM Eucharistic celebration with Bishop Walter Sullivan
St. Peter, Charlotte

**September 24 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro

**September 28 — 5 p.m.**
Investiture ceremony of Third Order of Capuchin Franciscans
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**September 30 — 7 p.m.**
Dedication and blessing of Bishop McGuinness High School, Winston-Salem

## Diocesan planner

**September**

**16** CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., is hosting its Christian Coffeehouse tonight from 7-9 p.m. Join parishioners and others for spiritual messages with live Christian contemporary music provided by Kathy and David with Redeemed, fellowship and refreshments. Proceeds will benefit Brian Couture who recently had liver transplant surgery. For further information, group reservations and sponsorship opportunities, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 614-9100.

**17** CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in exploring their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

**18** MORGANTON — All are invited to St. Charles Borromeo Church, 714 West Union St., tonight at 7 p.m. for presentations, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, on the advocacy and educational initiatives entitled "Africa Rising: Hope to Healing" from Catholic Relief Services and "Africa: Hunger to Harvest" from Bread for the World. These initiatives are a joint effort to focus on needs and concerns in Africa. The next sessions will take place on Sept. 29 at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont and on Oct. 23 at St. Francis of Assisi in Franklin. Call Joe Purello at (704) 370-3225 or Terri Jarina at (704) 370-3234 for more information.

**20** CHARLOTTE — The women's Cursillo weekend will take place today through Sept. 23 at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., with the closing occurring at 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 23. For more information, call Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696 or Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665.

**21** MAGGIE VALLEY — All married couples are invited to the Living Waters

### U.S. lawmakers call for tribunal on 1999 East Timor violence

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Indonesian military officers and militias responsible for the mayhem surrounding the 1999 referendum in East Timor should be brought before an international tribunal for crimes against humanity, U.S. lawmakers said. "We would like to see the Bush administration take a leadership role in pushing for a tribunal," said Rep. James P. McGovern, D-Mass., during a Sept. 6 Capitol Hill press conference. Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, warned that he would block any attempt by the Bush administration to provide military funding to Indonesia unless a tribunal is established. The date of the press conference coincided with the second anniversary of a massacre at a church in Suai, in southwestern East Timor.

### Cardinal Mahony gives blessing at Bush's first state dinner

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles gave the blessing at President Bush's first state dinner Sept. 5. The dinner was for Mexican President Vicente Fox. The cardinal was one of eight people sitting at the same table with Bush and was asked by the president to give the blessing, said Tod Tamberg, spokesman for Cardinal Mahony.

### Pope urges renewed commitment to peace in Northern Ireland

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul urged renewed commitment to peace in Northern Ireland after days of renewed sectarian tension that saw riot police escorting Catholic schoolgirls through a Protestant neighborhood in Belfast. "Present difficulties are a reminder that peace is a fragile reality calling for continued good will and the implementation of the practical measures required for a just and harmonious society," he said. The pope made his remarks to Ireland's new ambassador to the Holy See, Bernard Davenport, who presented his credentials Sept. 7 at the papal summer residence outside Rome.

### Indonesian bishop bans Catholics in tribal wars from sacraments

RUTENG, Indonesia (CNS) — A bishop on a predominantly Catholic island in eastern Indonesia has banned Catholics who engage in tribal wars from receiving the sacraments. Bishop Eduardus Sangsun of Ruteng also asked parish priests to deny funeral Masses or rites for Catholics killed in tribal wars, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. The decree similarly bars Catholics who are involved in gambling operations and land grabbing. UCA News reported Sept. 7 that the pastoral letter was issued April 26 and has been read repeatedly to Catholics at Sunday Masses in the diocese's 51 parishes.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTER

**Albanian families return home**

**Families and children leave refugee camps in Kosovo and return to their homes in Macedonia Sept. 8. Macedonia celebrated 10 years of independence and began the second phase of disarming ethnic Albanian guerillas on Saturday.**

### Most at Senate hearing favor wider embryonic stem-cell research

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Jesuit bioethicist was the sole witness to speak out on moral grounds against human embryonic stem-cell research at a Senate hearing Sept. 5. "The key moral obstacle to embryonic stem-cell research is that currently the only way embryonic stem cells are obtained is by destroying an embryo," said Jesuit Father Kevin FitzGerald, a professor of Catholic health care ethics at Georgetown University. Another of the eight witnesses, Dr. John P. Chute of the Naval Medical Research Center in Bethesda, Md., warned that diverting large amounts of research funding from adult stem cells to embryonic stem cells "would be a mistake of historical proportions and would risk harming hundreds of thousands of patients in the United States who currently benefit" from therapies based on adult stem cells.

### Barry University buys theological collection

MIAMI SHORES, Fla. (CNS) — Barry University has acquired a collection of theological material dating back to the 1600s. The Atonement Seminary Library collection, valued at almost $500,000, was obtained from the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement in Washington. The collection includes 30,000 monographs, reference works and bound periodicals dating from the 1600s. It includes material from Italy, Germany, France and Spain. The collection was purchased for $175,000, using a $100,000 grant from the Florida-based Koch Foundation. The school is seeking additional funds to pay for shelving and cataloging the collection.

### Pennsylvania rabbi on mission to honor John Paul II

HARRISBURG, Pa. (CNS) — "Oh, how I love this pope" are not words one might expect to hear from a rabbi. But it's a fond saying of Rabbi David Ben-Ami of Harrisburg, who is spending his retirement establishing a Pope John Paul II institute for the advancement of Jewish-Christian dialogue. "We need to do something in this pope's honor," said Rabbi Ben-Ami, an unabashed admirer of the current pontiff's attempts to strengthen Jewish-Catholic relations. So, heeding his own advice, he is lobbying both his Jewish brethren and Catholic friends, seeking their blessings and assistance. He said the aim is to promote tolerance, reconciliation, understanding, unity and peace by reaching out to all people of faith and good will.

### Retired DEA agent begins new career as Catholic school principal

WEST MILFORD, N.J. (CNS) — In the quiet of his office at St. Joseph School in West Milford, Deacon Milton Smilek, the new principal, is far removed from his previous career as a special agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. From 1977 until his retirement last year, Deacon Smilek often risked his own life while investigating the global drug market. His assignments required him to raid drug dens, tap phone lines and work undercover. "As a Christian, I am here to better mankind," said Deacon Smilek, who was a narcotics officer with the Paterson Police Department before joining the federal agency. "When you take drugs off the street, you give people a chance. You also make the streets safer," he said.

Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, for a married couple's retreat entitled "Celebrate Your Marriage." Janie and Charlie Normile will lead discussions about the blessings of marriage including marital communication, spirituality and loving relationships. For more information, call the center at (828) 926-3833.

**22** WINSTON-SALEM — Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, corner of 3rd and Cherry Sts., is hosting a presentation on centering prayer, silent communication with God beyond concepts or images, today from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. with registration at 9:30 a.m. Participants must provide their own lunch, and dessert and beverages will be provided. For details, call Josephine Rosaschi at (336) 723-8241.

**23** CHARLOTTE — The Pathfinders, a separated and divorced peer support group, welcomes all to a 10th anniversary Mass with Father Richard Bellow today at 2:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall where participants can learn more about the group. For details, call Nancy Cardo at (704) 752-0318.

**23** GREENSBORO — Tom Franzak, a contemporary Christian musician, will bring "Saints: In Their Own Words," his musical celebration, to St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St, today at 3 p.m. The proceeds from this presentation, sponsored by the Franciscan Players, will benefit local charities in the Triad area. Call Irene Czarnomski at (336) 855-9001 or e-mail iczarnomski@prodigy.net for ticket reservations.

**24** CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia will be held today from 10-11:15 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. With advanced notification, activities for the memory-impaired are also being provided. For more information about the support group or the non-profit Shining Stars Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday and beginning on Sept. 13, on a third day offered at Sardis Presbyterian Church, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

**24** MORGANTON — St. Charles Borromeo Church, 714 West Union St., is beginning a LANDINGS ministry to welcome inactive Catholics interested in returning to practicing the faith back to the church. The first of 10 weekly sessions will begin the week of Sept. 24. For further information, call Tom Henderson at (828) 584-3199.

**26** CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend the monthly memorial Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, that will be taking place tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they may be remembered during the Mass.

**26** GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women invites all ladies to its Fall Luncheon at the Greensboro Country Club Pavilion today at noon. The speaker will be Franciscan Father Louis Canino, director of the Franciscan Center. For information on how to support the luncheon and council, directions and the Sept. 21 registration deadline, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

**26** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**28** WINSTON-SALEM — Marriage Encounter Weekends are designed for couples to get away from jobs, kids, chores and phones for 44 hours and focus only on each other. The next Marriage Encounter will be taking place today through Sept. 30 at the Holiday Inn in Winston-Salem. Registration closes Sept. 23, and the weekends fill up quickly. For further details and to register, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

*Please submit items to the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.*

# Reidsville parish celebrates life in the Spirit at charismatic seminar

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

REIDSVILLE — During the four days of Aug. 19-22, 44 parishioners of Holy Infant Church were inundated by the out-flowing of the Holy Spirit.

Through the efforts of the pastor, Father Christopher Davis, and Rev. Mr. Ron and Bette Steinkamp, Rev. Mr. Gordon Forester, Hannah Hammer and Dick Foley, a mini-seminar on the charismatic "Life in the Spirit" seminar was condensed from its usual format to three days of lecture and reflection. Team leaders asked pointed questions of the participants and led a day of "Baptism in the Spirit."

The Holy Spirit will never force himself upon anyone against their will, Father Davis said, adding that the fruits received from this seminar may not be seen for days or weeks to come.

Hannah Hammer told of how the people of God must "recognize the love of God within themselves — that God uses me to love others as each surrenders our humanity completely to him."

She helped the participants understand that they are "constantly being wooed by the Holy Spirit ... who seeks all through the love of children."

"Even when mistakes are made," she said, "God never ceases to love."

Mrs. Steinkamp then reminded participants that God touches lives through the Bible, through life-changing experiences, and through prayer. She emphasized that each must continue to meet Jesus on a daily basis.

To end the evening lecture, Father Davis stressed that salvation is an ongoing experience.

After leading the participants through the story of the prophets, Father Davis pointed out that it is through Jesus that salvation is achieved. "God (the Father) speaks the Word (Jesus) with his breath (the Holy Spirit)" so that all are infected with love, he said.

On the second evening, Dick Foley emphasized that the church teaches that the Holy Spirit comes to each through the sacraments of baptism and confirmation. Each must go from knowing the Holy Spirit in the mind to knowing him in the heart, he added.

Foley told of how the Holy Spirit was with Jesus at birth, at his baptism, and with the Apostles at Pentecost when the church was brought out of the darkness by the Spirit's power.

Rev. Mr. Forester said all must be converted every day of their lives by the "love which you cannot avoid." In order to receive the gifts of God, he said, there must be complete trust and total surrender to God.

Mary Ellen Foley agreed, adding that in order "to receive the gifts of God, not only must one be at peace with God but ... that one must open your hearts to him."

On the third evening, the format changed. Rev. Mr. Ron Steinkamp explained that the purpose of the seminar is "to ask the Holy Spirit to give us the power to live the full potential each has."

"We who are loved must now turn to the lover," he said. "God wanted to enlarge our vessels of clay so he can fill them with as much of himself as possible."

Then there was a renewal of baptismal promises. Rev. Mr. Steinkamp asked "that each be open to receiving the gifts that the Holy Spirit will bring" and that "none should make the mistake of identifying 'Baptism in the Spirit' with a single gift."

"Above all, praise God for gifts received and concentrate on him," he said.

At that point, those who were willing came forth to open their hearts and minds to God and to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

On the fourth evening, Mrs. Steinkamp reiterated that all were "here because we were looking for spiritual growth" and stressed that the liturgy is the "most holy learning experience the church has to offer."

Finally, Dick Foley explained how each must conform to the will of God. He stated that God's gifts are forever and that his love is everlasting. He stressed that each should "take the road less traveled."

When asked about attending the Life in the Spirit seminar, Sandra Brown said, "It was wonderful. It was a time just to be, and learn and accept the Spirit."

Mary Ann Hodgin said she "felt as if a great burden were lifted from me."

Mike Fetter indicated that during the "Baptism of the Spirit," "every cell in my body went straight up. My flesh was tingling. My head was sweating. It was a feeling I had never felt before."

"I can't put into words," added Claudette Mullings. "I'm not sure what is happening. Something happened that I can't explain. I think the Lord has plans for me down the road."

## In Brief ...

### Weight management program to begin at Charlotte parish

CHARLOTTE — Weighing the Truth is a new faith-based weight management program that nourishes the body, mind and spirit. The goal of this unique bible-based program is focused on a way of living that will help to change your way of eating. The program will begin at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., on Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m. and will continue on Wednesday evenings for 10 weeks in the parish center. For further information, call Victoria Sprow at (704) 544-8729 or Aurelie May at (704) 847-6210.

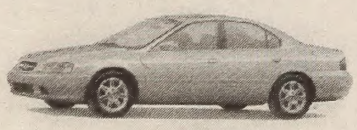
### Happy Timers gather for monthly meeting

CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will hold a meeting and luncheon, in the parish activity center on Oct. 3. at 1 p.m. Featured at the event will be Bob Wilusz, accordion player. All adults 55 and older are invited to attend. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

### Adult bible study to focus on Acts of the Apostles

CHARLOTTE — St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will host adult bible study on the Acts of the Apostles on Thursday nights from 7:30-9 p.m. beginning Oct. 4 and concluding March 21 with a break for the month of December. Michael Coyle, a Franciscan University theology graduate, is leading the informative study. For details, call the church office at (704) 536-6520 or (704) 598-3049 or e-mail mecoyle@email.uncc.edu.


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1123 South Church Street • Charlotte, NC 28203 • www.cssnc.org

# Catechists show love through sharing of the faith with students

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

Sharing the faith with others and spreading the word of God — that is what faith formation catechists do with students around the country in various parishes. According to Catholic News Service statistics, more than 500,000 catechists in the United States serve over 4 million children and teens.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, which is separated into four faith formation regions, catechists are helping to promote the teachings of Christ through their lesson plans and are extending that knowledge to the next generation of Catholics.

Catechetical Sunday, celebrated on Sept. 16 this year, is a "time to celebrate the ministry and to give recognition to those who are catechetical ministers," said Marylin Kravatz, diocesan Southern Regional faith formation coordinator.

This year's theme, "Love Beyond All Telling," as it pertains to the role of faith formation in the lives of its students, is expressed through a reciprocal relationship between the catechists and the classes, explained Kravatz.

"It is not just sharing what you know, but it is also sharing who you are as a faithful disciple," she said of catechists. "It also pertains to parents and guardians who are a part of this ministry as they pass on their faith to their children. Through faith formation, we help others to experience God's love and mercy."

### Northern Region

Kathy Johnston says she has officially retired, but she will still be available to help out with faith formation classes at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro whenever needed. Why is the connection between her and the children she has served for 20 years in the Diocese of Charlotte so strong?

"I just loved it. It was hard to say that this was going to be my last year because I'll miss it," said Johnston wistfully. "I have met so many dedicated and wonderful people who work with youngsters. I'll still be around for help."

Johnston began her faith formation teaching career in Long Island, N.Y., when her fourth child entered second grade. She answered the call for more catechists and began teaching second-grade with sacramental preparation and later moved on to seventh-grade confirmation preparation.

The high school chemistry and science teacher fit well within the faith formation classroom setting and found her niche with the junior high students. "It was kind of an extension of teaching in general, and teaching is in my blood. I enjoy working with young people because they are full of enthusiasm and idealism."

After a move to Charlotte and settling in at St. Paul the Apostle, her five years of teaching in New York helped her begin teaching sixth-grade classes at the Piedmont-Triad church. With a focus on the Old Testament, she conducted prayer services where she would hand out bibles, play bible Jeopardy and visit one of the Jewish temples in Greensboro. The ecumenical focus was a learning experience for Johnston as well.

"When I was growing up, I didn't read the Old Testament, so I was learning along with the children," said Johnston, who, after many years in a classroom setting, decided to try her hand at being a faith formation coordinator before her recent retirement.

"The way you show love is in how you act and what you do, not just telling someone. It is important for adults to be examples for the youth because they know when you are just talking and not doing something," said Johnston, reflecting on this year's theme. "Being a part of faith formation is a way of loving through actions."

### Southern Region

Sue Salmen works in the midst of youth every week. She teaches faith formation to kindergarteners at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte and says that the age group is a joy to be around in class. "They are so open to everything you teach them."

Salmen has been a catechist for over 20 years and says that one of the keys to teaching young children is the use of visuals.

"I teach them prayers with hand motions, and when we are talking about the story of Lazarus, for instance, they like to pretend that there is a big cave and that he is being resurrected," said Salmen of her classroom style. "I try to give them a five-minute synopsis of the gospel for that week in their own language, and they come back and tell me about it after they have attended Mass."

The Florida native attended college at Loyola University in New Orleans, where she first began teaching faith formation to kindergarteners and confirmation preparation to eighth graders. After marriage and a move to Charlotte with her husband, Arthur, she felt the need to resume her ministry.

"I wanted to become active and to make a presence within the faith formation program at St. Gabriel," she said. "(I became involved with faith formation because) I feel like I've been blessed many times, and I wanted to share that with people."

Even though she holds a full-time job, she is able to run to the parish on Wednesday evenings to teach the children. During the times when she has required extra help, her husband has pitched in to write nametags, gather supplies and make deliveries to the church. Even though her schedule is sometimes busy, she feels that the work with faith formation is important.

"I feel like it is worth it after it's done,"

See FAITH FORMATION, page 14


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### Grandmother of 24 finds infant girl in Catholic church

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (CNS) — A mother of 10 and grandmother of 24 discovered an abandoned baby girl Sept. 1 in a pew at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Springfield. The baby was hospitalized shortly after the discovery and later placed in foster care. Catherine Barrett had stopped in at the church to pray and said she heard a baby crying. She searched the church and found the baby on a pew.

### Holy Name Society convention in Boston includes some firsts

BOSTON (CNS) — This year's national convention of the Holy Name Society in Boston had an international flair with the election of the group's first Filipino-American president and workshops offered in Spanish and Portuguese. The Aug. 29-Sept. 2 convention could set the tone for the group's future meetings, said convention chairman Joseph LaPointe. "We should be geared around the fact that there are other cultures that have to be addressed depending on the part of the country that you go to," he told The Pilot, archdiocesan newspaper of Boston.

### Bishop Murphy installed as head of Diocese of Rockville Centre

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. (CNS) — Bishop William F. Murphy, the newly installed bishop of Rockville Centre, wasted no time in announcing future plans for the diocese. Moments after his Sept. 5 installation, the fourth bishop of Rockville Centre announced that a diocesan synod and a Eucharistic Congress would both take place in 2007 during the Long Island diocese's 50th anniversary. The new bishop said the two gatherings would reflect the church's "universal call to holiness" emphasized in the Second Vatican Council.

### U.S. nun seeks to be included in roommate's murder investigation

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — Four months after her roommate was shot and killed, Charity Sister Virginia Searing is struggling to be included in the murder investigation. For 15 years she worked with slain Charity Sister Barbara Ann Ford in the war-torn province of Quiche, counseling Mayan Indians who lost land and loved ones in the 1960-1996 civil war.



CNS PHOTO BY CAM HERYET

**Triathelete nun marks 12th finish with new record**

**Seventy-one-year-old Sister Madonna Buder races in the Subaru Ironman Canada triathlon Aug. 2 in Penticton, British Colombia. She completed the course in less than 15 hours, setting a record for her age group and beating her own record by 49 minutes.**

Sister Searing has been denied the civil status that would allow her to act as joint plaintiff in the case looking into the death of Sister Ford, a member of her order from New York. Sister Searing has appealed a ruling that only immediate family or spouses can prosecute alongside the state.

### Italian magazine says Vatican to OK miracle for Padre Pio

ROME (CNS) — Italy's highest-circulation weekly magazine reported that the Vatican would formally approve a miracle attributed to Padre Pio by the end of the year, paving the way for his canonization in early 2002. But Capuchin Father Florio Tessari, the Italian monk's postulator, said it was impossible to predict when or if the miracle would be approved, much less a canonization date. In an article released Sept. 5, Famiglia Cristiana said a Vatican medical commission was scheduled to approve the miracle in October, followed by verification by panels of theologians and cardinals. The alleged miracle under Vatican scrutiny is the sudden cure from meningitis of a 7-year-old Italian boy.

### Parish bulletin columnist takes 'sabbatical' to join missions

DETROIT (CNS) — Millions of Catholics across the country are familiar with Bud Ozar's "A Family Perspective," which is used in parish bulletins throughout the United States. Francis "Bud" Ozar also is known for his role as director of the Office for Family and Youth for the Archdiocese of Detroit, a position he has held for more than 20 years. In September Ozar and his wife of 28 years are embarking on a journey to pursue a dream — working as missionaries in a Third World country. "Sue and I recognize that we have been very abundantly blessed. As we looked to the next chapter in our lives it has become clear that we are being called to give more generously of ourselves," Bud Ozar said.

### Cardinal says Christians must strive to abolish racism

DURBAN, South Africa (CNS) — Participants in the World Conference Against Racism and all Christians must strive to bring about the reconciliation needed to abolish racism and heal broken communities, said an African cardinal. "There is a double burden on us Christians who are attending the conference," Cardinal Wilfrid Napier of Durban told those gathered at a special Mass offered for the conference's success. "Not only are we to be announcers of the good news of God's offer of reconciliation, but we are to show the way." He said that a "conversion of the heart" is needed to "repent and accept the Good News," the first step in the fight against racism.


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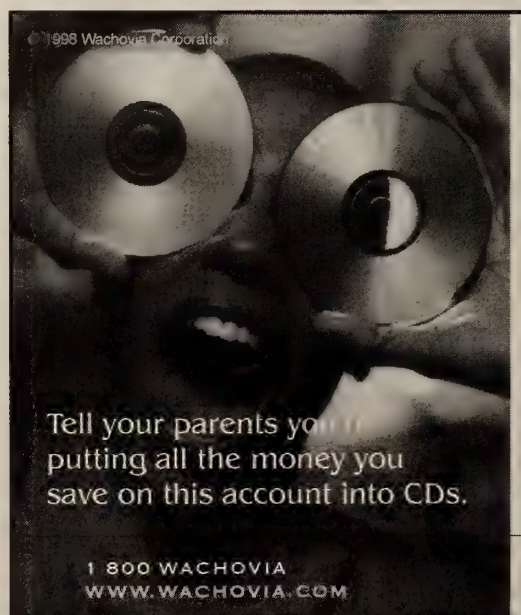
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# Rally celebrates light of Christ in young church's life

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

FORT MILL, S.C. — "Now *that's* a preacher," said a smiling teen to her friends as they descended from the bleachers in the Hornets' Training Center in Fort Mill.

She and a thousand others had just heard Father Paul Williams offer a simple yet challenging way to follow Christ to heaven. Along that path, the priest said, Christians must decide how to define true power.

"If you want real power, then go to Mass every single day and eat worthily his flesh and drink worthily his blood," he said. "You will have power. You will have Christ's power."

Father Williams was a featured speaker at Power Rally 2001, a youth and young adult event celebrating the "Catechism of the Catholic Church's" themes of morality, the Creed, the sacraments and prayer.

About 1,000 youth and young adults from across the Atlanta Province — the Atlanta Archdiocese and the dioceses of Charlotte, Raleigh, Savannah and Charleston — came to Fort Mill to hear about ways to shine as people of faith.

Prayer, song, preaching and Mass seasoned this day of celebrating the young church.

Father Williams, who serves in the Charleston Diocese, said Christian living requires a decision to give control to God.

"God's way is achieving life everlasting," Father Williams said. When the faithful give their very lives to God, he said, they "can become like that light shining on the hill, so that those who are in darkness can find their way."

Father Williams said today's society is challenged by a mentality that promotes power by allowing people to choose to live however they wish. But in the life of a Christian believer, he said, different rules apply.

"If you want to be that light shining on the hill," he said, "if you want to be that faithful servant who will be rewarded in paradise, if you want to be that child of God, then you do not have a choice.

"You and I are going to have to die for Christ by making a commitment to live for Christ. Unless we are willing to die, we will not live."

In today's popular culture where media and other outlets often shape people's ideals, he added, it is important that believers focus on "not keeping our eyes fixed on MTV, not keeping our eyes fixed on BET, but on keeping our eyes fixed on J.C. — Jesus Christ — and if we do so, we will have life everlasting."

For teen Tim Corning, who traveled with his youth group from Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in St. Marys, Ga., the event was a way to spend time in the presence of others his age — and with the Lord.

"I came to be with the youth group, to celebrate Mass and be with people you like and enjoy being with," said Corning, 16. "Hearing all these people preach gives you a clear heart and a clear mind. It's a celebration."

Christian recording artist Steve Angrisano served as master of ceremonies during the event.

The list of speakers included names known in local and national Catholic seminar, youth ministry and young adult ministry circles: EWTN's "Life on the Rock" co-hosts Jeff Cavins and Catherine Rumore; Matt Pinto, author of "Did Adam & Eve Have Belly Buttons?" and Kathy and David with the band Redeemed.

A Diocese of Charlotte priest, Father Matthew Kauth, helped the group celebrate the feast of the birth of Mary with a talk about the Blessed Mother's role in Catholics' lives. Father Matthew Leonard, another diocesan priest, shared personal insights about the faith journey.

A ministry fair featured a host of resources on Catholic ministries and institutions, while priests scattered throughout the facility during the event to hear confessions.

"This was just awesome," said Scott Walters, spokesperson for Good News Ministries - Charlotte, which sponsored the event. "These kids were just really hungry for and open to what they experienced. We had eight stations for confessions, and they just lined up."

Walters said he was most impressed by the way he saw teens and young adults processing the experience, from their reaction to the dozen priests who concelebrated the Mass to their participation in the music of the event.

He said to have that many priests on hand was inspiring as well.

"It was so impressive to have that support from the clergy," he said. "They really, really care for the youth, and this was a great sign of support."

Bishop William G. Curlin, who presided at the Mass, reiterated Father Williams' message of finding true power—Christ's power—in the Eucharist.

Like Father Williams, Bishop Curlin spoke of the importance of living the faith journey in the light of Christ.

"I challenge you to take Jesus seriously and make him the hallmark and rock of your life," Bishop Curlin said in his homily. "I challenge you to take his words and to make them your own. I challenge you to take his mercy, his love and his compassion, and make it yours."

*Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org*



Photos by Jimmy Rostar



**Power Rally 2001 featured music, prayer, liturgy and preaching for 1,000 teens and young adults from five Southeastern dioceses. Above, the congregation prays the Our Father during Mass. Bishop William G. Curlin urged the crowd to be a living symbol of Christ. At left, a trio of teens from St. Marys, Ga., display a unified message of their love for Jesus.**


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# Pope says attacks marked 'dark day in the history of humanity'

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said massive terror attacks in the United States marked "a dark day in the history of humanity" and asked pilgrims during a somber general audience to join him in prayer.

Dropping ordinary audience procedure, the pope devoted his entire text Sept. 12 to the attacks less than 24 hours earlier, in which hijacked planes destroyed New York's World Trade Center towers and damaged the Pentagon. Initial casualty estimates suggested that thousands of people were killed.

"The human heart has depths from which schemes of unheard-of ferocity sometimes emerge, capable of destroying in a moment the normal daily life of a people," the pope told 25,000 pilgrims who hung on his words in an eerily quiet St. Peter's Square.

"But faith comes to our aid when words seem to fail," he said. "Even if the forces of darkness appear to prevail, those who believe in God know that evil and death do not have the final say."

The pope said he had offered his morning Mass for "the helpless victims of this tragedy." He assured his spiritual closeness to the "beloved people of the United States in this moment of distress and consternation, when the courage of so many men and women of good will is being sorely tested."

Though he usually addresses pilgrims in at least a dozen languages, the pope spoke only in Italian and English. His comments were summarized by aides in French, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Polish.

Among those listening to the pope were hundreds of Americans, some who had yet to hear if loved ones in New York and Washington were safe.

Hiding teary and reddened eyes behind dark sunglasses, Mary Kavaney, 35, said, "I have friends in that (World Trade Center) building, so it was very comforting to hear the pope make his blessing and obviously denounce terrorism.

"It's just comforting to hear him speak," said Kavaney, a senior official in the New York state attorney general's office. The U.S. terror attacks came during the final days of her honeymoon in Italy.

At the end of the audience, the pope led prayers for the disaster's victims and for the ultimate victory of reconciliation and peace.

"Let us beg the Lord that the spiral of hatred and violence will not prevail," he said.

A papal aide read a prayer petition in English, asking God to help Americans who are suffering "not to let themselves be overwhelmed by sorrow, despair and a spirit of vengeance" but instead to "commit themselves to building a better world" in the confidence that good will triumph over evil.

Many of the Americans at the audience seemed to feel more disbelief and bewilderment than anger and a desire for retaliation.

"I can't believe someone could get into the Pentagon. It's scary. It's very scary," said Jessica Smith, 22, a hairstylist from Michigan who was traveling in Europe.

Smith and her 18-year-old brother, Josh, said they had heard news of the attack when they called their mother the morning of the audience.

Other Americans in Rome gathered what they knew about the attacks from horrifying images on Italian newscasts and were desperate for more information.

Before the pope's arrival in the square, Kevin and Marty Cavalier, a Catholic couple from Connecticut, poured over the front page of USA Today.

Marty Cavalier, a pediatric nurse, grimaced and held her stomach as she looked at the pictures of collapsed buildings.

"It makes me feel sick," she said.

"Unbelievable," her husband added quietly. "We're just completely shocked."

# U.S. tragedy rallies Americans in faith; cardinals respond in kind

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

While a nation watched in shocked disbelief, malicious terrorist activity destroyed American buildings, abruptly ended untold numbers of lives, and shattered an innate sense of security and freedom across the country. Immediately, bishops, archbishops and cardinals from around the world stepped forward with words of encouragement at a time when the faith of a nation is challenged.

Following are excerpts from the cardinals of the immediately affected areas: Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, archbishop of Philadelphia; Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, archbishop of Washington; and from the epicenter of the destruction, Edward Cardinal Egan, archbishop of New York.

**Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, Archbishop of Philadelphia**

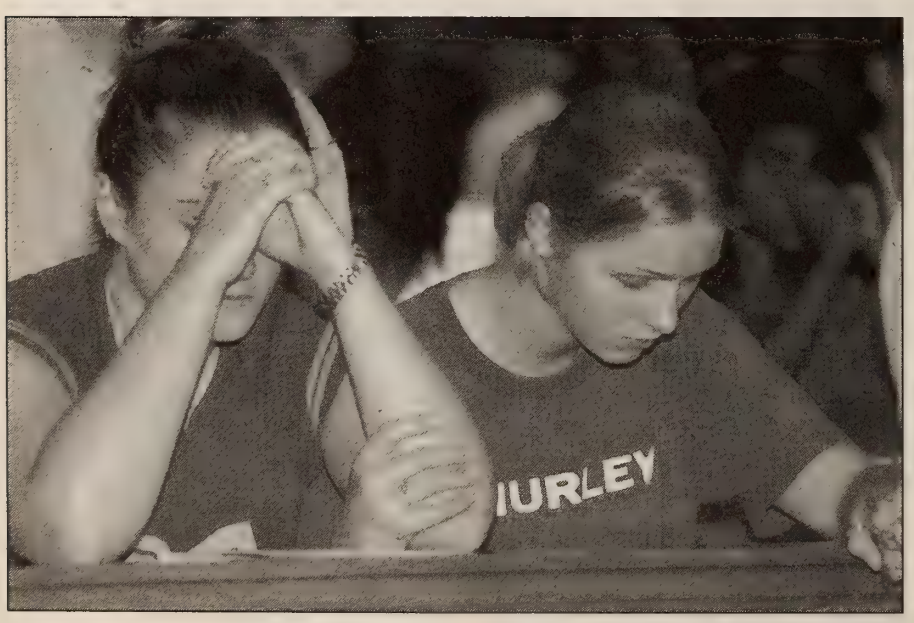
"The shock of these heinous assaults on innocent and unsuspecting people as well as the catastrophic loss of life will leave for a long time a scar on the psyche of the American people. ... The very symbols of our nation's security and prosperity have been turned to dust and innumerable lives have been abruptly ended. ... It is in such moments of crisis that the American spirit shines forth as courageous, dauntless and enduring. ... Our nation was founded on principles revealed by God and we know that, in spite of the horrendous evil carried out by men of hatred, we remain under our loving God's protection and guidance."

**Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington**

"... We must finally resist the temptation to strike out in vengeance and revenge and, in a special way, not to label any ethnic group or community for this action, which certainly is just the work of a few madmen. We must seek the guilty and not strike out against the innocent or we become like them who are without moral guide or direction. ... As we pray for our nation and for our dead and for our sick and wounded, and as we reach out in deepest prayer for the families who have suffered so, let us also pray for our leaders that they may be strong and courageous in the face of this tragedy and that, as they pursue with justice the perpetrators of this horrible crime, they may never cease to continue to build this nation as it has always been built, with the values of faith and trust in the Living God."

**Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop of New York**

"We are a courageous people living and working under the guidance and with the love of Divine Providence. ... We remain at peace in the face of the tragedy that has beset us. Our peace is grounded in that confident trust in providence. Finally, we call for justice. We insist that those who have committed this crime be called before the courts of civilized people. We must not, however, allow our pursuit of justice to descend into sentiments of hate and retaliation. ... To the President of these United States and his administration, to the Mayor of the City of New York and his administration, and to the Mayor of the City of Washington, D.C. and his administration, we express our loyalty and promise our support at this difficult time. With the help of our God and united as free men and women under God, we wipe away our tears, roll up our sleeves, do what needs to be done, and look confidently to the future."




CNS photo by Bob Roller

**Students hug during mass at shrine**

**Two Catholic University of America students pray during a Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception celebrated a few hours after terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon outside Washington. Meghan Hines, 19, a sophomore from Ramsey, N.J., and Lauren Zahone, 19, a freshman from Raleigh, N.C., attended the Mass after classes at the university were suspended for the day.**



CNS photo from Reuters

**Cars smolder on New York street**

**Cars smolder on a street in the Wall Street district after the World Trade Center in New York was hit by two hijacked airliners Sept. 11. Both towers collapsed.**

# U.S. bishops' committee calls terrorist attacks 'national tragedy'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — *Here is the text of a Sept. 11 statement issued by the Administrative Committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in the wake of terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.*

This is a day of national tragedy. Though we do not yet know its full extent, we mourn those who have lost their lives and pray for their eternal rest and for the consolation of their families.

We pray for the living victims that they may know that God is with them in their sufferings. We pray for those who are rescuing and ministering to the injured, that God may strengthen them in their heroic and often heartbreaking work. We pray for our national community that we will be of support to one another in the days ahead as we come to grips with the enormity of what has happened.

We express our support for our president and other government leaders, both national and local, who bear the tremendous responsibility of dealing with the aftermath of these unbelievable events. They are in our prayers in a special way.

If, as seems likely, this tragedy is the result of acts of terrorism, then we pray also for those whose hatred has become so great that they are willing to engage in crimes against our common humanity. May they realize, at last, that such violence creates not justice but greater injustice.

On Friday and Saturday, we celebrate the feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross and then honor our Blessed Mother under the title of Our Lady of Sorrows. These are particularly apt days for Catholics to reflect on the ways in which we are called to take up the cross and follow our Lord.

We call upon all our fellow citizens to renew their trust in God and to turn away from the bitter fruits of the kind of hatred which is the source of this tragedy. Especially let us not engage in ethnic, religious, or national stereotyping for what may be the acts of a few irrational terrorists. As the Catholic bishops of the United States, we unite in prayer to the Lord our God in the words of the psalmist:

In you, O Lord, I take refuge ...
Incline your ear to me, and save me.
Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to give me safety. (Psalm 71)


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**Book Review**

# Book advises on following Christ as the real boss

REVIEWED BY JULIE MCCARTY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Have you ever tried to integrate your spiritual life with the work you do Monday through Friday? In the midst of difficult co-workers, phone interruptions, crashing computer systems, or loud construction noise, recalling the loving presence of God is no easy task.

Gregory Pierce tackles this challenge with ingenuity in "Spirituality@Work: 10 Ways to Balance Your Life on the Job." Coming from a wealth of experience in business, publishing, community involvement and family-raising, the author is well aware of the difficulties encountered in trying to follow Christ in the marketplace.

Pierce reminds us that traditional spiritualities were often written in view of the religious life, particularly that of a cloistered monk. Trying to apply monastic advice to the vocation of business sometimes produces difficulties. For example, some classic spiritualities appear to encourage one to flee the world rather than engage creatively in making the world a better place.

***SPIRITUALITY@WORK: 10 WAYS TO BALANCE YOUR LIFE ON THE JOB,*** **by Gregory F.A. Pierce. Loyola Press (Chicago, 2001). 168 pp. $17.95.**

On the other hand, Pierce cautions us about spiritualities that might not challenge us enough. He writes that corporate culture sometimes promotes worker-spirituality that risks becoming a "soft, individualistic, emotional 'fix' used merely to make people feel better about the status quo or work harder for less money."

In "Spirituality@Work" Pierce seeks to develop a genuine spirituality of work that is grounded in the actual task of work itself. As Christians, we must seek awareness of God throughout the day, whatever our personal situation. We are called to bring God's presence more fully into the here-and-now, and that includes the workplace. The author defines the spirituality of work as "a disciplined attempt to align ourselves and our environment with God and to incarnate God's spirit in the world through all the effort (paid and unpaid) we exert to make the world a better place, a little closer to the way God would have things."

Pierce also examines many concrete ways to integrate spirituality and work, recommending particular work-related "disciplines." He gives tips on juggling work with the rest of life, dealing with coworkers, and transforming unjust systems. He suggest ways to surround yourself with physical reminders of the sacred without drawing attention to yourself or coming across as a religious fanatic.

Among this book's many positive attributes is the use of language that the general working public can readily grasp. One need not be a spiritual guru to understand the concepts of living with imperfections and deciding what is enough (saying no!), while still striving for quality performance.

Having worked a number of jobs in my life, I found myself deeply admiring this book for its creative yet practical approach. My only critique is that I still have unanswered questions. Is it enough to pray on the run at the workplace, or should every Christian also have a specific, intentional prayer time at home? Are monastic spiritualities really that removed from the experience of those in the world? Might cloistered nuns or monks learn something from this book?

The author readily acknowledges that this book is only a beginning at formulating the spirituality of work. He invites others to enter the conversation, contributing their own insights on seeking holiness in the work environment.

Overall, "Spirituality@Work" contributes greatly toward the fuller development of a viable lay spirituality. The Second Vatican Council emphasized the call of all to deep holiness. In addition, the council fathers viewed the laity as agents of transformation in the world, like yeast in the dough. "Spirituality@Work" provides some specific ideas about how to be that yeast in the dough.

*A former teacher and director of religious education, McCarty is a free-lance writer with a master's degree in theology.*

# Word to Life

*September 23, Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Cycle C Readings:
1) Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113:1-2, 4-8
2) 1 Timothy 2:1-8
3) Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

BY BOZENA CLOUTIER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Some years ago a close friend asked me to take into safekeeping some correspondence that she felt unable to keep either in her own home or at her place of work. I agreed.

Time passed, and a series of life storms battered me, and I fell into a deep depression. In spite of treatment it was months before there was any improvement, and in the meantime I slipped further and further into a profound state of despondency and despair.

Dark thoughts consumed me, and then came the night when I seriously considered killing myself. My pain was so great that suicide seemed the only way out. I knew well of all the prohibitions. I tried but could not pray. All I could do was to cling to God's mercy.

There seemed to be no deterrent, and I began to make plans. I was very deliberate. There were only two nagging thoughts. One was what my suicide would do to my children and grandchildren — I knew it would have profound and long-lasting repercussions.

The other thought was my friend's correspondence. Since I continued to see her on a regular basis, I determined that I would give it back to her. Over and over I would get it out to have ready to hand to her, and each time I somehow could not bring myself to do it.

Gradually my depression began to lift, and the self-destructive thoughts no longer obsessed me. I recognized that I was better and was profoundly grateful.

Why do I tell this painful personal story? Because this Sunday's readings, especially the Gospel parable of the unjust steward, have crystallized some thoughts for me.

The first reading from Amos is a blistering attack on the unjust plans and practices of those who seek to profit dishonestly from the need and poverty of others. Then the Gospel takes an entirely different tack and seems to applaud what are clearly wrongful dealings by the steward.

Is Jesus really commending the steward's shrewdness or is he perhaps pointing us to recognize that in his mercy and economy God can use even that which is sinful?

If discovered, my friend's correspondence would have brought disapproval and scandal as well as ruining several lives, yet somehow that which the world would have judged negative became, in God's mysterious way, a life-saving means for a despairing soul.

"I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness."

## Weekly Scripture

**Readings for the week of Sept. 16-22**

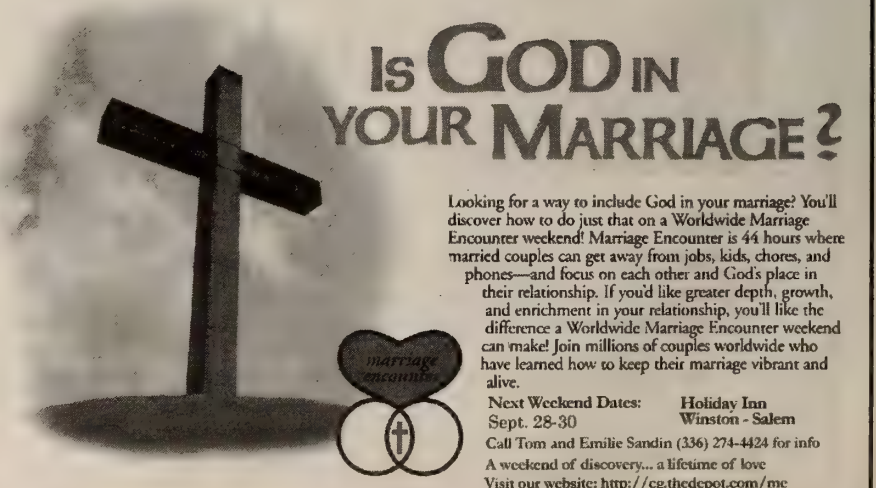
**Sunday,** Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-32; **Monday (St. Robert Bellarmine),** 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 7:1-10; **Tuesday,** 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Luke 7:11-17; **Wednesday (St. Januarius),** 1 Timothy 3:14-16, Luke 7:31-35; **Thursday (Sts. Andrew Kim Taegon,** Paul Chong Hasang and Companions), 1 Timothy 4:12-16, Luke 7:36-50, **Friday (St. Matthew),** Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:9-13, **Saturday,** 1 Timothy 6:13-16, Luke 8:4-15

**Readings for the week of Sept. 23-29**

**Sunday,** Amos 8:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 16:1-13; **Monday,** Ezra 1:1-6, Luke 8:16-18; **Tuesday,** Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20, Luke 8:19-21; **Wednesday (Sts. Cosmas and Damian),** Ezra 9:5-9, Luke 9:1-6, **Thursday (St. Vincent de Paul),** Haggai 1:1-8, Luke 9:7-9; **Friday (St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions),** Haggai 1:15b-2:9, Luke 9:18-22, **Saturday (Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael),** Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, John 1:47-51

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# Video Reviews

By Catholic News Service

*NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available in VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

**"Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport" (2000)**

Affecting documentary about the extraordinary British program that saved 10,000 children at the mercy of Hitler during World War II by placing them in English foster homes or hostels. Through rare film footage and moving interviews with grown Kindertransport children, director Mark Jonathan Harris' dramatic documentary respectfully and intelligently presents the heart-wrenching rescue mission by focusing on the human story. Theme of war and family separation. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Warner Home Video)

**"The Invisible Circus" (2001)**

Flat drama set in the mid-1970s in which a teen-ager (Jordana Brewster) travels to Europe in search of the truth behind the mysterious suicide of the older sister (Cameron Diaz) she idolized. Flashing back over the previous six years, director Adam Brooks' tepid film frustrates with its shallow exploration of the characters' feelings as well as its failure to capture an impassioned era of youthful, naive idealism. Fleeting violence, a few sexual encounters, brief nudity, some drug content and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (New Line)

**"Lisa" (1990)**

Nasty thriller in which a serial killer (D.W. Moffett) stalks the mother (Cheryl Ladd) of a precocious 14-year-old (Staci Keanan) who's been annoying him with prank telephone calls. Directed by Gary Sherman, the manipulative cat-and-mouse scenario is stretched out in mostly lethargic fashion until the bloody climax. Women-in-peril situations and sexual references. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Fox)

**"Lisa and the Devil" (1976)**

Playing the role of a suave butler in a sinister mansion is Telly Savalas, who seems to be making it up as he goes along, in a standard Italian Gothic horror filled with gore and nudity, and innocent of the least trace of taste or wit. Released in the U.S. as "House of Exorcism." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Image)



CNS photo from Universal Studios

**Scene from 'Musketeer' movie**

**The Musketeers pledge one for all in a scene from the film "The Musketeer." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

**"Quigley Down Under" (1990)**

An American cowboy (Tom Selleck), hired as a sharpshooter in the 1860s Australian Outback, turns against his villainous boss (Alan Rickman) in defense of the aborigines and a slightly mad young woman (Laura San Giacomo). Director Simon Wincer gives a fresh spin to the traditional Western and backs it with interesting plot developments, credible performances and breathtaking Australian locales. Intermittent violent shootouts, occasional menace and shots with tribal nudity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (MGM)

**"Quo Vadis" (1951)**

After a Roman general (Robert Taylor) falls in love with a Christian maid (Deborah Kerr), the situation is complicated by the loony emperor deciding to burn Rome and blame the Christians. In director Mervyn LeRoy's version of the Henryk Sienkiewicz novel, the epic production overpowers the pallid love story and is less interested in the conflict between Christianity and paganism than that between the mad Nero (Peter Ustinov) and his rationalist adviser (Leo Genn). A mixed bag of religious fervor and pagan frolics, there's a lengthy suicide scene, some sexual innuendo and stylized violence. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (MGM)

**"Wicker Man" (1980)**

British melodrama in which a police sergeant (Edward Woodward) is called to a small island off the west coast of Scotland to investigate the disappearance of a child, who he finds has been made a human sacrifice in a pagan rite. Directed by Robin Hardy, the movie shows signs of intelligence and sophistication but its tragic ending is unexpected from what has gone before. Excessive nudity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Facets)

**"Wit" (2001)**

Poignant adaptation by Emma Thompson and Mike Nichols of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play in which a hospitalized poetry professor (Thompson) confronts her approaching death from ovarian cancer. Director Nichols elicits a near-perfect performance from Thompson with writing that transcends the morbid subject to find wit, grace and wrenching humanity throughout the sensitive yet unsentimental narrative. Serious treatment of mortality, a few profanities and brief nudity within a medical context. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (HBO Home Video)


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## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Pope says upcoming synod has 'great importance' for entire church

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said an upcoming international meeting of bishops at the Vatican had "great importance for the whole church," and would focus on church experience since the Second Vatican Council.

The "principal reference point" of the Sept. 30-Oct. 27 gathering, which will examine the role of bishops in the church, will be the council and especially its document on bishops, the pope told pilgrims Sept. 9 during a noon blessing at his summer residence outside Rome.

"The council teaching will be read anew in light of recent decades and above all with a view to the new evangelization, as even the theme itself suggests," he said.

The theme of the bishops' meeting, or synod, is: "The Bishop: Servant of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the Hope of the World."

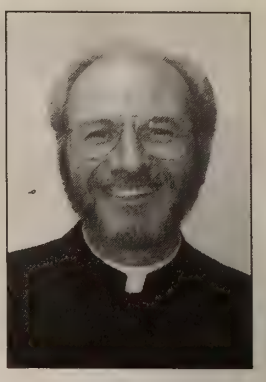
The pope said the post-jubilee motto he had proposed to the church for the new millennium — "Put Out Into the Deep" — is intended first for "all the bishops, successors of the Apostles, and it calls them to commit themselves with confidence in this new missionary season of the church."

Previous worldwide synods have focused on the formation and role of other categories of church members — laity, priests, and consecrated men and women.

# Pope says surprising prophecy in Psalms fulfilled through Christ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said a "surprising" prophecy in the Psalms that envisioned all the earth's peoples joined in God's praise found fulfillment through Jesus Christ. Speaking at his weekly general audience Sept. 5, the pope said Christ's suffering and death broke down the barriers between gentiles and Jews, the people of the covenant. Continuing a series of talks on the Liturgy of the Hours, the pope focused on Psalm 47, a hymn of praise to God as the king of the universe. The psalm concludes "on a note surprising for its universal openness: 'The princes of the peoples are gathered together with the people of the God of Abraham,'" he told more than 12,000 pilgrims in St. Peter's Square.

## Economy of Faith



FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH, Glenmary
Guest Columnist

### Going to Prison For Ministry

When Sister Marge Eilerman entered the Atwood Federal Prison Camp near Lexington, Ky., she was greeted by a group of Catholic women bearing gifts of soap, toothbrush and comb. Sentenced to 14 months for civil disobedience in 1998, Sister Marge would need those health supplies until she got her account at the commissary. The women, part of the 200-plus population at the minimum-security prison, appeared eager to befriend her. Most inmates were sentenced for non-violent offenses, mainly drug related or check fraud. Sister Marge considered herself a political prisoner serving time for her Christian beliefs.

When I interviewed Sister Marge with less than a month of her probation left, she seemed calm, centered and collected in spirit. "I never knew deeper peace than going through this," she said. "The peace came from having no doubt that what I did was correct."

In 1997 with a group of fellow religious, Sister Marge removed some letters and altered the sign at Fort Benning in Georgia to read: "School of the Americas, School of Assassins." The demonstration intended to raise awareness about the U.S. Army's role in training foreign military officers responsible for the deaths of priests, sisters and community workers in Latin America. "I saw it as telling the truth," she remarks. The action sent her to prison, but at the same time offered her a new kind of ministry.

"My new ministry flowed from our Catholic social teachings," she said. "You are a dignified child of God, and no one can take that from you. Over and over again I talked to the women about their goodness and our oneness in the Spirit."

Today prisons bulge with dysfunctional people who seldom hear the acceptance of God's love. Nationally, more than a third of America's 2 million inmates have mental problems; more than half have learning disabilities; more than two-thirds suffer from substance addiction or problem drinking. A great number of people with personal and developmental challenges are locked away in America, not treated.

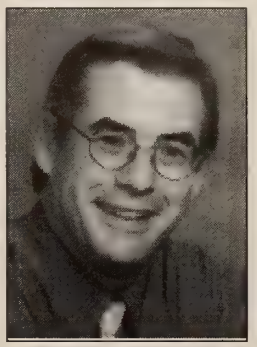
Currently women comprise about 6 percent of the people in jails and prisons, but their numbers are growing disproportionately. The overwhelming majority of the 120,000 incarcerated women are under 45 years old and suffer especially the loss of their children. They fret over the news of a sick child. Frequently the chaplain remains out of reach, and the resulting worry deepens to depression.

"I found a respect from the majority of women by word and action recognizing that I was a minister of God," she said. "I gave them a space where they could be good because they basically wanted to be good. I felt privileged being there to say that the Christian community has not abandoned you."

Through her baptism Sister Marge heard a plea to walk with the people of Latin America and spent a year serving her sentence for civil disobedience. Once inside prison walls, she heard another call to walk with dispirited sisters and used her time to listen compassionately.

As we finish the interview, her eyes twinkle and she smiles: "Without a doubt this is the best thing I've ever done."

*Father Rausch writes, teaches and organizes in Appalachia.*



## Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

### The Competence Factor Behind Teen Privileges

There's a fundamental struggle between parents and teens. Teens want all the freedoms grownups have. Parents need some control of what their kids do. Conflict is inevitable.

"Can I drive the car to the mall on Saturday?"

"Can Dave and I camp overnight along the river?"

"Can I have a job after school?"

What answer do teens want? They're hoping for, "Sure, that will be fine." That's also the answer parents like giving. Parents don't enjoy saying no or making you angry.

However, wise parents realize they have more important obligations than keeping you mellow. Sometimes they must say no.

Whenever parents turn down a request, teens ask, "If not now, when?" That's a reasonable question, and here are some guidelines for the answer.

Teens would like a specific date such as, "On your 17th birthday" or "In three weeks." When it's on the calendar, they figure the date sticks — no matter what happens between now and then.

Parents typically stall and stay vague. "We'll see" and "It depends" are common answers. The problem with evasion is that the teen is given nothing to work toward.

Instead, the message should be simple and direct. "You can have that privilege when you've demonstrated you're competent to handle it."

There are two critical words, "demonstrated" and "competent". If you'd like more unsupervised time, demonstrate your reliability by coming in on time, calling when there is a change of plans and staying out of trouble when you are on your own.

"I'll do better, I really, really will" is meaningless. Your parents will trust you when you show them. That's what "demonstrated" means.

The second important word is "competent." Competence has four parts: knowledge, skill, judgment and self-control. When a teen asks for new privileges, parents should reflect on all four aspects.

Let's look at the issue of driving to the mall. Knowledge is simply knowing the facts. A teen-ager with a license has been tested on the rules. That's easy.

Also, if the parents have taken their kids out driving, it isn't hard to assess their driving skill. But judgment and self-control behind the wheel are tougher to assess. Parents may well have to decide based on their teen's demonstrated level of judgment and self-control in other areas.

A teen who sneaks out of class or who pops off angrily at a parent over chores is not showing good judgment or self-control, and parents may well decide that this kid is not ready for the responsibility of driving alone.

I suggest a four-step process.

First, parent and teen sit down and talk together about the areas of knowledge, skill, judgment and self-control required for this new privilege.

Next, it's time for a frank review of the teen's demonstrated performance in those areas. If the conduct has been up to the mark, then the privilege makes sense.

But if the teen's demonstrated competence has shortcomings, parents should talk about ways the teen could improve. "We'd have to see some improvement in your school attendance and in your temper around the house."

Finally, set a date for another review. Perhaps the teen can have a couple of months to demonstrate better judgment or self-control.

Parents need to help their teens learn that you don't get new privileges in life just because of your age. Greater freedom and greater success in life come from demonstrating greater competence. That's one of the most important lessons your parents will ever teach you.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Beginning Again

You'd know his face right away. He's one of those actors who always seem to be working. That's unusual in a profession where most members of the actors' union are unemployed. Television watchers know him best as Dr. David Hayward, the evil, menacing physician on the long-running soap opera "All My Children." His name is Vincent Irizarry, and before his current success he was a regular on "Guiding Light," a role that earned him an Emmy nomination. He's had a number of TV and film roles including an abusive husband opposite Sissy Spacek in "Marie — A True Story" and with Clint Eastwood in "Heartbreak Ridge."

All of this represents the fulfillment of a quest that started in Vincent's youth. At the age of 11, he got interested in photography. He became a classically trained pianist, and while attending college to study music, discovered his gift for acting. By any standard, Vincent Irizarry is an American success story.

In the midst of his successful career, Vincent also fell in love, married and became the father of a beautiful daughter named Siena. Most folks would say he had it all: money, recognition, a great wife and child. Vincent knew differently. As a recent guest on our television series "Christopher Closeup," he explained how superficial his life was. All he had was rooted in the values of this world and not the next. He lacked a spiritual foundation, and when storms hit (as they inevitably do for everyone), he ran adrift. Three years into the marriage, it came apart. That reality hit Vincent hard. He'd been raised in a family where marriage was forever. His parents made it through the challenges of raising six children and all the ups and downs that come with family life. It was incomprehensible to Vincent that he couldn't have the same stable life for his new family. The divorce left him depressed and hurting. He developed a jaded sense of his future, convinced that permanent happiness was an illusion. Happily, he got a second chance.

Many people enter into second marriages. But Vincent decided to do it differently. He recognized that in his first attempt at marriage and family living, he'd let the things society says are important rule his life and lifestyle. No more. He knew he needed a better anchor than that. And, for him, that anchor was the Lord and the Scriptures. Vincent joined a prayer group. Worship and prayer became as much a part of his life as eating and sleeping. God was no longer an "add on" to his life, but its central truth. In time he came to see that fame and fortune are not, in and of themselves, evil. Everything depends on what you do with it.

As an example, Vincent mentioned that some of his fans wanted to create a club and Web site. The newly focused actor thought that idea was shallow and pointless, until he came to see that it didn't have to be about him. His fans' energy could be used to raise money for charities. So he green-lighted the creation of "Friends of Vincent Irizarry" to assist a nonprofit organization called "Hope for New York." Working to help homeless people, AIDS patients and children in need who could benefit from tutoring, Vincent put his fame to good use.

He credits the development of his newfound generosity to a focus on faith. About embracing Christianity, Irizarry says: "It's the most glorious and significant thing to happen in my life." Vincent admits that he wasn't such a likable guy in those "successful" early years. He doubts he was much loved by people, and he doesn't blame them. But, realizing that when you're talking about God there are always second chances, he changed.

God's mercy is unconditional and he's always on your side. You just have to be willing to accept that always waiting, always loving embrace.

# Faith Formation



FATHER JAMES HAWKER
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Jesus Christ: Love Beyond All Telling

"Father, you will be in charge of CCD. There are 1,800 in the elementary and 500 in the high school."

With those unforgettable words, Father Edward Harrington, the pastor, welcomed me to Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Parish in Waltham, Mass. I had been ordained only a week prior to that rather traumatic encounter. Although I was eager to "get my sea legs," I never expected that I'd be dunked so quickly. Since the seminary's courses did not prepare me to exercise such an awesome role, with its incumbent responsibilities, I was well aware that I'd be totally dependent upon "on-the-job training."

As I review the 38 years that have unfolded since that memorable meeting with Father Harrington, I am filled with gratitude. During the interim, I have enjoyed beyond measure the privilege of being involved personally in catechetical ministry, which is an integral and essential component of the church's mission.

As you recall, the risen Christ, on the Mount of the Ascension, commissioned the church to be a catechetical community when he said, "Go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them everything I have commanded you. Know that I am with you all days."

It is such a privilege for me to participate in a baptismal ceremony within the parish. I am so aware that the moment of celebration is a sacred and serious one for the community of faith. The experience must incorporate a commitment on the part of the parents, godparents and the parish to nourish and nurture the faith of the baptized. Formally and informally, by word and action, adults within the family and parish are expected to share with children and youth the meaning, value and relevance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A magnificent moment in the life of the parish is when adults from other religious traditions accept the invitation to enter the RCIA and initiate a journey leading to incorporation into the Catholic community. As catechumens, they hear the Word of God proclaimed and explained. They come to understand and appreciate that Word as comforting and challenging, enriching and encouraging, strengthening and sustaining. The catechetical component of the catechumenate is truly a treasure to behold and unfold.

Another marvelous catechetical moment is celebrated when adult members of the parish community participate in educational experiences intended to assist and enable them to grasp more completely and appreciate more fully the message of Jesus, even as they identify more faithfully with his person. There is no doubt that adult education must be viewed as an essential and integral component of the parish's catechetical mission.

It is important to realize that the ultimate purpose of education is formation. Any educational activity within catechetical ministry that does not have as its aim to impact the cognitive and affective, the mind and the heart, the attitudes and behavior, is misdirected. Ultimately the teachings of Jesus and his church are intended to invite the maturing believer, regardless of chronological age, to be converted, to be transformed more completely into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ. Whether as catechist or catechized, all of us are privileged to come to understand and appreciate that Jesus Christ is love beyond all teaching.

*Father James Hawker is diocesan education vicar and pastor of St. Luke Church in Charlotte.*

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### The Church and Indulgences

*Q. Gaining indulgences was a big thing when I was young. We heard about them during the jubilee year (2000), so I assume they're still valid. Is there some reason the church doesn't discuss them much anymore?*

A. Indulgences are traditionally described as partial or total remission — because of prayers or good works performed by a Christian — of temporal punishment due to our sins.

The church is, as you observe, cautious in speaking of indulgences today because that area of faith has been badly misunderstood in the past, with tragic consequences.

Indulgences are "a delicate theme," says Pope John Paul II, "about which there have been historic misunderstandings which negatively left their mark on communion among Christians." Abuses in the granting of indulgences were among the issues that led to the Protestant Reformation.

Traditional Catholic teaching on this subject is based on two Christian truths. First, every sin not only disobeys God's law; it violates the harmony of creation established by the Creator and is, at least to some degree, a rejection of his love. Complete conversion, therefore, includes a reintegration of that divine order, a process involving some cleansing (purgation) either in this life or at death.

Pope Paul VI, in "The Doctrine of Indulgences" (1967), called for reform of the entire indulgence structure. Pope John Paul, picking up on that theme before the recent jubilee year, pointed out that an indulgence is not a quick ticket to heaven, but is a help for real conversion of heart.

"Those who think they can receive this gift simply by fulfilling a few exterior requirements are wrong," said the pope. Receiving an indulgence "is not automatic but depends on our turning away from sin and conversion to God."

In his 1967 restructuring, Paul VI reduced the number of indulgenced prayers and good works. "The main concern has been to attach greater importance to a Christian way of life and lead souls to cultivate a spirit of prayer and penance, and to practice the theological virtues (faith, hope and love) rather than merely repeat certain formulas and acts" (Manual of Indulgences, 1967).

Paul VI listed three categories of daily life as deserving of indulgence. 1) Invoking God's mercy and protection while fulfilling one's responsibilities and enduring difficulties. 2) Offering oneself and one's possessions, in a spirit of faith, to people in need. 3) Voluntarily foregoing some pleasure in a spirit of repentance and sacrifice.

A revised manual of indulgences was released in September 1999, in anticipation of the jubilee. It continued the prescriptions of the earlier manual, but added a fourth indulgence category: Giving public witness to one's faith by frequent reception of the sacraments and by proclaiming one's faith to nonbelievers by word and example.

Partial indulgences are granted using only those words, with no confusing mention of days or years as was common previously. Contrary to what many Catholics thought, an indulgence of one year, for example, did not mean "one year off of purgatory." It meant, rather, whatever alleviation of purgative suffering might be achieved by one year of fasting or other penance.

**To our readers:**

Were you or a loved one directly affected by the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington or southwestern Pennsylvania? Call Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar at (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

# Faith Formation,

## from page 1

she said. "When you spend time with the children, you know why you are doing it."

**Central Region**

Marie Martino, director of faith formation at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, has 700 children to take care of this year. With 400 in kindergarten through sixth grade and the others in junior and senior high, her plate is full, but she marvels at the growth of the program.

"We have been parishioners since 1984, and we have watched the parish blossom, bloom and expand."

Martino supervises the pre-school program, kindergarten through sixth-grade faith formation, kindergarten through 12th-grade youth ministry, adult formation bible study and RCIA. She says that the work of catechists involves internalizing their faith.

"Within faith formation, we focus on teaching them about community, prayer, worship and social justice issues, and then, taking those things they learn and putting them into action. We work on forming their lives and helping them to feel and to know their faith and to have it become an integral part of who and what they are."

Her 20-year span as a catechist has its roots in her conversion to Catholicism many years ago. A dedication to Christ and the Eucharist is what led her to the faith tradition, and the arrival of the first of her three children helped to introduce her to faith formation. When her oldest daughter was three, Martino began working with pre-schoolers while living in Raleigh, N.C, and after a move to Kentucky, she continued with pre-schoolers and then with the second-grade students. After settling in Hickory, N.C., she continued with faith formation.

"They (the students) are God's special little people, and I love working with children. It is such a beautiful thing to see the cycle of life continue and to know that you have planted those seeds and have watched them blossom."

She has taught kindergarten through second grade and taught 10th grade with her husband. After working as the coordinator of youth ministry for her parish, she assumed her current position as director.

Martino says that faith sharing is the most important aspect of faith formation. "If we are doing that, then all of the other components will come into play. The catechists share their adult faith with children, while the children help to keep the faith of the adults childlike. The kids can share their ability to be completely trusting in God."

**Western Region**

The mountains that loom in the background provide a perfect setting for Allene Ramsey to tell kindergarteners through fifth-graders about the expansiveness of God's love for them all. She is a coordinator for faith formation at St. Mary Church in Sylva for the youngest recipients of faith formation in an area where the Catholic population is less than in other areas of the diocese.

Through songs accompanied by her guitar and information shared about their faith, Ramsey gathers with the 36 students every week and discusses various topics.

"For about 15 minutes a week, I have my teaching time with the kids before we send them to classes. It is a creative time geared toward Catholic identity," she said. "The experience unifies them and helps them to get to know the whole group of children. They can interact and learn songs that they might not hear in class."

The children are provided with the hows and whys of their Catholic faith and are able to have common questions answered about several topics including the pope, the Mass and church doctrine, continued Ramsey.

Since moving to the parish from Arkansas in the early '80s, Ramsey has been involved with faith formation for 19 years, first as a teacher, then as a coordinator for the past five years. After enrolling her oldest child into the first-grade program, and later, her other two children, she would wait at the parish for class to be over. She says that it was not long before she was "put to work" as a first-grade teacher. Her education and experience as an art teacher was utilized in her faith formation class.

"I love their enthusiasm, openness to the Lord and eagerness. I have learned from them, and teaching is something I have always loved doing."

Ramsey says that the children's responses have been consistently positive and that they seem to want to participate in their classes. To her, faith formation serves as a supplement to what the parents and the church do for their youth.

"Our relationship with God at any age should be fostered and developed and that is what we're here for — to help the parents and church do that."

*Due to our coverage of the terrorist attacks, The Catholic News & Herald will include more stories on faith formation in next week's issue.*

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# Holy Infant migrant program promotes community, thanksgiving

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

REIDSVILLE — With the influx of Hispanic migrant workers into the Rockingham County community, a ministry came into being over a dozen years ago to feed the hungry at Holy Infant Church in Reidsville.

However, since Holy Infant is a rather small church, with about 135 registered families, it looked to the Greensboro Vicariate for assistance in this venture so that the migrants in need could be fed throughout the year. The heaviest load has been coordinated with the planting and harvesting seasons within Rockingham County itself.

Some of the churches within the vicariate have responded by serving the Hispanic community of Reidsville at least twice a year.

The setup of the day's operation is relatively simple. Paper plates and plastic utensils are supplied by Holy Infant, along with drinks. The host parish comes in and sets up for the meal, supplies all the food, and serves the meal. Then the parishioners of Holy Infant will normally clean up.

Labor Day weekend was one of the two times that the parish of St. Joseph of the Hills was scheduled. The efforts on this particular day were coordinated by Linda Tuschak, chairperson of the Family Life Commission of St. Joseph of the Hills Parish Council.

From past experience, the Family Life Commission has determined the most popular meal is usually hamburgers and hot dogs with chili, rice, salads, fruits and desserts.

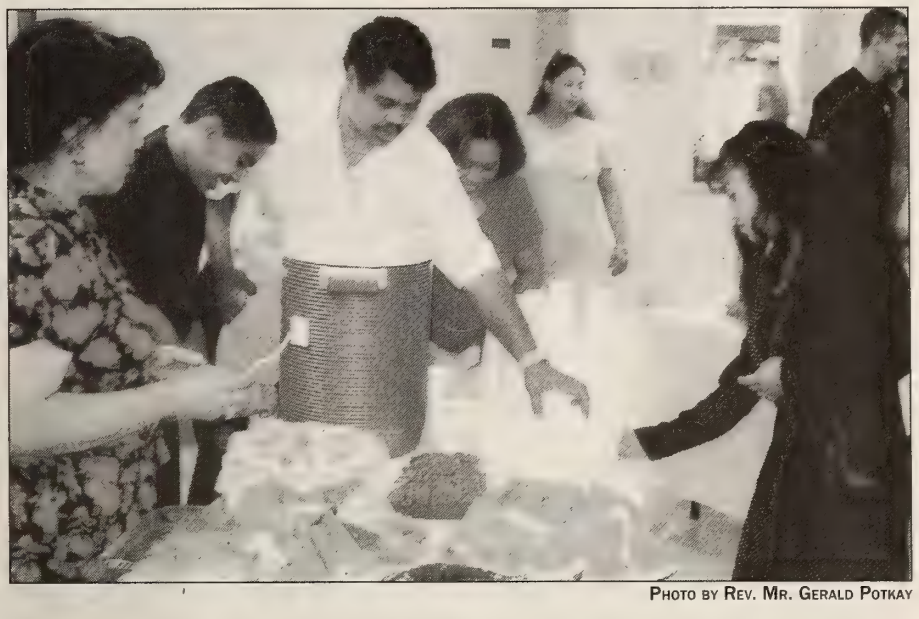


Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**From left, Zoraida Fix, Emmanuel Cartier, James Cartier and Marylin Cartier serve drinks and desserts to the Hispanic community at Holy Infant Church in Reidsville. The parish of 135 families receives assistance from other parishes in the Greensboro Vicariate to provide meals for Hispanic families in the area. The project was started about 12 years ago.**

While the host parish supplies the meats, it is the volunteer families from that parish who provide the rest of the meal. This is a huge task, especially for a small parish like St. Joseph of the Hills, consisting of 135 families scattered throughout Rockingham Country from as far away as Madison, Mayodan and Sandy Ridge, as well as parts of Virginia.

On this particular Sunday there were 19 volunteers to bring, cook and serve their finest "pot-luck" cuisine. While 90 or so guests were expected at the meal, this Labor Day brought a little over 150 guests.

The food never ran out.

Behind the scenes, the workers who noticed the overflow of people went out to the local food chain to re-supply those food items that were about to run out.

Throughout the event, there was camaraderie and Christian love shown to and by all who were there. Those who were served thoroughly enjoyed the meal and the socialization as a huge parish family. Those who served the meal reached out to make sure all were comfortable and well fed.

Together, these two groups formed once again the family of Christ in today's world.

Cathy Robertson, who has been involved with the migrant meal program on and off for about 12 years, says she is "here to serve our fellow man" and that the primary importance of this event is "to give but a little of our time and energy to do good in our world."

"I do better when I serve others than when I do nothing but watch TV," she adds. "I feel much better about myself."

John Heinrich has been active at all of the migrant meals supplied by St. Joseph during the last five or six years.

"It is one of those worthwhile things that must be done for God and community," he says. "If I don't do my part, how can I expect anyone else to do it?"

Dora Duvalle, who has participated for the last four years, says she "gets a lot of satisfaction doing for others." She likes to be involved in the work of the parish, but especially enjoys "the experience of closeness that this type of event brings to the entire church community."




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# Love guides, shapes deacon's life, leads to ministry

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

STATESVILLE — As Rev. Mr. Chuck Brantley stood at the bedside of his oldest brother, he knew what he had to do. He leaned over and whispered 'I love you.'

It was the first time Brantley had spoken those words aloud to his brother, and that simple utterance had a profound effect. The coma had overtaken his brother following a second heart attack, and Rev. Mr. Brantley had been silently watching the steady pace of his brother's heart on a monitor.

"People say that the hearing is the last thing that goes, and the heart monitor just went crazy," remembered Rev. Mr. Brantley, who had lost his father less than four years prior.

"I realized what we had been missing in our family, and telling people 'I love you' has opened doors for me."

One of those doors that swung widely open led to the permanent diaconate, a calling that has changed his life. "It has helped me see that God is the only way to go. He listens and answers prayers. I've met a lot of people that I probably wouldn't have met otherwise."

Becoming a permanent deacon was an interesting turn of events for someone who had never met a Catholic person while growing up in Monroe, N.C. The Great Depression surrounded the four Brantley brothers, as the patriarch worked as a painter and in his grocery store and their mother worked in a textile mill. "We were poor, but everyone else was, too. Looking back on it now, it was hard, but I didn't know it, which was a blessing."

The nearby Methodist church in his neighborhood was easiest to attend, but he felt compelled to accompany his Baptist friends to their church. He was not exposed to Catholicism until his time in the Air Force after graduating high school. "Some of my closet friends were devout Catholics, and one of them asked me to attend Mass. I remember thinking, 'Wow, what a nice fellow to be a Catholic.'"



Rev. Mr. Chuck Brantley

Service in the Air Force was a period of beginnings for Brantley. He received his first exposure to a faith tradition that would become his own years later. He also took his first steps toward his profession; he was trained as a dental lab technician. He met Mickey, his future wife, who was also enlisted in the Air Force as a dental assistant. They had a connection in Brantley's co-worker and Mickey's roommate, who set them up and warned her roommate about her "cocky" co-worker.

"She (Mickey) said that she was going to 'tame' me, and she has 'tamed' me for 47 years," said Rev. Mr. Brantley with a laugh.

After they were both discharged from the Air Force, they moved around to a couple of places before settling in Statesville, where he opened a dental laboratory. During this time, the couple would attend church together. Mrs. Brantley, a cradle Catholic, tried to influence her husband to convert. He protested at first but subsequently realized that the religion had been a large part of his life for a long time.

"I had been going to the Catholic church to pray, and I began thinking that if I was going to the church when I was heartbroken or if I needed help, why not become Catholic? I began taking instruction and never regretted one minute of it."

He became heavily involved in his parish, St. Philip the Apostle Church, on the parish council, as a charter member of the St. James Council of the Knights of Columbus, the parish prayer group and Cursillo.

A couple of men involved with Cursillo at his parish were in the diocese's first diaconate class, and he developed an interest in the ministry. "They seemed to have something I didn't, and I felt like I needed to do something to help other people and save my own soul."

After being ordained in 1988 and serving at his home parish, St. Philip the Apostle, Rev. Mr. Brantley was diagnosed with prostate cancer five years ago along with diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. A change in his dietary habits and lifestyle helped with the other diagnoses, and early detection has kept him cancer-free since his operation. He also says that prayer helped him through those rough times.

"I have so much to be thankful for, and the Lord has answered so many of my prayers that I have never doubted his presence for a moment," he said.

Eight children and eight grandchildren later, the 71-year-old shows no signs of stopping. "I think that the Lord has more things for me to do; he is keeping me around for some reason," said the deacon, who still works long hours with his son and daughter making dentures, partials and crowns in his dental lab. "I haven't finished serving him yet, and I will work as long as the Lord will let me."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*


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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

September 21, 2001
Volume 11 ▾ Number 2

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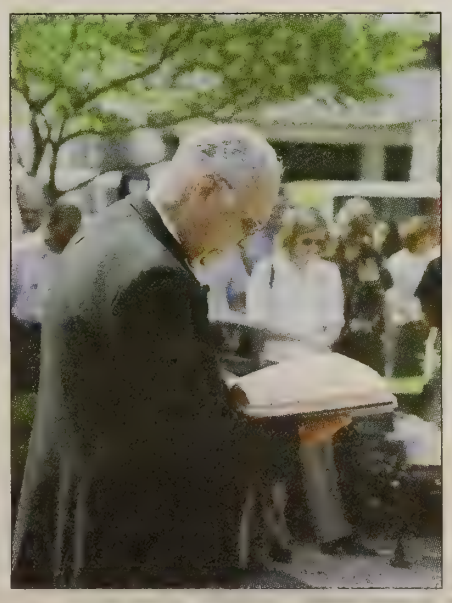
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"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me."

— John 14:1

# As airport re-opens, chaplain prays terrorists' victims now in hands of God





Photos by Joann S. Keane

**Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning presides at a noontime prayer service at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport. Rev. Mr. Wenning, a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Charlotte, serves as airport chaplain. He conducted the prayer service for airport workers and travelers. Above left, Rev. Mr. Wenning reads from Scripture during the service.**

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Ted Boone could have gone to his own church on Sept. 14, a date President Bush declared a national time of prayer following the worst terrorist attacks ever in the United States. But the building maintenance employee of Charlotte/Douglas International Airport felt called to be with extended family as the air traffic industry got back to work.

Boone was among several dozen people, mostly aircrew members and airport personnel, who gathered in an outdoors courtyard at the Charlotte airport for a noon prayer service.

"This is a time to look toward the future and hope that nothing else like this ever happens again," said Boone. "This kind of made me feel a little bit better, and my prayers go to the families who have lost someone."

Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning, a permanent deacon of the Charlotte Diocese, serves as the head chaplain at Charlotte/Douglas. At the service which he led, he prayed for God's healing presence in the wake of the attacks.

"Have mercy on all the holy innocents who were caught in the tragedy on Tuesday and all of those who are in service to them," he prayed. "Make them worthy to share the joys of paradise, for they believed in the resurrection of the dead."

Following readings from Psalm 23 and the Gospel of John, Rev. Mr. Wenning said the faithful can find great comfort in the Scriptures that they will one day be with the Lord.

"We place the souls of all those who were unjustly killed on Tuesday in the hands of God," he said. "Now, though we mourn for them, we need to be God's hands for those whom he left. In prayer and in action, we need to be available to those thousands of families who have lost loved ones."

Rev. Mr. Wenning said he has counseled countless numbers of the mourning after the tragedy, both in the airport chapel and at his parish, St. Gabriel in Charlotte. As the nation's air traffic industry now deals with the grim realities of destruction wrought after four planes were hijacked from U.S. airports Sept. 11, Rev. Mr. Wenning said the sorrow has a special poignancy here.

"As airport employees, we understand the basic team concept," he said. "We work great as a team. We know we have to play well. We function together, and everything works.

"I ask you in your hearts, based on our tragedy and the Scripture, that also embedded in that is in your mind a presence of God."

A retired air-traffic controller, Rev. Mr. Wenning called on those gathered to carry that sense of God's presence back to work with them — both in this most trying of times and in the future.

"Let us today remember that on the 11th we suffered a tragedy that should unite us in a way we've never been united before — in our work because of the security, in our hearts because we need to carry Christ with us."

The Rev. Wilber and Mossie Sites were grounded in Charlotte on their way from their Chambersburg, Pa., home to Mandeville, Jamaica, where they are planning a three-month voluntary teaching stint at a Bible college.

Instead, on this day they found themselves joining hands with others outside the Charlotte airport, uniting in prayer as they recited the Our Father.

"Not only do we need to pray for the persons who have lost loved ones and all the workers, but we need to pray for our government officials because they have a tremendous responsibility of determining who is guilty and what action to take," said Rev. Sites, a retired minister of the United Brethren in Christ Church.

Mossie Sites said the tragedy is a painful reminder of the need for a sense of God, not just in times of sorrow, but in everyday life.

"So many times, when things are going well, we forget about what God has done for us and the freedom that we have here in America," she said.

Her husband agreed. "It shouldn't be a day of prayer just today," he said. "It ought to be a matter of prayer for all of us at all times."

As the prayer service neared its close, Rev. Mr. Wenning prayed "for comfort in our sadness, certainty in our doubt and courage through Jesus."

And in closing, he offered an invitation to steadfastness: "God bless you all. It's time to go back to work — for Christ and for yourselves and for the airport. Thanks for all you do."

### Tapestries and telescopes: Taking stock of the Vatican's assets

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The world's smallest state is embarking on what could be the world's biggest inventory of artistic and historic objects. In September, the Vatican announced it would undertake a two-year project to identify and catalog all of its holdings, ranging from ancient papal carriages to contemporary mosaics. It's the first such inventory in modern times, and every Vatican office is being asked to take stock of its assets and their state of repair or disrepair. The inventory will cover every corner of the 109-acre Vatican City State, plus papal villas and other properties outside the Vatican walls. While some Vatican institutions — like the Vatican Museums or Library — maintain up-to-date lists of property, other offices have acquired things over the years, including gifts and purchases that have never been cataloged.

### Synod to focus on challenges facing bishops at home, in Rome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More than 200 bishops from around the world will gather at the Vatican for a monthlong meeting on a topic dear to their hearts and close to their daily lives: the role of the bishop in the church. Pope John Paul II will preside over the Sept. 30-Oct. 27 Synod of Bishops, which features speech-giving, small-group discussions and a list of final policy statements. It is the 10th ordinary assembly of the synod and the second to focus specifically on the world's approximately 4,500 bishops. The official theme, "The Bishop: Servant of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the Hope of the World," is broad and the list of discussion points extensive.

### Pope asks Haitian Catholics to be force in fragmented society

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — The Catholic Church in Haiti must focus its efforts on being a model of unity and service for a deeply fractured and impoverished Haitian society, Pope John Paul II said. "In the difficult context of your country, the seeds of division are numerous," the pope told Haiti's bishops, who were making their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican, which bishops are required to make every five years. 'It is essential to make communion ever stronger and more visible," starting with the bishops, priests and committed Catholics, but extending to all of society, the pope said. "I encourage you to discover new ways so that the church in Haiti becomes a house and a school of communion," he said.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Guatemalen women line up for aid**

**Pregnant women in Camotan, 130 miles west of Guatemala City, line up for medical assistance. About 1.6 million people in Central America need food and other assistance due to a severe drought.**

### Bible edition to reflect study of Dead Sea Scrolls, says scholar

ROME (CNS) — Work on a third edition of the popular Jerusalem Bible is under way and will include changes based on information culled from the Dead Sea Scrolls, said a Dominican working on the project. But the changes will be mainly in the Jerusalem Bible's well-known introductions and notes, not in the scriptural texts, said Dominican Father Gianluigi Boschi, an expert in archeology and a biblical scholar at Rome's Angelicum University. After Father Boschi spoke of the revision project at an early September conference on myths and scholarship surrounding the Dead Sea Scrolls, several newspapers reported the Vatican had authorized changes to the Scriptures based on discoveries in the scrolls, which were found in caves near the Dead Sea in 1947. Father Boschi told Catholic News Service Sept. 13 the reports were mistaken; the Vatican is not involved in the project, and any changes to the translation of the biblical texts are expected to be minor.

### Small Catholic presence helps stabilize fledgling Kazakstan

KARAGANDA, Kazakstan (CNS) — When Pope John Paul II comes to this vast land between Russia and China, he will find a country with fabulous riches and 16 million mostly impoverished citizens, including a minority Catholic population heavily dependent on foreign clergy and outside church aid. Catholic leaders said they do not expect the pontiff to speak out against the corruption for which Kazakstan has a growing reputation. "I think the pope will speak about faith," said Ukrainian-born Bishop Jan Pawel Lenga of Karaganda. "Everyone here knows perfectly well that there are big problems with corruption. It doesn't help to repeat all that."

### CCHD grants for poverty programs announced

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty initiative, announced it will distribute $10 million to programs nationwide to address and combat poverty. The amount of grant money, which comes from Catholics' donations to a national collection taken up in parishes each year, is an all-time high for CCHD. The agency has distributed more than $260 million to 4,000 projects in its 32 years of existence. It will fund 317 local projects — selected without regard to religious affiliation — in 47 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Many of the groups funded by CCHD provide a hand up to the unemployed, new immigrants and those who are stuck in the cycle of poverty.

### Theologian warns against abusing biotechnology

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the inaugural lecture of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, Dominican Father Benedict Ashley warned that humanity must use biotechnological advances "positively to enhance and cultivate nature, rather than recklessly distort it." The theologian, a professor at the Center for Health Care Ethics at St. Louis University, said, "There can be no doubt for Christians that technological control of nature is a good gift of God that makes us responsible to use it well, not to abuse it." Father Ashley's Sept. 10 lecture kicked off the center's first Intercultural Forum fall lecture series.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**September 24 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro

**September 28 — 5 p.m.**
Investiture ceremony of Third Order of Capuchin Franciscans
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**September 30 — 7 p.m.**
Dedication and blessing of Bishop McGuinness High School, Winston-Salem

**October 5 — 5 p.m.**
75th anniversary Mass and dinner
St. John, Waynesville

**October 6 — 4 p.m.**
Dedication and blessing of church
St. James, Concord

## Diocesan planner

**September**

**23** CHARLOTTE — The Pathfinders, a separated and divorced peer support group, welcomes all to a 10th anniversary Mass with Father Richard Bellow today at 2:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall where participants can learn more about the group. For details, call Nancy Cardo at (704) 752-0318.

**23** HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

**24** CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/dementia will be held today from 10-11:15 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. With advanced notification, activities for the memory-impaired are also being provided. For more information about the support group or the nonprofit Shining Stars Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday and on a third day offered at Sardis Presbyterian Church, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

**24** MORGANTON — St. Charles Borromeo Church, 714 West Union St., is beginning a LANDINGS ministry to welcome inactive Catholics interested in returning to practicing the faith back to the church. The first of 10 weekly sessions will begin the week of Sept. 24. For further information, call Tom Henderson at (828) 584-3199.

**26** CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend the monthly memorial Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd.

### Pope says he hopes trip to Asia strengthens religious ties

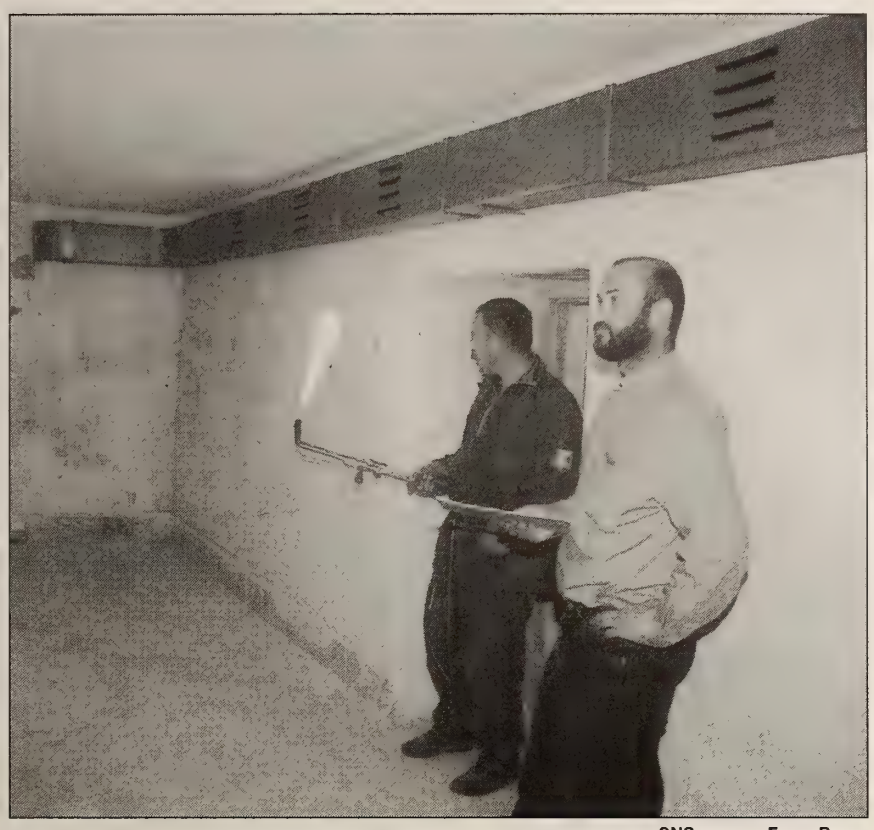
CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said he hoped his visit to Kazakstan and Armenia in late September would strengthen ecumenical dialogue and interreligious ties. The pope, welcoming new ambassadors from both countries, confirmed that he would make his trip as planned Sept. 22-27. Vatican sources said no serious consideration was given to suspending the trip after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. Accepting the credentials of the Armenian ambassador, Edward Nalbandian, Sept. 15, the pope said he looked forward with joy to his first visit to Armenia, a country celebrating 1,700 years of Christianity. In a ceremony Sept. 17 with the new ambassador from Kazakstan, Nurlan Danenov, the pope emphasized the rich ethnic, religious and cultural diversity of the vast Asian country and said this diversity represented "a challenge and an opportunity."

### Vatican Radio welcomes study that shows no antennae-leukemia link

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican Radio welcomed study results from an international panel that found no connection between the broadcaster's antennae radiation and child leukemia rates. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the radio's program director, said Sept. 15 he hoped the study finally would give peace of mind to people living around the transmission center, "confirming that there is no seriously founded reason to think that our activity in the past has caused or causes harm to health." He said the radio would maintain measures adopted in recent months to lower radiation levels in residential areas to strict limits established by Italian law. The study, commissioned in April by Italy's health ministry, concluded that leukemia rates around the Santa Maria di Galeria transmission center outside Rome were no higher than in the nation's capital.

### Guatemalans fight malnutrition, famine after summer drought

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — Antonia Ramirez crosses thin, lesion-covered arms over her pregnant belly. Suffering from malnutrition, she has spent 20 days in a church-run clinic, fed by doctors in hopes of saving herself and the baby inside her bony body. "We lost our entire corn crop when the rains didn't come, and we've just been eating bits of tortilla," said the Chorti Indian in the Jocotan clinic, 140 miles from Guatemala City in northeastern Chiquimula province. As she spoke, swollen-bellied, thin-limbed toddlers cried beside her on the floor. In what officials call the worst disaster since Hurricane Mitch in 1998, a summer drought destroyed crops across Central America and left thousands of farmers awash in debt and famine.



CNS PHOTO BY FRANK BROWN

**Priests visit former Soviet prison cell**
**Ukrainian born Father Vasyl Hovera visits a prison cell in the former Soviet penal camp at Dolinka, Kazakstan, which he hopes to convert into a museum. The priest volunteered to minister in Kazakstan despite his father's 14-year exile to the nearby coal mining town of Karaganda.**

### Pope says focus must remain on needs of workers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Continuing changes in the world of work make it more important than ever that economists, government leaders, social scientists and business leaders focus on the talents and needs of the people who are at the center of all work, Pope John Paul II said. "The current vision of the economic and social system in which human needs, especially, receive a restricted and inadequate consideration must be overcome," the pope said in a Sept. 14 message to an international meeting on work. The Sept. 13-15 meeting, hosted by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, marked the 20th anniversary of the pope's encyclical letter on human work, "Laborem Exercens." St. John's University in New York and the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota were among the universities co-sponsoring the meeting.

### Catholic, religious leaders seek to halt new farm bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic and other religious groups have joined with secular organizations that promote family farming and wildlife conservation to put the brakes on a new 10-year farm bill that passed the House Agriculture Committee earlier this summer. The length of time covered by the bill and the speed with which it sailed through the committee are just two of the points which have angered rural life advocates. Holy Cross Brother David Andrews, head of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, called it "a disaster of a farm bill" during a Sept. 10 press briefing. "We need a farm policy that is also a food policy, that provides food for the hungry, from family farms, which respects and defends God's creation. The current House bill fails to do this," said Brother Andrews.

### Father Pavone asked to step down from Priests for Life post

NEW YORK (CNS) — Father Frank Pavone, a priest of the New York Archdiocese who is national director of Priests for Life, has been asked by Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York to leave that position and resume full-time parish work. A marked need for parish priests in the New York Archdiocese has been cited as the reason for reassigning Father Pavone, who was appointed to Priests for Life in 1993 by Cardinal Egan's predecessor, Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York. "We are shocked at what has happened and frankly can't make heads or tails of it," Anthony DeStefano, executive director of Priests for Life, said in a statement Sept. 10. Neither Father Pavone nor the spokesman for the New York Archdiocese, Joseph Zwilling, could be reached for comment.

East, that will be taking place tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they may be remembered during the Mass.

**26** GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women invites all ladies to its Fall Luncheon at the Greensboro Country Club Pavilion today at noon. The speaker will be Franciscan Father Louis Canino, director of the Franciscan Center. For information on how to support the luncheon and council, directions and the Sept. 21 registration deadline, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

**26** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**28** WINSTON-SALEM — Marriage Encounter Weekends are designed for couples to get away from jobs, kids, chores and phones for 44 hours and focus only on each other. The next Marriage Encounter will be taking place today through Sept. 30 at the Holiday Inn in Winston-Salem. Registration closes Sept. 23, and the weekends fill up quickly. For further details and to register, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

**October**

**1** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight and every first Monday at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Oct. 2 and every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**1** CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on Nov. 5. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

**3** CHARLOTTE — Weighing the Truth is a new faith-based, weight-management program that nourishes the body, mind and spirit. The goal of this unique bible-based program is focused on a way of living that will help to change one's way of eating. The program will begin at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight at 6:30 p.m. and will continue on Wednesday evenings for 10 weeks in the parish center. For further information, call Victoria Sprow at (704) 544-8729 or Aurelie May at (704) 847-6210.

**3** CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will hold a meeting and luncheon, in the parish activity center today at 1 p.m. Featured at the event will be Bob Wilusz, accordion player. All adults 55 and older are invited to attend. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**4** CHARLOTTE — St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will host adult bible study on the Acts of the Apostles on Thursday nights from 7:30-9 p.m. beginning tonight and concluding March 21 with a break for the month of December. Michael Coyle, a Franciscan University theology graduate, is leading the informative study. For details, call the church office at (704) 536-6520 or (704) 598-3049 or e-mail mecoyle@email.uncc.edu.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# Mountain home in Sapphire Valley transformed into faith formation center

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

SAPPHIRE VALLEY — On Sunday mornings this fall, the David and Deanna Klingel home will be transformed into a faith formation center. Bedrooms and the big, open living room will become classrooms for some 25 young people who are parishioners at St. Jude Catholic Church.

After 9 a.m. Mass, everyone involved in faith formation will head over to the Klingels, who own a spacious green-roofed, two-story log cabin in nearby Country Club Estates. Students will arrive carrying tote bags containing their Bibles and supplies. Each tote bag is decorated with a digital picture of the student, and each student has added symbols to individualize his or her bag.

"We have an opening ceremony, at which we share and the children tell what they've done that week, such as a service project," said Franciscan Sister Johanna Orlette, pastoral associate and faith formation director at St. Jude and at Our Lady of the Mountains in Highlands.

Then it's off to the rooms where David and Deanna have set up folding tables and chairs. Cyndy Gajda teaches first grade, Marsha LaFontaine teaches second and third, and Denice Dunn and Susie Young have fourth and fifth. Sixth grade on up settle into the sofas and on the floor in front of the stone fireplace in the living room, where Gary Marrone, with an assist from David Klingel, teaches the class. If a class needs to view a video, students view them on the television in the basement family room.

"There aren't many places around here to run off to on Sunday mornings," Sister Johanna said, "so that's a good time for the parents to gather for adult faith formation, too."

At one time, all the students from St. Jude and Our Lady of the Mountains met in the latter church's basement. But St. Jude's parishioners (55-60 families in the winter and nearly 200 in the summer) sought a site closer to their own church. St. Jude is building a 4,000-square-foot addition with a parish hall, kitchen, classrooms and an office, but until it's ready — parishioners hope that will be in January — they must hold classes elsewhere than at the church. So the Klingels have opened their home.

"We offered it two years ago and never heard anything back," David said. "Last year, we offered it again and got a very positive response."

The Klingels' home seems to be always open. At Christmastime, their seven children and their families will gather at the house. Over the years, when the Klingels lived in Atlanta, they welcomed college and exchange students and foster children.

In the days before Ronald McDonald houses came into existence, their home served as a hospital host home where families could stay while their children were being treated at local hospitals. One Filipino boy had been diagnosed with three forms of cancer at 18 months of age. He and his mother lived with the Klingels for six years while he was undergoing treatment at the Scottish Rite Hospital in Atlanta; for a while the father and the boy's brother also lived with the Klingels, who are helping both boys with their college expenses.

"The boys call me Dad, and Deanna, Mom," David said. "The Lord blessed us, so we share."

This year, two summer work program students from Lithuania and one from Estonia made their home with the Klingels.

"We've always used our home for other things, and each time we've had a little bit more," Deanna said. "So, since we've always been given a little bit more home than we needed, we've just always assumed that was because we needed to share it."

In addition to the formal faith formation activities that will fill the Klingels' home on Sundays, the parish is also planning family day activities each month. These might include making Advent wreaths, parents and children cooking together for a bake sale and various intergenerational activities that could reach out to senior citizens.

"People bring ideas from their previous parishes," Sister Johanna said. "We have a lot of talent."

One idea that the Klingels had was the Stations of the Cross. They asked a friend, Bill Burden, to make a set, and he fashioned 14 simple white wooden crosses on green backgrounds with little roofs. These Stations have been fastened to trees along a winding path through a wooded area behind the Klingels' house. They've been used in several faith-formation activities, including a Palm Sunday service in which the children brought flowers to place at each station.

Whatever the activities, the Klingels will continue to welcome the faith formation classes to their home.

"I just love to see the children and their enthusiasm," David said. "They're a good bunch of kids. They don't come in with long faces. They just brighten up the place."



Photo by Joanita Nellenbach

**Deanna Klingel stands beside her favorite of the 14 Stations fashioned by a friend. This, the one that represents Christ's death, has the Corpus made from a tiny piece of rhododendron.**


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Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

# Catechists urged to light fires of faith at workshop

By DENISE KASPER
Correspondent

CLEMMONS — Catechists, parish leaders and parishioners of the Diocese of Charlotte's Northern Region joined together for an all-day faith formation workshop on Sept. 8.

This was the seventh-annual workshop, called Lighting the Fires of Faith VII, and was set into motion with a keynote address from Sister Rosa Monique Peña. Her talk, addressing this year's theme of "Love Beyond All Telling," was delivered in English and Spanish.

Sister Rosa paraphrased the two speeches, so someone who was bilingual would not hear the same speech repeatedly.

One succinct message, however, was woven throughout her speech: Above all, we need to love our brothers and sisters.

"I wanted to make clear what is important and what is secondary; what comes first and what is our priority in religious education," she said. "It's not the doctrine, the church or praying — those things are secondary. First it's important for people to care for each other; to care for the children in front of us as persons of faith and persons learning their faith."

She added that if catechists approach their students with this in mind, students will perceive God in their teachers and be more interested in their lessons — as well as more attentive to what catechists have to say.

"It's about relating to the students and trying different methods of teaching," she said.

The workshop was developed for the 22 parishes and missions in the Northern Region of the Charlotte Diocese.

"The presenters ... were excellent," said Franciscan Sister Bernadette Svatos, faith formation coordinator for the Northern Region of the diocese. "The people who attended (generated) a great amount of enthusiasm. It is the most important event hosted for catechists in this area."

This annual workshop is usually held in August, but because of a scheduling conflict with some of the presenters, the date was moved back to September. Sister Bernadette said that she felt having the workshop just a week before Catechetical Sunday was very appropriate.

Addressing the increasing numbers of Hispanics in the diocese, Sister Bernadette said that painstaking efforts were made to make some of the teaching modules, as well as the keynote address, bilingual.

"It's important to know that (we are) trying to work more bilingually in the region," she said, noting that Sister Rosa Monique herself led a teaching module on the Scriptures in Spanish.

Father Michael Buttner, pastor of Holy Family Church in Clemmons, welcomed participants to the event. Tracy Welliver of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro led the opening prayer service, and the music ministry of St. Pius X provided the music. Raquel Cudd from Our Lady of the Highways in Thomasville read in Spanish.

Teaching modules discussed cultural awareness, catechetical skills and theory, the sacraments, peace and justice issues, morality, Scripture, the Creed and the call and role of the catechist. This workshop is part of ongoing educational opportunities sponsored by the diocese, Sister Bernadette said.

During lunch, catechists listened to presentations from publishers, getting an introduction to some of the latest teaching materials on the market.

"We are asking (catechists) to do a very important job," Sister Bernadette said. "They need to be prepared for this."

She added that these workshops are open to anyone who would like to attend and suggested that any inquiries about upcoming catechist education opportunities be directed to individual parishes.

"These workshops are for catechists as well as any interested people," she said. "We are never through with faith formation."

## Faith Formation in the Charlotte Diocese

***Did you know that ...***

- there are **170** parish catechetical leaders in the Diocese of Charlotte?
- **2,974** catechists serve generously in this ministry?
- **15,067** elementary-age children attend faith formation?
- **2,894** high-school age teens continue in faith formation?
- **3,357** adults pursue continuing faith formation?
- **821** participated in the RCIA process last year?
- **780** catechumens and candidates entered the Catholic Church last year?

**Data provided by the Office of Faith Formation, Diocese of Charlotte**


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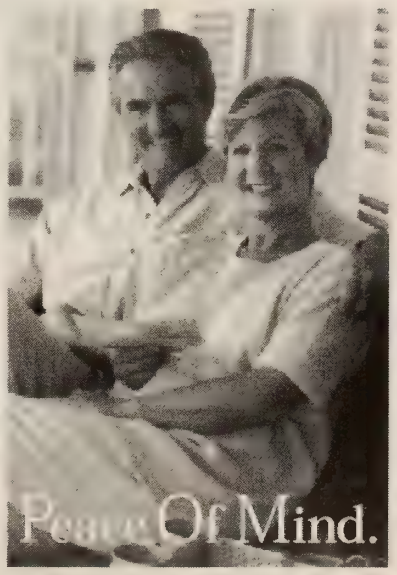
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### Pope names 16 experts, 23 observers to Synod of Bishops

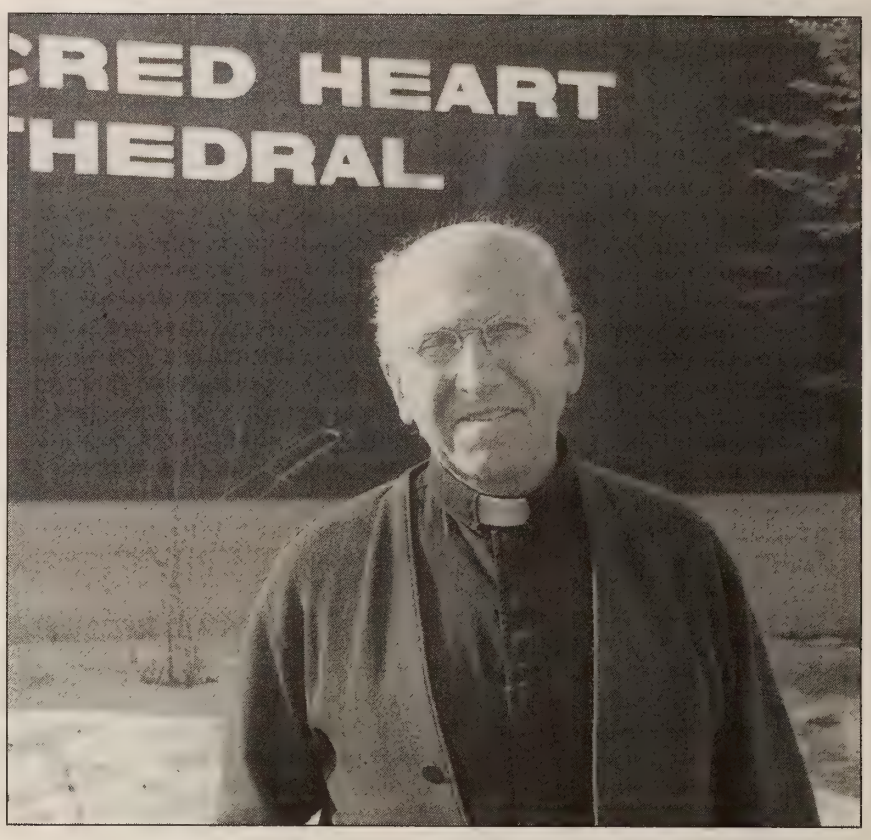
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named 16 experts, including a religious woman, and 23 observers to participate in the upcoming world Synod of Bishops. Along with 15 priests, most of whom are professors of theology or canon law, the pope named Salesian Sister Enrica Rosanna, a Rome-based professor of the sociology of religions, to serve as an expert adviser to the synod looking at the role of bishops in the church. The synod is scheduled for Sept. 30-Oct. 27 at the Vatican with more than 200 bishops participating. The synod observers named by the pope include eight laymen and five laywomen, six priests and four religious women.

### Cardinal says church's governing functions could be decentralized

ROME (CNS) — While the papacy is an essential element of the Catholic Church, there are many possible ways to decentralize governing functions in the church, said Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Vatican's doctrinal congregation. "Undoubtedly, regional forums which take on even some of the functions until now carried out by Rome are necessary," the cardinal said in a book-length interview with journalist Peter Seewald. The book, "God and the World," was published in German in October 2000 and was set for a late-September release in Italy. In its Sept. 13 edition, the Italian Catholic magazine Famiglia Cristiana published the book's chapter on the papacy.

### Vatican official addresses Catholic Charities conference

NEWARK, N.J. (CNS) — "The call to love of neighbor" appears to be "a great success" in our time, a Vatican official told hundreds of Catholic Charities USA workers Sept. 10. Archbishop Paul Josef Cordes, president of the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum," challenged them to consider "what it is that makes charity specifically Christian." Catholic Charities directors and staff members gathered in Newark Sept. 6-10 for the organization's annual national convention. The conference, hosted by the Archdiocese of Newark and its Catholic Community Services, had as its theme "Gateways to Hope and Dignity," a reference to the region's role as an entry point for millions of immigrants to the United States.




CNS FILE PHOTO BY BRAD REYNOLDS

**Bishop Whelan of Fairbanks dies at 89**

**Bishop Robert L. Whelan is seen in an undated file photo outside Sacred Heart Cathedral in Fairbanks, Alaska. Bishop Whelan, who headed the Diocese of Fairbanks from 1968 to 1985, died Sept. 15 in Spokane, Wash. He was 89.**

### Catholic couple receives Army chaplain award

FORT MCPHERSON, Ga. (CNS) — The Award of the Order of Aaron and Hur, the highest award of the chief of chaplains of the U.S. Army, was presented to Lt. Gen. Lawson Magruder III and his wife, Gloria, upon his Army retirement this summer. The award, which is granted only in exceptional cases, is conferred upon those who have made a significant contribution through active support of the chaplaincy program Army-wide and to the Army's ongoing military religious support mission. The name comes from the Book of Exodus, where Aaron and Hur supported Moses' arms as he held up the staff of God during a battle. The award honors those who are exemplary in "supporting the arms" of the chaplaincy. The Magruders, who are Catholic, received the award at a Mass in the Cantonment Chapel of Fort McPherson.

### Pope says upcoming synod has 'great importance' for entire church

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said an upcoming international meeting of bishops at the Vatican had "great importance for the whole church," and would focus on church experience since the Second Vatican Council. The "principal reference point" of the Sept. 30-Oct. 27 gathering, which will examine the role of bishops in the church, will be the council and especially its document on bishops, the pope told pilgrims Sept. 9 during a noon blessing at his summer residence outside Rome. "The council teaching will be read anew in light of recent decades and above all with a view to the new evangelization, as even the theme itself suggests," he said. The theme of the bishops' meeting, or synod, is: "The Bishop: Servant of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the Hope of the World."

### Msgr. Champlin's new book helps couples decide whether to marry

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (CNS) — Deciding to get married is one of a person's most important choices in life, says veteran author and pastor Msgr. Joseph M. Champlin. His newest book — "Should We Marry?" — is aimed at helping high school and college students and couples who are thinking about marriage to ask the right questions and discuss issues they should face. Msgr. Champlin, rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse and author of more than 45 books, said he looked back over his years in the priesthood to gather information for the book.

### Bishop Whelan, retired head of Fairbanks Diocese, dead at 89

SPOKANE, Wash. (CNS) — Bishop Robert L. Whelan, who headed the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska, from 1968 until his retirement in 1985, died Sept. 15 at the North Central Convalescent Center in Spokane. He was 89. He suffered from Alzheimer's disease but no exact cause of death was given. Following a Sept. 18 memorial Mass at the Jesuit House in Spokane, his body was to be transferred to Fairbanks for his funeral Mass and burial. "Bishop Whelan was a great missionary bishop and served the diocese which advertises itself as one of the most difficult in the world because of the Arctic conditions with great dedication," said Msgr. John Steiner, vicar general of the Spokane Diocese.

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| **Monday, Oct. 23rd** *Senior Sensitivity* | *Bernadette Ford Gerontologist* |
| **Monday, Oct. 30th** *Confidentiality, Compliance, Consistency* | *Sr. Jeanne Marie Kienast, R.S.M. Pastoral Associate* |

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# Report cites global progress in eliminating land mines

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new report says the production and use of anti-personnel land mines has dropped around the globe.

The report, released worldwide Sept. 12 by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, said nations destroyed 5 million mines from their arsenals last year.

It reported "an encouraging decline" in the yearly toll of land-mine casualties — from an estimated 26,000 a year in the mid-1990s to about 15,000 to 20,000 last year.

"The anti-personnel mine is fast becoming a relic of the past century," said Stephen Goose, arms division program director of Human Rights Watch. Human Rights Watch, a founding member of the international campaign, produced and edited the 1,175-page "Landmine Monitor Report 2001."

News of its release was almost totally overshadowed in the United States by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center.

Amid heightened security concerns, the campaign canceled its long-planned U.S. press conference at the Organization of American States headquarters in Washington to release the report. Press conferences also were canceled in Rome and Ottawa that day, although they went on as scheduled in other parts of the world.

The campaign posted the report, a 75-page executive summary and related materials on the Internet at www.icbl.org/lm/2001 and asked U.S. journalists to read them there or obtain copies by mail.

The report and summary also were presented to the Third Meeting of State Parties to the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty Sept. 17 in Managua, Nicaragua.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines won the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to eradicate anti-personnel land mines, which kill far more noncombatants than combatants, often years after warfare ends.

The campaign was a major popular force behind the treaty to ban anti-personnel land mines, signed in December 1997 by more than 120 nations in Ottawa.

The treaty took effect in March 1999, six months after the 40th signatory nation ratified it.

At the time of the new report's release, a total of 141 nations — nearly three-fourths of all countries in the world — had joined the treaty.

The United States has not signed the treaty. It claims a continuing military need for anti-personnel mines to maintain the effectiveness of its anti-tank mines in the defense of South Korea.

The U.S. Catholic Campaign to Ban Landmines, sponsored by the U.S. bishops' conference and other national Catholic organizations, has pledged continued efforts to get the United States to sign on.

The report said the number of countries producing land mines has dropped from 55 to 14 in recent years. The latest to drop from the list of producers are Turkey and Yugoslavia.

It also noted "an almost complete halt in trade," saying that not a single international shipment of land mines has been publicly identified since 1998.

More than 50 nations have destroyed more than 27 million land mines in recent years, including 5 million in 2000, the report said. It said 29 nations that have ratified the treaty have now finished destroying their land-mine stockpiles.

It estimated that about 230 million to 245 million mines remain in existing stockpiles, however, including 11.2 million in the United States.

According to the report, in 2000 eight of the largest humanitarian demining programs cleared mines and other unexploded ordinance from 185 million square meters of previously contaminated land. Cambodia, where a shortage of land safe for cultivation is a major obstacle to economic development, accounted for one-sixth of that.

The report credited decreases in human casualties to extensive mine awareness campaigns and increased mine action funding as well as demining efforts.

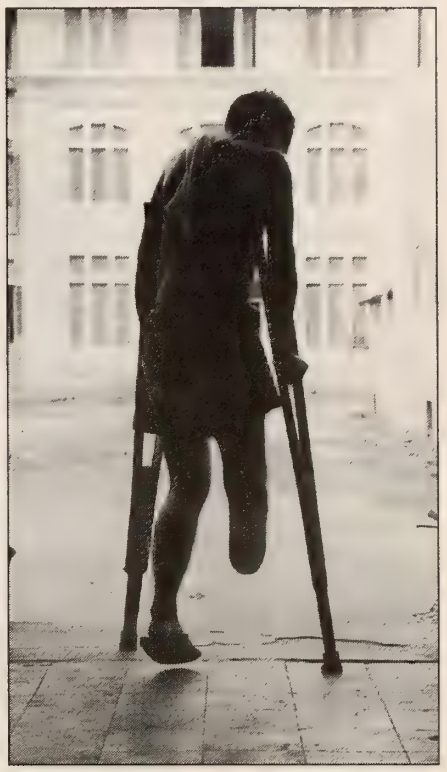
Despite advances on many fronts, the report noted a number of setbacks as well, including apparent "new use of anti-personnel mines in 23 conflicts by as many as 15 governments and at least 30 rebel groups/nonstate actors."

"As of mid-2001, it would not appear that anti-personnel mines are being used on a massive scale in any conflict," said a summary of report findings. "The most regular use is likely occurring in Russia (Chechnya), Sri Lanka and Burma. In all three instances, both governments and rebel forces are using anti-personnel mines."

The new report says that out of 73 countries suffering casualties from land mines and unexploded ordinance in 2000, 45 "had not experienced any active conflict during the research period. In many cases, the conflict had ended years or even decades ago."

The 2001 report identified about 8,000 casualties in the previous year, but noted, "This figure does not include the thousands of casualties that are believed to go unreported as victims are killed or injured in remote areas away from any form of assistance or means of communication."

In addition, it said, no figures at all were available from such high-casualty areas as Myanmar and Vietnam.



CNS File Photo

**A man who lost part of his leg to a land mine walks out of the Phnom Penh's Military Hospital in Cambodia in this 1998 file photo. The number of Cambodians killed or maimed by land mines has fallen from more than 500 victims a month in the early 1990s to about 100-200 victims a month in recent years.**


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*Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte*

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## RESPECT LIFE

### INTERCESSIONS FOR LIFE -- OCTOBER 2001

**October 7th:** For the grace to defend the Gospel of Life, that every baptized man and woman might defend by word and example the inalienable right to life from conception to natural death;
***We pray to the Lord.***

**October 14th:** For a spirit of gracefulness and care for all parents and grandparents, that we might honor all who have chosen the inestimable value of parental love;
***We pray to the Lord.***

**October 21st:** For the gift of faith, that we might see God's face in the hungry, the abused, the homeless, and all who are forgotten;
***We pray to the Lord.***

**October 28th:** For scientists and medical researchers, that all might use the gifts of intellect and ingenuity for the glory of God and the protection of the lives he has placed into their hands;
***We pray to the Lord.***

### UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

**Oct. 7: Respect Life Sunday: Life Chain!** Contact for Charlotte area churches: David Prophit, **704-554-8336** or Jeff Norkus, **704-595-6444**

**Oct. 9: Evening Retreat for Post-Abortion Healing:** St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte, Daily Mass Chapel, 7:30 pm. Call Martha, **336-659-1342**

**Oct. 9: Journey of Hope.** From Violence to Healing: Our Lady of Assumption, Charlotte, 7 pm.

**October 10: Evening Retreat for Post-Abortion Healing:** Our Lady of Mercy, Winston-Salem, 7:30 pm. Call Martha **336-659-1342.**

**October 12: Mass and Life Chain:** Holy Trinity Middle School. Time: TBA

**October 19-21: Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekend:** Living Waters Reflection Ctr., Maggie Valley. Call Paula Bolick, **828-684-8022.**

**October 26-28: Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekend:** Catholic Conference Ctr., Hickory; call Debbie or Martha, **336-659-1342.**

**November 15: Choices in Assisted Reproduction: A Guide for Catholic Families.** St. Gabriel, Charlotte, 7 pm. Call Respect Life Office **704-370-3229.**

**December 8: National Night of Prayer for Life:** Individual parishes

**December 25: Birth of Jesus Christ**

**December 28th: Mass in Remembrance of today's Holy Innocents** - the children lost to abortion! St. Vincent de Paul, Charlotte, 12:10 pm.

### CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

**Respect Life Office** - 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203 - **704-370-3229**
E-mail: MaggiFN@cs.com

# College students react to disasters in Northeast

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

Janet Price is a senior student peer minister at Western Carolina University (WCU) in Cullowhee, and she has been trained to use her own experiences and insight to help her fellow students cope with everyday campus events and life happenings. However, Price needed to go home to be with family over the weekend.

"It is surreal and seems like a movie I can't watch anymore. As time moves on, it's like a bad movie I would have walked out on," said Price of the media coverage of the day that shook the nation at its foundation.

The terrorist attacks that occurred Sept. 11 have affected many people including young adults on college campuses around the country. Several students were directly affected, while others share in the grief and sorrow of the victims, their families and those involved in the terrorist attacks in the northeastern past of the country.

According to Colleen McDermott, diocesan director of campus and young adult ministries, from what she has witnessed and in keeping contact with campus ministers, college students across the diocese seem to be having a difficult time coping because of their situations — being away from home, feeling helpless and afraid and living during a time when terrorism had not touched them personally until over a week ago.

"They are young and are afraid of terrorism, war, being drafted and retaliation, and they are angry, sad and confused," said McDermott. "But, they have been praying at Masses, vigils and during Eucharistic adoration, and they are hopeful because they see the country pulling together, seeking unity and forming community."

In order to help their communities cope, many of the colleges and universities suspended classes and offered prayer services and times of discussion for their students. The Catholic campus ministers opened their doors and provided comfort and solace for those seeking answers and desiring the normalcy of familiar surroundings.

"The center represents home and a place of safety. It is a Catholic 'home away from home' and is a place of comfort, prayer and peace," said Gloria Schweizer, Catholic campus minister at WCU. The mountain college's response to the attacks included prayer services, a campus-wide forum which superceded classes and a moment of silence and gospel tribute on Sept. 14.

Alberta Hairston, North Carolina A&T University (NC A&T) and Bennett College Catholic campus minister, said that she had many students come to Thea House, the center for Catholic campus ministry, located on the campus of NC A&T in Greensboro on the day of the attacks and the days following.

"I had a steady group of students coming to eat and talk. They see Thea House as a safe place, and the food brought comfort," said Hairston, who normally cooks meals for the students.



Courtesy Photo from Davidson College

**Students at Davidson College in Davidson reflect during a college assembly in the wake of Tuesday's terrorist attacks in the Northeast.**

"The university announced that the center was open for anyone who needed to talk, and the Catholic students brought in non-Catholic friends."

The spirit of ecumenism was present on many campuses. About 100 students in Charlotte gathered for a prayer vigil on Sept. 11 at the Belk Tower at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte's campus, and they gathered again at noontime on Sept. 13 for silence, reflection and prayer at the tower. At WCU, United Campus Ministries, an interdenominational group, held a candlelight vigil on Sept. 12, and the students gathered at their campus bell tower to share prayers and concerns on Sept. 14.

"There were all kinds of organized and spontaneous prayers going on last Tuesday following the attack," said Conventual Franciscan Father Jude DeAngelo, Catholic campus minister at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem. Some of the campus events included one service with 300 to 400 attendants and an interfaith service with Christians and Jews with over 400 students.

"It has been unbelievable. So many gathered at so many ecumenical prayer services as well as in small groups to pray," said Barb Bagnall, Catholic campus minister at Davidson College in Davidson. "Our students are from around the country and the world; not many are from the Charlotte area, so they can't just reach out and touch family. The 'bonding' happened due to such tragic circumstances. Many students came into the office just to talk, mainly about intimate issues about families and themselves because this situation has called everyone to take such a deep look at themselves."

Some of those tragic circumstances include NC A&T and Bennett students whose family members worked in the Pentagon and for the Port Authority in New York. The students waited in shock to hear if their loved ones were safe, reported Hairston. Belmont Abbey College graduate Jimmy Riches, a New York City firefighter, has been reported as missing since the attacks. Another Abbey student went home to be with family; two cousins are presumed dead.

To help with the efforts, Ryan Ludick, a firefighter and a student from Belmont Abbey College, went to New York to assist with rescue efforts, informed Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson, chaplain at the Catholic college.

"To hear the sadness, fear and worry in the people's voices that I spoke to made the whole event very real to me. It wasn't happening in a city far away or to 'others;' it was happening to people with names and loved ones," said Jerilyn Buresh, a former Diocese of Charlotte campus ministry intern, who knows firsthand about the incidents. As a Red Cross military caseworker, she was on duty when the news broke that Tuesday morning and also fielded calls and worked with people immediately after the attacks.

"Now there is talk of retaliation and war. That chills me to the bone, not because I'm fearing for my own safety or the ways in which my life may be impacted, but for the countless number of people that I have spoken to. For me, the military are not just defenders of my country; they have people who love them," she said.

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*


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**Refugee Office:**
Cira Ponce (704) 370-6930
**Justice & Peace:**
Joe Purello (704) 370-3225
**Special Ministries:**
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**Charlotte Region:** 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-6155
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12 noon Sun., Nov. 11th

**Mary Pat Fourqurean**
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Cost: $ 60 (commuters)
$120 (overnight)

Pre-register by October 31

# In Brief . . .

### Catholics from all walks of life gather at shrine to mourn

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholics from all walks of life filled the pews and stood and knelt in the aisles of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Sept. 16, as they joined church leaders and government and military officials in prayer. The liturgy, which was titled "Mass for the Nation in a Moment of Tragedy and a Time of Hope," was celebrated by Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick and by his predecessor, retired Cardinal James A. Hickey. "The smoke has finally cleared away and the persistent fires no longer burning," Cardinal McCarrick said at the end of the Mass. "It was not the smoke that brought the tears to our eyes, nor the fires that moved our hearts to fear. It was the awesome terrible loss of people we love, of neighbors we know, of colleagues with whom we worked, the tragedy of lives never finished, of pain and suffering never imagined," he said.

### Thousands gather for special Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral

NEW YORK (CNS) — Thousands of people gathered at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York Sept. 16 for a 5:30 p.m. "Mass of Supplication" celebrated by Cardinal Edward M. Egan. With 5,000 or more feared dead and as-yet unrecovered from the World Trade Center — and the debris still smoldering five days after the towers' collapse — the congregation could find deep meaning in the prayers, "Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy." The cathedral itself was filled, and thousands more stood outside on Fifth Avenue and adjacent streets to hear the service over loudspeakers. The Mass was offered "for all who died in the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, for those who are mourning them, for all who were injured and for all who served so heroically in this time of national sorrow."

### Pope prays Americans won't respond with hatred

FROSINONE, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II prayed that Americans would shun the temptation to respond with hatred and violence to massive coordinated terrorist attacks on U.S. soil. "I turn my heartbroken thoughts even now to all the sons and daughters of that great nation," the United States, the pope said after a Mass Sept. 16. "May (the Virgin Mary) help all not to give in to the temptation of hate and violence, but to commit themselves to the service of justice and peace," he told some 40,000 people in Frosinone, 40 miles southeast of Rome.

### Thousands of New Yorkers bid farewell to dead fire chaplain

NEW YORK (CNS) — Emotions ran strong and deep as New York said its farewell Sept. 15 to the Fire Department chaplain who gave his life at the World Trade Center, Franciscan Father Mychal F. Judge. Police blocked off the street in front of the church, St. Francis of Assisi, where Father Judge lived, and a Fire Department unit of two dozen bagpipes, each with an American flag attached, played as mourners arrived. A group of FBI agents had come, accompanied by an Episcopalian minister as chaplain. Then, as just one bagpiper played "Amazing Grace," a detail of firefighters carried their chaplain into the church for a funeral Mass celebrated by Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York.U.S. bishops praise pope's concern after terrorist attacks

### U.S. bishops praise pope's concern after terrorist attacks

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops expressed their gratitude to Pope John Paul II for his "words of compassion and love for our nation" in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and in the Washington area. A Sept. 17 letter was sent to the pope on behalf of the bishops by Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The bishop said he joined the pope in praying that U.S. leaders will overcome terrorism through international solidarity based on a more just world. "The path to peace and justice is to be found in embracing the God-given dignity and worth of every human being," the bishop said.


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**Book Review**

# Book recalls frightful Spanish civil war

REVIEWED BY JOHN H. CARROLL
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Today, Spain is a democratic member of the European Union and NATO and one of Europe's great tourist attractions. Still, there are alive today many elderly Spaniards, other Europeans and Americans who remember the frightful Spanish civil war between the Nationalists and the Republicans. Historians have referred to that tragic struggle from 1936 to 1939 as the test-tube war or the preliminary to World War II.

***SPAIN BETRAYED: THE SOVIET UNION IN THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR,* edited by Ronald Radosh, Mary R. Habeck and Grigory Sevostianov. Yale University Press (New Haven, Conn., 2001). 537 pages, $35.**

Beginning with the end of World War II and the beginning of the Cold War, much of the world press portrayed the Republicans and their International Brigade of foreign volunteers as representing democracy and freedom in their resistance to the Nationalists and their fascist German and Italian allies. In recent years, however, that legend has been challenged by newly declassified documentation.

"Spain Betrayed: The Soviet Union in the Spanish Civil War" certainly represents this new trend. Professors Ronald Radosh of George Washington University, Mary R. Habeck of Yale and Grigory Sevostianov of Russia's Academy of Sciences have amassed and edited a large collection of documents that reveal that the Soviets were scarcely true allies of the Spanish Republic or of the cause of democracy and freedom.

This volume is part of the "Annals of Communism" series that is being published by the Yale University Press. Each volume in this collection will be based on previously inaccessible documents from former Soviet party and government archives. The studies will deal with developments in the history of Soviet and international communism.

The editors of "Spain Betrayed" have divided the documents into three chapters, for 1936, 1937 and 1938-39, each with a foreword putting the material in the context of Soviet policies toward Spain.

The documents were opened to the public in the 1990s. They include communications from the Soviet security service NKVD (forerunner of the KGB), from the GRU (the Soviet military intelligence organization), British intercepts of Soviet messages between Moscow and Madrid, and papers from Russian state military archives, Comintern and Politburo. Together they give a clear picture of Soviet activities in Spain.

The documents show that Soviets on the ground to support the Spanish Republic spent much of their effort extending their own control over the parts of the country under Republican government. A parallel campaign also was under way to wipe out any opposition groups, whether Socialists, Anarchists or Trotskyites. NKVD and GRU officers moved in to take over the Republican Army and penetrated volunteer International Brigades including the American Abraham Lincoln Brigade. The Soviets also cheated the Spanish Republic of its gold reserves and American dollars in arms deals.

There are references to the treatment of Catholics, a major Soviet target. On Aug. 4, 1936, the Comintern Secretariat in Moscow advised the Soviet Embassy in Madrid: "The government must also declare that the Spanish people and its government appreciate the religious feelings of the people, and that the only reason why certain monasteries were occupied during the struggle was that they were strategic military positions of the rebels."

Then on Oct. 17, 1936, Frenchman Andre Marty, the Comintern head of international volunteers, in a long report "On the Situation in Spain" declared: "The government must come out with a declaration on the church — freedom of religion for all. Believers ought to know that we will arrest priests not because they serve God but because they serve fascism — that is, they are shooting at the people and spreading fascist propaganda."

One of the great ironies in this sordid chapter of Stalinist perfidy regarding Spain was the execution of numerous Soviet officers upon their return home after service in the civil war. Readers may wonder what Ernest Hemingway, a lover of Spain and apologist for the Republic, would have thought of these revelations.

*Carroll is a retired civil servant who lives in Silver Spring, Md.*

# Word to Life

*September 30, Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
*Cycle C Readings:*

1) Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Psalm 146:7-10
2) 1 Timothy 6:11-16
3) Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I've been in this conversation more than once: "I just don't even turn on the news these days. Night after night it's full of pictures of the war, the bodies, all the victims with these horrible injuries, and those awful refugee camps with the babies and children who are dirty and crying and have been separated from their parents. It's too much. I just don't want to look at that."

"But it's real. It is what is happening. That's what those people are living with right now. We need to know about their suffering. Our life isn't all that goes on in the world."

"I know it is terrible and all, but I don't need to see it over and over, every night. It's depressing. I just turn it off."

The event may change. Instead of a war it may be an earthquake or a famine, or it might even be the "riff-raff" in our own downtown, but the complaint is the same: "I don't need to see people suffering." Or what about the common reply to a suggestion that someone participate in a mission to a Third World community: "I've seen poverty. I don't need to go put myself in the middle of it."

This weekend's Gospel begs to differ.

Although on first reading it appears to be everyone's favorite cautionary tale of hell's fiery furnace that awaits bad people in the afterlife, it is, more important, Jesus' advice to be attentive to the Lazaruses among us.

In his parable, Jesus shows that the condemned rich man realizes that Lazarus, in his closeness to God, is the one who can bring the cooling water to his parched lips. For those of worldly privilege, if we don't look upon — and stand with and minister to — those who are lowly and suffering, the cooling water of Jesus' Spirit won't reach us. We simply won't see Jesus the Savior as he is.

And if we don't see him, or believe that it is him, then there's no crossing that chasm.

**QUESTIONS:**

*When have you turned away from someone impoverished or suffering in some way? When have you experienced Jesus' life-giving presence in being with or ministering to such a person?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Sept. 23-29**

**Sunday,** Amos 8:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 16:1-13; **Monday,** Ezra 1:1-6, Luke 8:16-18; **Tuesday,** Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20, Luke 8:19-21; **Wednesday (Sts. Cosmas and Damian),** Ezra 9:5-9, Luke 9:1-6; **Thursday (St. Vincent de Paul),** Haggai 1:1-8, Luke 9:7-9; **Friday (St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions),** Haggai 1:15b-2:9, Luke 9:18-22, **Saturday (Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael),** Daniel 7:9-10, John 1:47-51

**Scripture for the week of Sept. 30-Oct. 6**

**Sunday,** Amos 6:1a, 4-7, 1 Timothy 6:11-16, Luke 16:19-31; **Monday (St. Therese),** Zechariah 8:1-8, Luke 9:46-50; **Tuesday (The Guardian Angels),** Exodus 23: 20-23, Matthew 18:1-5, 10; **Wednesday,** Nehemiah 2:1-8, Luke 9:57-62; **Thursday (St. Francis of Assisi),** Nehemiah 8:1-4, 5-6, 7-12, Luke 10:1-12; **Friday,** Baruch 1:15-22, Luke 10:13-16; **Saturday (St. Bruno, Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher),** Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29, Luke 10:17-24

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# "New York: A Documentary Film" to air Sept. 30-Oct. 1 on PBS

By GERRI PARE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — The final two episodes of Ric Burns' splendid 1999 documentary chronicling the history of New York City concludes with "The City of Tomorrow" airing Sunday, Sept. 30, 9-11 p.m. EDT, and "The City and the World" airing Monday, Oct. 1, 9-11:30 p.m. EDT on PBS (check local listings).

The timing of these programs, of course, is remarkable, coming so soon after the devastating loss to the city — and all of the civilized world — which happened after the film was completed. But airing the program also may serve to remind the world of the resilience of New Yorkers, who are sure to bond together as never before to restore their city to its rightful place as the leading metropolis of the world.

The first evening opens in the late 1920s as the city suddenly plunges from the gaiety of the Roaring '20s to the bleak reality of the Great Depression. Poignant footage of the evicted living in shacks they constructed along the piers and in Central Park or waiting in long bread lines gives way to the story of how people became fed up with the political corruption of Tammany Hall.

With the resignation of popular Mayor Jimmy Walker ("charming but awful," one historian notes) in 1932, the city's most influential mayor, Fiorello La Guardia, began the process of reinventing the city, alongside Robert Moses, the greatest builder of civic works the city ever saw. Together, with President Roosevelt's New Deal funding, they orchestrated massive rebuilding of the infrastructure, plus the building of parks, bridges, parkways, schools and hospitals.

The New Deal philosophy, created largely by New Yorkers who moved to Washington under FDR, transformed how people viewed government as taking care of its citizens. With his expansion of government services, La Guardia was compared to a "lower-case FDR" as the city became a gigantic laboratory of civic reconstruction.

The program offers detailed profiles of Moses and La Guardia, matched to excellent archival footage of each — especially of Moses, of whom it was said, "he loves the public but he hates people." The second evening's program expands on this theme, exposing Moses' dark side and the consequences it had for the city.

With a keen awareness of the growing role of cars in society, Moses began the first urban highway system and projects that led to the civic rebirth and renewal for the people, not just the wealthy, such as the opening of Jones Beach.

The plight of Harlem in the Depression, where the unemployment rate exceeded 50 percent, leads into the terrible chronicle of institutionalized racism, as New Deal mortgage and loan programs segregated the populace and produced racial slums. While Moses built 255 new playgrounds, only two were in black neighborhoods, and La Guardia dismissed racism as beyond his ability to solve.

The episode ends with great footage from the 1939 World's Fair, where the vision of the future centered on cars, connecting the city to the new ideal of suburban living.

As the country inched toward World War II, La Guardia and Moses raced to complete their costly projects before all monies would be diverted to the war effort. The program leaves one anxious for the final installment's assessment of the tumultuous years of the second half of the 20th century.

After the war, New York City solidified its premiere international status with its selection as the home of the United Nations, but gradually faced grave urban woes and had to fight for its very existence when bankruptcy loomed.

Opening shots on the streets of Harlem convey a real sense of neighborhood and belonging that characterized the postwar city. Newcomers — predominantly African-Americans and Puerto Ricans — streamed into poor neighborhoods, but unfortunately their search for blue-collar manufacturing jobs came just as the city was changing to a post-industrial economy.

Meanwhile, Moses greatly increased his power by assuming control of the housing authority and the huge influx of federal dollars for urban renewal. The government paid the state to tear down slums so private enterprise could build housing for the poor, but much was instead built for the middle class and the rich. Whole areas were reduced to rubble and the poor who were evicted ended up in segregated housing. Bleak, monotonous projects rose, destroying the fabric of local shops and neighborhoods along with their emotional support system.

Consolidating his power, Moses held 12 public jobs at once. His insistence on building expressways through the boroughs had a calamitous effect on neighborhoods, leading to further decay and the "white flight" to the suburbs. As manufacturing centers were demolished for highways and New York's piers began to rot, the city began a spiral of decline.

The destruction of the Beaux Arts masterpiece, Pennsylvania Station, in the mid-1960s actually woke the city up to the need to preserve its historical and architectural treasures. And when Moses planned a Lower Manhattan Expressway cutting a wide swath through vibrant neighborhoods, the more organized residents, led by author Jane Jacobs, banded together to protest that people were more important that cars. Their success marked the beginning of the end for Moses' 50-year career of accomplishment, which had become hampered by his vision of the city as primarily a transportation entity.

In the 1970s crime rose. The biggest industry in the Bronx was arson. It became clear the city had borrowed too much and for too long. President Gerald R. Ford turned down Mayor Abe Beame's request for an emergency loan and the city hit its nadir — only to begin a turnaround in a spirit of austerity which allowed it to flourish again in the 1980s and '90s.

An influx of skilled immigrants with an entrepreneurial spirit and an openness to change helped revitalize New York as the place to be at the approach of the millennium.

A historian sums up that New York allows you to reach your full potential and allows difference to be celebrated — and that drives civilization and freedom.

The final half-hour is heartbreaking to watch as it includes the building of the World Trade Center, with breathtaking scenes of the fabled skyline at night, now so horribly altered forever. Yet, just as the city faced near-certain bankruptcy and came back, this program, with its incredible emotional resonance, points to the challenge, determination and hope of a people that in God's loving care will persevere and rebuild. It is to be prayed that the optimistic note on which the program ends will not be cynically seen as ironic, but as prophetic.

Co-producer, co-writer and director Ric Burns has finished his documentary series in superb fashion, again using marvelous commentators, and blending in David Ogden Stiers' fine narration with a subtly effective music score by Brian Keane. The four-and-a-half hours are instructive, thoughtful and very often beautiful to behold.


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## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Pope says believers can trust in God's loving protection

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A week after massive terrorist attacks in the United States, Pope John Paul II said believers need not fear the powers of evil and can trust in God's loving protection.

"God, who upsets the tactics of the impious by making them stumble over their own evil plans, sides sooner or later with the faithful one," he said Sept. 19 during his weekly general audience.

The pope made no specific reference during the audience to the Sept. 11 attacks, which in previous days he had called "inhuman" and an expression of the "forces of darkness."

But in remarks in English, he told some 12,000 visitors in St. Peter's Square, "I invite you to pray in these days that almighty God will guide the minds and hearts of world leaders so that the ways of justice and peace may prevail."

The United States and its allies were poised for potential military action in Afghanistan, where Osama bin Laden, prime suspect in the attacks, was thought to be hiding. Islamic leaders of the country's ruling Taliban council were meeting to discuss whether to accede to a U.S. demand for bin Laden's extradition.

U.S. officials feared more than 5,000 people were killed in the attacks, in which terrorists flew hijacked commercial airliners into the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The pope devoted his Sept. 19 audience to reflection on Psalm 57, a believer's confident prayer to God for deliverance.

"The one praying feels assailed by a sort of squadron of death. Around him is a band of hunters who lay traps and dig pits to capture the prey," the pope said.

"But this atmosphere of tension immediately dissolves," he said. "Such trust in divine justice, which is always alive in the Psalter, prevents discouragement and surrender to the arrogance of evil.

"In practice, one experiences the movement from fear to joy, from night to day, from nightmare to serenity, from supplication to praise," he said.

## Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

### Addressing Race Relations

Race relations is a current topic of discussion in various corners of our society. Often those discussion center on interracial/inter-community relationships. In these "Family Reflections" we address interpersonal and interfamily race relations.

During the recent Labor Day weekend while traveling by car to relatives, we listened with our children to a talk-radio program that focused on the crises in adopting black babies. The point of the radio conversation was that race clearly influenced the market for desirable babies. Black babies and babies with special challenges, though in great supply, were not in great demand among most of those seeking to adopt. Responding to this, our conversation with each other gravitated to how we choose the people we love and whether race and class are factors.

Societal trends indicate that they are indeed factors that motivate relationships. Yet, our personal experiences seem to differ radically from societal trends. We cited several families we know that have adopted and foster-parented children who would not be in great demand. And when we reflected on those in our own inner circle of love, we saw that race and class are not factors beyond genetics. The people we choose in our lives are a wonderful variety of colors and ethnic origins.

Why are our experiences so different from societal norms? It is so for those families we know that have foster-parented and adopted "not-in-demand" children because they have been intentional about loving beyond themselves. It is so for our family because we have been intentional about choosing a variety of cultures, flavors and colors in our inner circle of love.

Encouraged by our multi-racial, multi-cultural parish, we have discovered the blessings of living in diversity. Because the family in the pew across the aisle may be Filipino, we too are just a bit Filipino. Because a fellow parishioner's first language may be Spanish, we are responsible to learn Spanish words of hospitality. Because our Catholic Church is universal, we are each accountable for reaching beyond the borders of race, ethnicity, language, education and economic class to build a society where compassion and justice are first.

Loving beyond race and class is as counter-cultural as the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The lesson for us is that if we value diversity, we cannot passively wait for it to happen. The Kingdom of God will not simply take its course. We have to work it. We have to be intentional about it. And the freedom we gain from it will be at the cost of consternation from those who profess conventional wisdom.

Because our family has been intentional about loving beyond our race and class, our children are freer to make such choices for themselves. However, their freedom to love will not make such choices any easier in our classist, racist world. They too will have to be intentional about loving beyond themselves. The Kingdom of God, though at hand, is still just beyond us.

**Questions for Reflection**

*Who among your inner circle of love are persons of a different race?*

*Who is in a lower economic class?*

*How have you been intentional about loving beyond borders of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and economic class?*



## Guest Column

GERARD CARTER
Guest Columnist

### Make sure response is helpful

As people across the world respond with compassion and kindness to the tragedy that struck our nation last week, the spirit of volunteerism has shone like a beacon through the haze of the attacks.

But coming with those heroic reports of a nation banding together are stories of how some fruits of those volunteers' efforts are sadly going to waste. News reports early this week said the amount of food donated in New York is so overwhelming that much of it is being dumped. Clothing is filling warehouses nearly 100 miles away from the site where the World Trade Center was destroyed.

Officials of the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the Federal Emergency Management Agency are among those urging volunteers to pace themselves when it comes to giving material goods in the wake of disaster.

To ensure that our response in the Diocese of Charlotte is the most helpful to those harmed by the terrorist attacks in the Northeast, it is important to communicate the following guidelines to assist individuals, parishes, schools and other diocesan agencies.

1. The initial responsibility for directing rescue and recovery efforts falls to those government and civic agencies charged or chartered to provide this assistance. Local police, fire and medical responders are typically the first line of response in the case of disasters. For significant disasters, federal offices, the American Red Cross and other key private response groups will often be called upon to take key leadership roles.

2. During the early stage of any disaster, money is typically the most valuable resource needed by response and relief professionals. Financial support affords rescue and recovery agencies the greatest flexibility in meeting the immediate needs of disaster victims. Funds raised within the Diocese of Charlotte will be forwarded to the local dioceses and their charitable agencies involved in direct disaster response within the affected region.

3. Once the initial crisis situation has stabilized, the collection of material goods may be considered. To be certain the items gathered are actually needed and that donated goods can be transported and distributed to disaster victims, it is important that efforts be made in partnership with other local agencies, such as the Salvation Army, American Red Cross, other churches and news media outlets, before beginning any drives.

4. Since it is generally not helpful for volunteers to visit disaster sites without a specific role or in connection with an organized recur and recovery effort, no volunteer outreach should be undertaken in isolation or without connection to a recognized relief effort already underway in the affected region.

5. One of the greatest roles we can play as a church community is to continue to offer our prayers in solidarity with all those who are suffering from the effects of the disaster.

To financially contribute to relief efforts in New York, Washington and southwestern Pennsylvania, send checks to the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte NC 28203. Make checks payable to the Diocese of Charlotte and write Victims of Disaster in the memo.

*Carter is director of special ministries for the Diocese of Charlotte. For more information on disaster relief and developing parish and community disaster response plans, write him at Catholic Social Services at the address above.*



# Light One Candle

MGSR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### "He Lived to Help People"

The Christopher message reaches out to people throughout the country and, indeed, all over the world. But our home is in New York. It always has been, ever since our founding in 1945. The people on the staff are New Yorkers — some of us by adoption, the rest of us born and bred.

That's why the events of Sept. 11, 2001 — the unspeakable attack on our city, on the men and women who were our neighbors — have hit us so hard. Of course that day's terrorism stunned the entire country and forever changed the way that all Americans live their lives. And certainly many people from other parts of the nation — far too many people — made the supreme sacrifice. But New York bore the brunt of the attack. The emotional shock and the staggering loss of life will haunt us forever.

In the midst of the horror, however, stories of heroism have emerged, helping mightily to console us in this hour of grief. Police officers and firefighters, New York's Finest and New York's Bravest, wrote many of them. So did doctors and nurses and other medical workers, rescuers, helpers of all kinds who risked their own lives trying to save the lives of others. Our own Cardinal Edward Egan rallied New Yorkers of all faiths with his presence and his words of comfort. One of his saddest duties was to offer the funeral Mass for Father Mychal Judge, a beloved Franciscan and Fire Department chaplain, killed by falling debris as he anointed a fireman at the base of one of the World Trade Center towers.

The terror of Sept. 11, in fact, produced heroes beyond number, so many that it's impossible to tell you about all of them. So let me tell you about one. His name is Tim Stackpole, captain in the New York Fire Department. I read about Tim in a column by Denis Hamill of the "New York Daily News," and I am confident that Denis will not mind if I share some of his fine reporting with you.

I had heard about Tim Stackpole before. In 1998, he was one of three firefighters who were swallowed into a roaring inferno when a floor gave way during a five-alarm fire in Brooklyn. Somehow, miraculously, he was rescued, along with Capt. Scott LaPiedra and Lt. Jimmy Blackmore. But all three were burned horribly. Of the three, only Tim Stackpole would survive. He came home after 65 days in the hospital and pronounced: "I'm the luckiest guy in the world. I'm George Bailey in 'It's a Wonderful Life.' In tragedy, I've learned just how amazingly beautiful people and life truly are."

That would have been the time, of course, to retire on a disability pension and simply enjoy the gift of life with his wife, Tara, and their five children. Not Tim.

"It was just him," Tara Stackpole told Hamill. "It was what he loved. He lived to help people. He'd give you his heart on a plate."

Tim Stackpole went back to work. Not right away, to be sure; there were long hours, then days and weeks, of arduous rehabilitation. Then it was light duty. And finally he was back on the job, promoted to captain early in September.

He was on the job Sept. 11. His assignment took him directly to the command center set up at the base of Tower One, World Trade Center. When that tower collapsed, Tim Stackpole was lost forever. In Hamill's words, the firefighter who came back from the dead finally gave his life for his city.

"When he got hurt in '98, he should have died," Tara said. "It was a miracle that he didn't. I believe it was part of God's plan that he'd have three more years to touch people's lives. He changed people's lives by how he lived."

Thank you, Tara, for the gift of your faith. Thank you, Tim, and God be with you forever, for the gift of your life.

# The Bottom Line



ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

### When Terror Hits Close to Home

We get up each morning and begin our day, expecting everything to go on as "normal." On Sept. 11, that's how I greeted the morning, happy because it was my grandson Mikael's 13th birthday. I was planning to surprise him with pizza and a nice gift. Then I turned on television to get the news, and suddenly life changed.

Chaos was all over the screen as I saw the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York, and then the blasting at the Pentagon. Shock can mesmerize you, and I was transfixed for several minutes until the reality of what was happening hit me. Then my world came crashing down.

I live in Connecticut, but I have three children who live in lower Manhattan. I ran to the phone and couldn't reach any of them because all the circuits were busy. I panicked.

I persisted in calling, and after dozens of tries I first reached Sue, my son Paul's wife, surprisingly at home. She works for the federal government, a few blocks away from the now destroyed twin towers.

Miracles happen. She was off that day!

Paul, on route to work, for several hours had been unaccounted for. Sue had just finally made contact with him, and he was fine. I was on my knees in gratitude to the Lord.

Eventually I reached my son Frank. He and his family were traumatized, but safe. My daughter Mary and her husband Rick were the ones I couldn't reach. Then in late afternoon, Mary got through to me.

Mary had been in the vicinity of the disaster, surprised and shocked, as were others in the neighborhood when the first explosion was heard. Initially there was confusion, but it was the second explosion that blasted their innocence. Two planes could not have crashed into the World Trade Center by accident!

When the towers fell, Mary saw this, a moment of hell on earth. "Mom, we all screamed, and we just held on, hugging one another," she said, expressing such a human, mutual caring for one another. It was such proof that love and concern explode for good just as surely as cruel, destructive fire explodes for evil.

Mary spoke then of how for hours people, once strangers, became kin, helping one another deal with the loss everyone in that area knew had touched them. As time passed and the terror escalated, many brought out food to share.

She and her neighbors made hot tea and sandwiches, trying to comfort the hardest hit.

All of us, watching the TV reporting well into the night, were suffering deeply because of what hate had wrought. Now my prayers were continuous, as I begged the Lord to help our leaders not use that word "retaliate" so angrily.

We have seen it so often in the world, how one people kill, the other retaliates and the cycle of hate escalates, no end in sight. That cannot be God's way, as our beloved pope insists. The Lord, who gives life, begs us to love our enemies as we find ways to identify them and stop their evil.

As I wondered if we can value life enough to work to end the hate and anger that lead to killing, I turned on the morning news. I saw where six men had been pulled out of the rubble, alive, and everyone was rejoicing.

Clearly, we still value life. There is hope!

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. Why does God give the gift of faith only to a select group of people? If he knew they could not possibly attain salvation, why did he create them in the first place?*

A. What makes you think that God does not give the gift of faith to everyone? We believe, of course, that faith, our ability to know and respond to God's love and providential care, is pure gift, an unmerited, unconditional offer to share his life.

Sometimes, however, as indicated in your question, we interpret that belief to mean that those who "have faith" (usually certain formal religious beliefs and membership) are loved by God more than others. While we owe an eternal debt of gratitude to God for this gift, nothing in Catholic doctrine supports this interpretation.

In fact, our Catholic prayers and liturgies assume just the opposite. The second Eucharistic Prayer, for example, remembers our brothers and sisters in the faith who have died, but then asks God to bring "all the departed into the light" of his heavenly presence. In other words, we petition that the gift of faith will come to fruition in eternal life for all people who have died.

Perhaps, with all the so-called "pagans" in the world who do not know or believe in God or Jesus Christ, it is to some degree understandable that we suppose the gift of faith is limited in scope. Our good sense, however, if not our faith, ought to convince us that the vision and knowledge we possess in such matters is very tiny.

Thus, the fourth Eucharistic Prayer asks God's mercy on Christians who have died, and then "on all the dead whose faith is known to you alone."

No one, I believe, has put these thoughts more directly and plainly than Pope John Paul II. The world is obviously not Catholic from a denominational point of view, he writes. It is, nevertheless, "profoundly permeated by the Gospel. We can even say that the mystery of the church, the body of Christ, is in some way invisibly present in it" ("Crossing the Threshold of Hope," Page 112).

Based on this conviction and Catholic tradition, he declares that "Christ came into the world for all these people. He redeemed them all and has his own ways of reaching each of them" in this present age of salvation history (Page 83).

Fortunately for all of us, the reach of God's majestic plan of salvation, including his invitation to faith, extends far beyond the range of our feeble, limited imaginations.

*A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about receiving the holy Eucharist is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# Many respond to social justice call at conference

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — Residents from as far away as Boone, Charlotte and Raleigh converged at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro Sept. 15 in the name of social justice.

A conference entitled "We are Called" was sponsored by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.

This conference was called to share with the various parishes those rich treasures of Catholic social teaching that are at work within the diocese and to show how they can and will be expanded upon.

The teachings were presented in the light of the terrorist disaster that slammed into the nation on Sept. 11.

Through his opening prayer and his welcoming address, Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father James W. O'Neill, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle, said that in spite of those events of the last week which left indelible marks on the hearts of all human beings, and in spite of the emotional issues of death, suffering, anger, hatred and anxiety which humanity is now facing, all Christians are called in a special way to be the light of Christ in the darkness by living their baptismal faith.

The community and the world are in need of healing which can only come through prayer, he said, as the world offers prayers for leaders, for victims and for survivors. This is a time of renewal and rededication of the call that brought the participants to learn more about the justice and peace alternatives through this conference, he said.

The keynote speaker was Father George M. Kloster, pastor of St. William Church, Murphy, and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Hayesville. Father Kloster spoke of Jesus as the one who serves. He said greatness is measured by the service afforded to the poor, the marginalized and the outcast.

This was exemplified by Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, he said.

Through the reluctant Peter, modern-day Christians are given the role of servant that is expected of them, he said, adding that the leadership of Jesus and the early church was different from the idea of the time then, even as it is today.

Using excerpts from Pope Leo XIII, Father Kloster stressed that the role of government should be aligned with the poor, the marginalized and the outcast. Governments have the responsibility to push for the rights of workers, he said, adding that throughout this country and the world, Christians must step back and ask "Why are there so many poor?".

"We are here today to carry the challenge of Jesus to Caesar that world rulers will improve the role of government in our society ... ," Father Kloster said. "We are called to live the values of service. We are the church and have been empowered to live our role of leadership. Our responsibility is not to lord it over them but to serve."

Bishop William G. Curlin gave the luncheon address. His words reflected the need for all who seek justice and peace to have a personal relationship with God. Without Jesus, he said, people are not going to change the world.

Therefore, people must recommit themselves daily to Christ — in the Eucharist and in prayer, he said. He said that we are "the presence of Jesus in the world, looking for the presence of Jesus in others."

A "living wage" workshop was led by Sheila Kingsbury-Burt, the outreach coordinator of the North Carolina Budget and Tax Center in Raleigh. She spoke of the importance of an increase in the state minimum wage and how research and studies have shown that increases in minimum wages do not result in job losses.

Kingsbury-Burt brought to light several proposed Senate bills for both studying the impact of minimum wage and the increase of minimum wage, as well as a state earned-income tax credit. She urged participants to press for passage of these bills.

At a workshop on the death penalty, Charlottean Ted Frazer stressed personal involvement by the participants on the issue. In addition to discussing charges of poor representation in capital cases of many now on death row, Frazer added that in the 12 states without a death penalty, there is almost half the amount of violent deaths.

Lisa Alexander, program director of Casa Guadalupe in Winston-Salem, explained that the Catholic Social Services program provides a "house of refuge" during her workshop, "Welcoming the Stranger." She told how this ministry is operated on a premise of volunteerism whose focus is on social issues, especially immigration issues, with much of the work based upon interpretation for the Department of Social Services and the translation of records and documents that normally would carry high legal fees.

In the first of the afternoon programs, Franciscan Father Louis Canino, director of the Franciscan Center, accompanied by Frank Massey gave a workshop on the El Salvador experience. They told of an immersion program of a week to 10 days on the life situation of El Salvadorians, enabling the participants to meet, talk and walk with the indigenous people to undergo a complete transformation. It's really a matter of getting people aware of other environments, they said.

A second afternoon workshop was the "Campaign for Africa," presented by Joseph Purello, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, and Terri Jarina, diocesan director for Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Campaign of Human Development.

Purello indicates that there is an ongoing campaign by CRS and Bread for the World to renew and increase tourism in and understanding of Africa. According to Jarina, they are looking at practical, concrete ways to get people involved in the economic and health issues confronting Africa today.

The final workshop of the day was "Discipleship" led by Colleen Assai, coordinator of discipleship at St. Paul the Apostle, and Lisa Broussard. Their program was based on the theme of Christians as a community of disciples nourished by the Eucharist, who are then sent to be the Eucharist to the world.

Through the program that is active at St. Paul, they demonstrated that discipleship is a matter of "Coming to do as I do — not as I say."

# Pope says focus must remain on needs of workers

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Continuing changes in the world of work make it more important than ever that economists, government leaders, social scientists and business leaders focus on the talents and needs of the people who are at the center of all work, Pope John Paul II said.

"The current vision of the economic and social system in which human needs, especially, receive a restricted and inadequate consideration must be overcome," the pope said in a Sept. 14 message to an international meeting on work.

The Sept. 13-15 meeting, hosted by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, marked the 20th anniversary of the pope's encyclical letter on human work, "Laborem Exercens."

St. John's University in New York and the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota were among the universities cosponsoring the meeting.

The model of a job in a factory or an office with rigidly set hours is no longer the predominant model, the pope told meeting participants.

The change, while bringing some positive benefits to individuals, has created tensions between "technological innovation and the need to safeguard jobs and between economic growth and environmental compatibility," the pope said.

"The decisive factor, the arbiter of this complex phase of change, once again must be man, who must remain the true protagonist of his work," the pope told participants. A purely economic analysis of work and its mutations can never answer the most important questions about the one performing the work and the benefits the work of each person brings to society.

Gloria Kan, an official in the U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, told the conference that flexibility in the workplace does have potential benefits, including the possibility of firms employing more people and allowing others to adapt the rhythm of work to personal or family needs.

Often, Kan said, those who find only part-time work take on a second part-time position to make ends meet; too often neither position provides health or other benefits, and usually an extra position involves more time away from the family than one full-time position would require.


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# World traveler keeps God close through family, prayer, ministry

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

MURPHY — Rev. Mr. Carl Hubbell has braved the harsh winters of Michigan, Canada and North Dakota, the blazing summers of Texas, the rainy seasons in England and the temperate climate in Turkey. During his over 20-year career in the Air Force, he and his family chartered their course over several states and countries as he was moved from location to location. Remaining close to God might be a challenge for some while in midst of upheaval; however, for Rev. Mr. Hubbell, constant travel created new opportunities to practice his faith and share his spirituality with others.

The family had to pull out a map to figure out where the country of Turkey was located. Hubbell had just been assigned there, and he and his family spent time in Izmir and Ankara, the capital, in the '60s.

In the predominately Islamic country, where the local priest was not allowed to wear his collar outside of the church walls, the family attended Mass in an old Italian church and at the base. Hubbell volunteered to be the director of religious education for the children of the military and U.S. embassy personnel. "It was a unique experience in that kind of a school setting, and I had fun. It was great because I was able to recruit some excellent people to help me," he said.

"It was like going back in time a couple of thousand years. It was rural, and there was a rigid set of laws," said Mrs. Hubbell of their stay in the southeastern European country. "The people loved our children and welcomed everyone who came to the country. They were extremely friendly and made every effort for us to feel comfortable."

Rev. Mr. Hubbell, a convert to Catholicism, has traveled a great distance from his childhood in Pontiac, Mich., where he was raised with his seven siblings in the Mennonite faith, which he described as "much like the Quakers." He was exposed to the Methodist faith through his sister and decided to begin attending the Methodist church himself.

His first encounter with Catholicism came via one of his high school friends, Carole, a neighborhood girl who was attending the Catholic school. They would hang out at Bert's Grill, a hamburger restaurant, with other kids from their area. Rev. Mr. Hubbell remembered being surrounded by Catholics as a teen.

"Most of them (his friends) were Catholic, and I used to downgrade and berate them. I never thought I would become Catholic."

After graduating high school, he went to work for General Motors as did many others in his town. In 1953, he decided to join the Air Force during the Korean War and was trained as a communications technician. Basic training occurred in New York, Wyoming and Idaho.

His friendship with Carole developed into a relationship through letters, and his paper courtship and her influence led to marriage in 1954 and a conversion to Catholicism, unbeknownst to Carole.

"One-on-one conversations with the chaplain in the form of 'marriage preparation' at the base led to a conversion of faith," said Rev. Mr. Hubbell who had to attend classes in order to get married. "I was always impressed by Carole's parents because they were very strong in their faith, and something touched my heart."

The Air Force sent the couple to England for three years. There, they had their first three children. Mrs. Hubbell says that she had to learn to enjoy the experience. "I was homesick for three years, and it taught me a lesson that I could have seen a lot if I had given it a chance. (I learned that) wherever I was, that was home."



Rev. Mr. Carl and Carole Hubbell

It was a good lesson to learn, because the Hubbell family would have to move several more times before his retirement from the service at age 49. From England to Columbus, Ohio, then to Grand Forks, N.D., where Mrs. Hubbell said there was rich soil, awful weather and wonderful people, and to Turkey twice with San Antonio and Newfoundland, Canada, thrown in for good measure, Rev. Mr. Hubbell said that he knew he had found his faith and was able to convey that message to his seven children. "(Through all of the travel), we remained steadfast in our faith."

The family settled in Florida, where Hubbell began working for a growing communications company, which became MCI. The couple's work at their parish garnered the attention of the archbishop of Miami who invited Hubbell to be a part of the diocese's first diaconate class. Hubbell declined saying he "didn't know what a deacon was and was busy working and raising children."

Seven years later, a deacon asked him again, and this time, he considered it. Taking lay ministry classes prepared him for the formation classes and provided the comfort and security he needed to pursue the diaconate.

After his 1988 ordination, his company downsized his position, but he found work with Catholic Charities as a parish consultant for outreach ministries. "It was a blessing in disguise," he said. His work with the nonprofit organization led to work at his parish as a pastoral associate with youth and family ministry. "It was a great time in my life. I love parish work, and my wife became the director of religious education. We settled down in what we thought would be our retirement home."

However, Florida would not be their last stop. Rev. Mr. Hubbell's brother lives in Robbinsville, N.C., and the couple would venture to the mountainous area of the state and liked what they saw. They subsequently bought some property in Murphy from a couple who attended St. William Church there. In the interim, they saw a house they liked, sold the property and moved to the westernmost city in the Diocese of Charlotte.

During their three years in the diocese, they have become involved with their home parish and its mission, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville. Rev. Mr. Hubbell performs his diaconate duties at both churches and works with a group that builds homes in Cherokee and Clay counties, and Mrs. Hubbell is the faith formation coordinator for both parishes. The Hubbells, grandparents of five, say that this is their last move.

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**"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."**
— Luke 10:27

# O'Donoghue School graduates gather for reunion

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — It was a day of gasps and shouts, tears and smiles and hugs and kisses surrounded by a warm, September day. Memories of bobbysocks, glass soda bottles, World War II rations and women religious in long, black habits spilled from the minds and fell from the mouths of those for whom Catholic education was a way of life.

Graduates from the O'Donoghue School in Charlotte gathered for their first multi-class reunion on Sept. 22 at their old building, what is now St. Patrick School in Charlotte. Over 40 men and women, some of whom had not seen each other for over 50 years, met again to reminisce about old times and to catch up on what has happened since graduation.

Helen Brown Herlocker from the class of 1948 said that she and several others had discussed the idea of a reunion for many years but had finally decided to bring the plans to fruition recently. The reunion consisted of a tour of Charlotte Catholic High School (CCHS), Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, social time and dinner.

"It has been exciting and nostalgic to work on the reunion with people calling me because I haven't spoken to some of them for years," said Herlocker, whose husband Joe, now deceased, also graduated from the school. "CCHS has had reunions, and we've been included. However, it hasn't been the same. We wanted an O'Donoghue reunion."

The school, which stands adjacent to St. Patrick Cathedral, was opened in 1930 and served as an elementary school staffed by the Sisters of Mercy. It was named for the late Dr. Denis O'Donoghue, a longtime benefactor of the Catholic church in Charlotte, whose bequest provided a jump start for Catholic education during the early part of the century.

In 1943, the school was expanded to include upper grades and was in operation until 1954 when the first CCHS building was constructed. The O'Donoghue School reverted to elementary grades and was named St. Patrick School in later years.

Those who arrived early for the Saturday gathering were treated to a tour of the current CCHS building. Many of those who attended classes in the old brick building in the Dilworth neighborhood of Charlotte were impressed at the sight of the school whose enrollment far surpasses the less than 60 students in the O'Donoghue high school classes in the late '40s.

"Students, we had to almost fight to get a little room for our library," said Betty Minnick with a smile addressing those she taught while she looked at the large space set aside for the CCHS library. She also said that the school lunch menu was miles ahead of anything served at her old place of employment.



Photo by Alesha M. Price

**Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson, Martha Pfund and Patsy Hartle Bardford, O'Donoghue School graduates, laughed about their school days at their first multi-class reunion on Sept. 22 held at St. Patrick School in Charlotte. The school, in operation from the '30s through the 50's, served area students until Charlotte Catholic High School was built in the '50s.**

Minnick, who taught physical education and coached girls' basketball from 1946-1955 at O'Donoghue and CCHS and later taught at St. Ann School, was one of the few lay teachers at O'Donoghue at one point during its history. She said that what she remembers most about those days is that there never seemed to be any of the serious problems that students face today.

"The kids were mischievous, but our biggest problems were smoking or someone taking a sip of wine. There just wasn't any trouble back then," said Minnick, who acted as a go-between for the students and the women religious. "Being able to simply be there with the kids was so exciting. I learned so much from the kids and the nuns."

The words "nuns" and "family" were heard throughout the day as many of the graduates talked about their grade-school days and reflected on what made them special. Dinner was slightly delayed as latecomers came in and saw their friends and extended family from years ago.

Mary Agnes Harris Moeslein, a 1948 graduate, had five boys and 12 to 14 girls in her class. "We were just starting Catholic High back then, so we had to forge our own way and do things together. We grew up together and started in the first grade, and we gradually added a class each year," she remembered. "I miss the closeness of the school. Charlotte was so small back then, and you knew everyone so well. I would visit with Helen (Herlocker) all of the time."

Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson, class of 1950 and campus minister at Belmont Abbey College, agreed, "I enjoyed the closeness of the school and remember the influence that the Sisters of Mercy had during my formative years." Father Neilson, whom his classmates affectionately call "Patty" because of his baptismal name Patrick, concelebrated Mass at the cathedral that afternoon.

"The Mercy Sisters were very progressive in their thinking and were wonderful women who really cared about us," said Herlocker. "It was just like family, and I think all of us to this day remember happy times."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

### Canon law society publishes new translation of Eastern church law

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Canon Law Society of America has published a new English translation of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches, the general laws that govern Eastern Catholic churches throughout the world. The 900-page book was approved by the U.S. Catholic eparchs, who are the bishops of the Eastern churches. It carries the original Latin text and the new English translation in parallel columns. It costs $60. The new English translation includes footnotes on each canon citing the papal documents or other official sources from which the canon was developed. It includes an alphabetical subject index of nearly 200 pages, and has tables cross-referencing canons of the Eastern code with the corresponding canons of the Code of Canon Law and vice versa. The Code of Canon Law is the 1983 book of general law governing the Roman or Latin Church.

### Vatican observers urge nations to serve peace by ending poverty

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican observers at separate international meetings urged nations to bring peace and security to the world by working together to alleviate poverty and to control the arms trade. At the Sept. 18-21 annual meeting of nations who signed the treaty banning land mines and at the Sept. 17-21 meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Vatican representatives spoke of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. The Vatican released the texts of its representatives' speeches Sept. 24.

### Pope honors long-remembered personal heroes in Kazakstan

ASTANA, Kazakstan (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's visit to Kazakstan gave him a chance to honor some long-remembered personal heroes. Among them were the priests and bishops of Polish descent who suffered and died in Soviet gulags after being deported from their homeland in the 1930s. At a Mass in the Astana cathedral Sept. 24, the pope recalled several martyr-pastors whom he has long admired and some that he knew personally. "In heart and spirit I relive the unspeakable trials of all those who suffered not only physical exile and imprisonment, but public ridicule and violence because they chose not to renounce the faith," he said in a sermon before some 350 priests, nuns, seminarians and lay missionaries.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Workers stack food aid near Afghan border**

**Afghan workers at the U.N. World Food Program warehouse near Peshawar, Pakistan, stack sacks of wheat Sept. 24. Aid groups stationed along the Afghanistan and Pakistan border, already struggling to shelter and feed hundreds of thousands of displaced Afghans, were bracing for an onslaught of new refugees in fear of a U.S. attack.**

### National Catholic-Baptist conversation held on salvation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At a national conversation, Catholic and Baptist theologians discussed how Baptists understand salvation and the similarities and differences between their beliefs and those of Catholics. Among differences, Baptists emphasize the discontinuity between grace and sinful human nature, while Catholics focus more on the continuity between created nature and grace and the transforming power of the Spirit. The conversation was held Sept. 6-8 at South East Baptist Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

### Chicago Archdiocese strongly supports single-sex schools

CHICAGO (CNS) — Catherine Karl believes strongly in the future of single-sex education. As president of Queen of Peace High School in suburban Chicago, she is proud of the niche her all-girls high school has made in women's education and defies anyone who believes such schools are out-of-date. "We didn't just forget to go coed," Karl said. "There is a rich history and future in single-gender education." And the future looks bright for these schools in Chicago. De La Salle Institute, a boys school run by Christian Brothers, just announced it would sponsor a nearby girls school, and another girls high school has just expanded to include a middle school program.

### Evacuating Filipinos from Mideast is concern if U.S. attacks

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — Relaying evacuation plans to Filipinos in the Middle East could be the Philippine government's biggest problem if the United States launches attacks against suspected terrorists in the region, said a Manila priest. Scalabrini Father Paulo Prigol, executive secretary of the bishops' commission for the pastoral care of migrants and refugees, said Philippine embassies in the Middle East cannot reach all of the some 1 million Filipinos there. Ross Octaviano of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, that its Task Force USA Watch had plans "to evacuate Filipinos in the Middle East to safer grounds in case of a spillover" of fighting.

### Conflict resolution skills must be taught everyday, says pastor

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Conflict resolution skills are so important that they need to be emphasized and taught in everyday life, said a pastor who brought a conflict management specialist to his parish earlier in the year to lead a series of workshops. In light of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, education in conflict management could be instrumental in defusing the events that provoke terrorism — just as it is effective in improving relationships in marriage, family and parish life, said Father Charles Lachowitzer, pastor of Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Maplewood. Father Lachowitzer considers the skill so important that he invited Jesuit Father Jim Radde, a certified counselor, to lead workshops during Lent on conflict management as "a fundamental way of strengthening the relational aspect of all parish life."

### Catholic childhoods serve as inspiration for 'Grounded for Life'

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — Television may be a heightened form of reality, but the inspiration for plot lines in the Fox sitcom "Grounded for Life" comes straight from the Catholic childhoods of its stars and its writers. "To me, that's where the Catholic themes come from, from people's lives," said Tom Purcell, one of the show's writers. "We have quite a few Catholics on our staff," said Purcell, citing himself and writers Greg Thompson and Jim O'Doherty as products of Catholic education, as is Episcopalian Bill Martin, another writer. In addition, series stars Donal Logue and Kevin Fitzgerald Corrigan, both Catholics, went to Catholic schools. "We all have a lot of life experience with different Catholic issues," Purcell told Catholic News Service. "There's a lot of input."

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**September 30 — 7 p.m.**
Dedication and blessing of Bishop McGuinness
High School, Winston-Salem

**October 5 — 5 p.m.**
75th anniversary Mass and dinner
St. John, Waynesville

**October 6 — 4 p.m.**
Dedication and blessing of church
St. Joseph, Kannapolis

## Diocesan planner

**September**

**30** STATESVILLE — St. Philip the Apostle Church, 525 Camden Dr., will be having its parish picnic today from 3:30-7 p.m. Food will be served from 4-6 p.m., and there will be games, a scavenger hunt, bingo from 6-7 p.m. and other family activities. For more information, call Jennifer Hodges at (704) 838-1825.

**October**

**3** HENDERSONVILLE — There will be a special celebration of the life and passing of St. Francis of Assisi with the Franciscan priests and brothers and the Secular Order of Franciscans at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, at 7 p.m. tonight. Refreshments will be served immediately after the Transitus celebration. For further details, call Helene Gillogly at (828) 883-9645.

**3** LENOIR — All are invited to St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1025 College Ave. SW, to join the Secular Franciscans from the Hickory/Newton area for a special celebration of the passing of St. Francis tonight at 7 p.m. The Transitus celebration recalls the passing of St. Francis' soul from death to a fuller life with Jesus. For further information, call Ruth Thoni, SFO, at (828) 294-0347 or Bill Brockhoff, SFO, at (828) 464-5113.

**3** WINSTON-SALEM — There will be a celebration of St. Francis' passing at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, corner of Cherry and 3rd Sts., tonight at 7 p.m. Each year on Oct. 3, Franciscans ritually remember the passing of St. Francis from this life to God. For further details, call Josephine Rosaschi at (336) 723-8241 or Sue Borschke at (336) 924-0645 or e-mail borschkenc@att.net.

**5** BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., will be hosting its 1st Annual Fall Festival and

### Pro-lifers pleased with Alaska assisted suicide ruling

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (CNS) — Pro-life leaders are grateful that Alaska is the latest state to decide that assisted suicide is not a constitutional right. The state Supreme Court ruled Sept. 21 that "the Alaska Constitution's guarantees of privacy and liberty do not afford terminally ill patients the right to a physician's assistance in committing suicide." Everyone in Alaska should rejoice at the decision, said Robert Flint, executive director of the Alaska Catholic Conference, public policy arm of the state's Catholic bishops. "The judges have realized that society's obligation to foster protection and compassion for the sick is not prohibited by our constitution," he said.

### Cardinal urges viewing technology through 'light of Christ'

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (CNS) — New technology is not the enemy, but Catholics need to discern through "the light of Christ" what is good or bad about technology, said Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore. "Perhaps nowhere is it more urgently necessary to bring Christ's presence and teaching to the modern world than in the area of bioethics," he told a gathering of Catholics Sept. 22 at the Missouri state Capitol in Jefferson City. The cardinal, who is chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said that "without careful discernment in the light of Christ," people fall into two extremes about technology. They either distrust "all new technologies as unwarranted interventions," he said, or they welcome "them all as signs of progress despite the very real threats some of them pose to life and human dignity."

### In Armenia, pope pays tribute to country's history of suffering

YEREVAN, Armenia (CNS) — On the first day of a long-awaited visit to Armenia, Pope John Paul II paid tribute to the country's history of suffering and joined his Orthodox hosts in a prayer for Christian unity. For centuries, "martyrdom has been the special mark of the Armenian church and the Armenian people," the pope said at an airport arrival ceremony Sept. 25 in Yerevan, the Armenian capital. Despite those trials, Armenians have offered an extraordinary witness of Christian life, even during the "unspeakable terror and suffering" they underwent in the 20th century, he said. Smiling but moving very slowly after four days in Kazakstan, the 81-year-old pontiff made the trip to help celebrate 1,700 years of Christianity in Armenia, the first nation to adopt Christianity as the national religion.



PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

**Ladies Guild assists Refugee Resettlement Office**

**Judy Devlin and Ronnie Vagnone wrap buckets of cleaning supplies for clients of the Diocese of Charlotte's Refugee Resettlement Office. The Ladies Guild of Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte packaged the supplies, which will last the clients for about a year. The supplies were donated by Joe and Ronnie Vagnone of the parish.**

### Italian police arrest five Afghans near U.S. Embassy to Vatican

ROME (CNS) — Italian police arrested five young Afghan men Sept. 24 near the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See as part of heightened security measures following terror attacks in the United States, the Italian interior ministry said. Italian media said the men had a map tracing a route from a part of the city with many embassies, including the separate U.S. Embassy to Italy, to the Trastevere district south of the Vatican. The U.S. Embassy to the Holy See is along the route, on the Aventine Hill. The men, described as ranging in age from 18 to 22, carried no identification but had some papers in Arabic, Interior Ministry spokeswoman Daniela Pugliese said Sept. 25.

### Costs of hosting World Youth Day expected to exceed $100 million

CORNWALL, Ontario (CNS) — The cost of hosting World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto next July is expected to exceed $100 million (US$63.7 million), well above the $21 million estimated by an ad hoc committee of the Canadian bishops three years ago. "We don't have the hard numbers yet, but we're past $100 million for sure," said Paul Kilbertus, communications director for the World Youth Day committee, at a news conference Sept. 24. "We know that a lot of that money is going to come from registrations, national collections, the bishops and corporate sponsorships as well as government contributions," he said. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has not budgeted for any possible shortfall but has agreed to take responsibility for any "extraordinary expense" that could be left over, said Bishop Gerald Wiesner of Prince George, British Columbia, outgoing president of the bishops' conference.

### Vietnamese bishops to revamp their organizational structure

HANOI, Vietnam (CNS) — The Vietnamese bishops' conference announced it would revamp its organizational structure to involve younger members and enlarge the scope of church activities. At the end of their Sept. 17-22 meeting in Hanoi, the bishops said they will trim the standing committee from seven members to four, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. They also will establish new commissions for catechetics, church music and sacred arts, culture, evangelization, and charitable and social services. These will be in addition to the existing commissions on clergy and seminaries, laity, religious and liturgy. The assembly elected Bishop Paul Nguyen Van Hoa of Nha Trang as president and Archbishop Jean-Baptiste Pham Minh Man of Ho Chi Minh City as vice president.

### Head of Colombian diocesan social action office slain

TUMACO, Colombia (CNS) — The assassination of the head of the Tumaco diocesan social action office was aimed at curtailing church human rights work, said Bishop Gustavo Giron Higuita of Tumaco. He criticized the Sept. 19 slaying of Sister Yolanda Ceron, director of social action for the diocese, as a "grave offense against the Catholic Church, which in Tumaco and Colombia fights for justice, life and peace." Bishop Giron said Sister Ceron, a 38-year-old Colombian member of the Sisters of Mary, was killed instantly by gunfire around noon as she was in the doorway of the Church of Our Lady of Mercy in Tumaco.

Fish/Chicken Fry today and Oct. 6 with the proceeds to benefit the Belmont Parish Nursing Program. Lunch will be served from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and dinner from 4:30-7:30 p.m. today. On Oct. 6, a yard sale will be held from 7 a.m.-12 p.m. with festival hours from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 825-5277 for more information.

**6** CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., will be having its craft sale on Oct. 6 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the church building fund. For details, call Karen Quick from the Busy Bunch Craft Group at (704) 588-0326.

**6** CHARLOTTE — The St. Patrick School Fall Festival will present its theme "Generations that Rock" with food, fun and games from the '50s-'90s. The proceeds from the festival, to be held on the school campus located at 1125 Buchanan St., will benefit school academics and beautification. For more information, call the school at (704) 333-3174.

**6** WINSTON-SALEM — Conventual Franciscan Father Jude DeAngelo, campus minister at Wake Forest University, will perform Franciscan animal blessings at 11 a.m. this morning in Winston-Square Park next to the Sawtooth Center. All are asked to bring their pets on a leash or in an appropriate carrier. For details, call Sue Borschke at (336) 924-0645 or e-mail borschkenc@att.net.

**7** CHARLOTTE — The 51st Semi-Annual International Family Rosary Day will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., today at 3 p.m. Father Matthew Kauth, parochial vicar at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, will be the speaker. For further information, call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127.

**7** HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 2nd St. NE, will be hosting its annual ethnic family rosary in seven different languages on International Rosary Sunday at 7:45 p.m. in the main sanctuary. All are invited to bring their favorite statue or picture of the Blessed Mother for display. The evening, sponsored by the Confraternity of Christian Mothers, will conclude with a social in the Holy Family Hall with participant-supplied ethnic desserts. Call the church office at (828) 327-2341 for details.

**7** WINSTON-SALEM — There will be a life chain held on Hanes Mall Blvd., west of Stratford Rd., today from 2:30-3:30 p.m. For more information, call (336) 940-2558.

**10** CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Bobbe Conlin at (704) 643-1376 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

**13** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Christian Mothers' Group will be hosting a children's consignment sale today from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. with items sold at half-price from noon-2 p.m. on the church grounds located at 3016 Providence Rd. Consignors are needed to provide quality children's clothing and equipment and maternity clothing. To set up consigning appointments from Oct. 1-5, call Renee Foster at (704) 366-2073, and for general information, call Sally McArdle at (704) 541-1756.

**14** CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., will be hosting a harp concert this afternoon at 2 p.m. Over 40 harpists from the Charlotte Chapter of the American Harp Society will present a concert of light, classical and sacred music featuring children, Suzuki and handbell ensembles. A love offering will be taken at the event. For more information, call the church office at (704) 554-7088.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# Community Life Commission workshop to be held in Franklin

FRANKLIN — The Smoky Mountain Vicariate will sponsor a one-day workshop for Community Life Commission members and all persons interested in the social ministry of the church. The workshop, led by Augustinian Father Joseph Genito, director of the Augustinian Justice and Peace Office in Philadelphia, will be held Oct. 13 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Francis Church in Franklin.

Father Genito has been involved with social justice work, human rights issues and justice and peace ministry for many years since being ordained in 1975.

Father George Kloster, diocesan Smoky Mountain vicar and pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Conception Church in Hayesville, said that "this workshop is intended to show our appreciation for those in parishes who do the outreach work of the church and to help them to deepen their understanding of the theological basis for this critical dimension of parish ministry as well as sharing the ideas of local parish ministry."

For more information about the Sept. 29 registration deadline and other details, call St. Francis Church at (828) 524-2289 or send correspondence to 299 St. Maple St., Franklin, N.C. 28734.

# Parishioners demonstrate unity amid cultural diversity

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — A crowd of over 500 parishioners and friends gathered recently at St. Mary Church in Greensboro for their second-annual multicultural Mass and festival.

As everything was being prepared for Mass, one could see many people dressed in attire of their native country. This is a parish that has changed from being a predominantly small black community of the 1960s to a multicultural community consisting of people and races from every continent in the world but Antarctica.

It is with this diversity of national origins that the idea of a multicultural celebration was conceived and put into action by their pastor, Congregation of the Missions Father Robert J. Prior.

Because the church building itself could only accommodate 150 parishioners comfortably, the day's Mass was celebrated outside.

The celebrant for the day's Mass was Father Prior with Congregation of the Missions Father Manh Nguyen as concelebrant. They were assisted by Rev. Messrs. Pierre K'Briuh and Vincent Shaw.

As the eucharistic celebration began, the multinational choir was joined by the crowd in singing "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus". At its conclusion, Father Prior gave a few words of welcome and encouragement to all present. After the Penitential Rite, the Kyrie and the Gloria were both sung in Spanish.

The first reading from the Book of Exodus was read by Antonio Rodrigues in his native Spanish language. This was followed by the responsorial, chanted in Vietnamese and led by members of the Vietnamese community arrayed in their native dress. Then came a reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy read in the Nigerian tongue by Frances Walston.

At the conclusion of the Alleluia, which was sung in English by St. Mary's choir, the Gospel according to Luke was read by Rev. Mr. K'Briuh in his native Montagnard dialect.

Upon the conclusion of the Gospel proclamation, Shaw gave a short homily. Through it, he told of a God who is merciful to all people in all times. All should seek the compassion and forgiveness of this loving Father, for all are children of this one God, he said.

None, he said, should sink into the mire of self-righteousness and selfishness which characterized the behavior of the scribes and Pharisees. Rev. Mr. Shaw went on to say that when we are in sin, God searches us out in ways beyond human understanding and that all must be people of forgiveness, mercy and love.

During the Liturgy of the Eucharist the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy" was sung in Nigerian with the Our Father being chanted in English.

At the Communion Rite, the four members of the clergy distributed the Eucharist to over 400 communicants with the musical background of "I Love the Lord" and "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

At the end of Mass, Father Prior thanked all for coming and asked that they keep the Spirit of Christ, whom they had just received, alive in their hearts and in their world. Then they all recessed to the singing of "America, the Beautiful."

The religious celebration continued with the partaking of a vast variety of potluck ethnic foods from all traditions and cultures. Finally there were games and small rides for both children and grownups alike amid the strumming of guitars and violin. Door prizes were also given before the close of the day.



Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**A group of Hispanic musicians adds to the multicultural flair during the event.**


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| **Tuesday, Oct. 16th** **Senior Sensitivity** | *Bernadette Ford Gerontologist* |
| **Tuesday, Oct. 23rd** **Confidentiality, Compliance, Consistency** | *Sr. Jeanne Marie Kienast, R.S.M. Pastoral Associate, St. Matthew* |

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# Conference explores communion with God through ministry

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Communion with God can be achieved through Christ-like relationships with others, keynote speakers told their audience in a variety of ways at the 8th annual conference of the National Association of Catholic Diocesan Lesbian and Gay Ministries.

Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte, Father Raymond Kemp of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., Dr. Keith Egan of Notre Dame University and Father J. Augustine Di Noia of the John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C., addressed conference participants on a number of issues facing them as ministers to gay and lesbian Catholics in today's church.

Through their messages, they weaved a common theme of communing with God through his church and revealing Christ's love to others.

"A Journey Together: Living the Just Word" was the theme of the conference Sept. 20-23 in Charlotte.

The National Association of Catholic Diocesan Lesbian and Gay Ministries (NACDLGM) was founded in 1994 as a national resource of ministry information and a support entity for Catholic parish and diocesan ministries to gay and lesbian persons and their families.

Conference participants comprised people from parish and diocesan ministries in the United States, as well as those seeking to establish such ministries.

In addition to the keynote speakers, a host of ministry personnel from dioceses across the nation led workshops on topics including spiritual direction, ministering in dioceses and at local parishes, diversity in campus ministry, and leading retreats for gay and lesbian persons.

The organization says that while local Catholic ministries differ in structure, services and activities, they and the organization itself share in the mission of pastoral care that is rooted in Catholic moral and social justice tradition.



Photo by Jimmy Rostar

**Dr. Keith Egan shares a moment with Father Conrad Hoover, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte and a local orgainzer of the national NACDLGM conference here.**

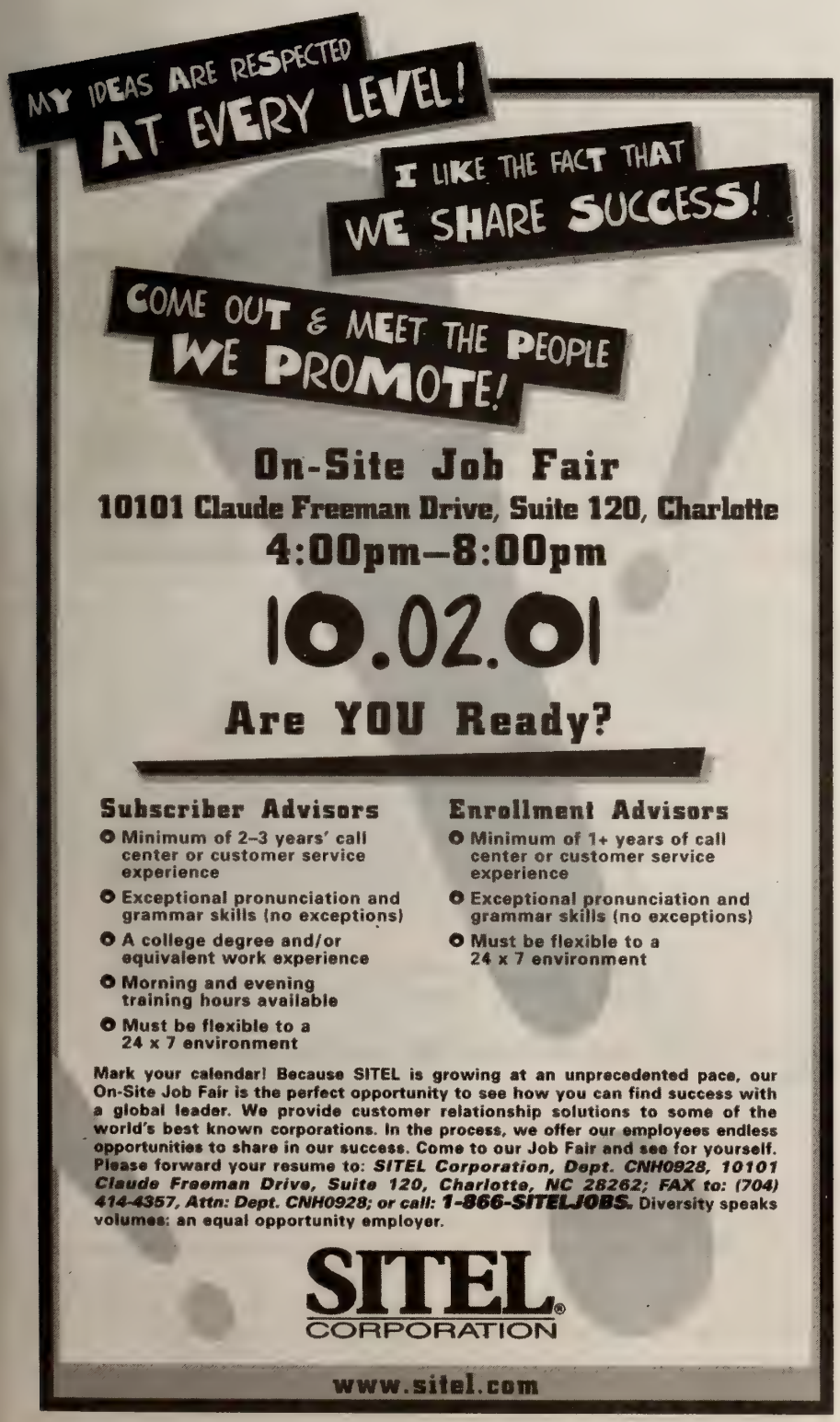
"For those who question why we have come together, I refer them to the Gospel of John," Bishop Curlin said. When Jesus taught the giving of his Body and Blood in the Eucharist, many of his disciples refused to believe and left him, the bishop explained. When asked if the 12 Apostles would also abandon him, Peter replied, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Bishop Curlin added: "We, too, come to hear the words of Jesus offered to his church given to a world so often torn apart by violence and by hatred. To whom shall we go to find peace and hope, except for Jesus?"

Bishop Curlin said "the one purpose of the conference is to focus our hearts and minds on Christ."

"Our conference has only one agenda: It is that we may love the Lord, our God, with all of our heart, with all our soul, with all our might, with all our strength," he said. "We are Catholic men and women — clergy, religious and laity — whose purpose is to assure our brothers and sisters that God loves all people, to share with them the teachings of our church and the richness of a life of grace, and to encourage everyone to place their gifts of service to the church."

See CONFERENCE, page 15


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### Pope says universities can help students discover creation

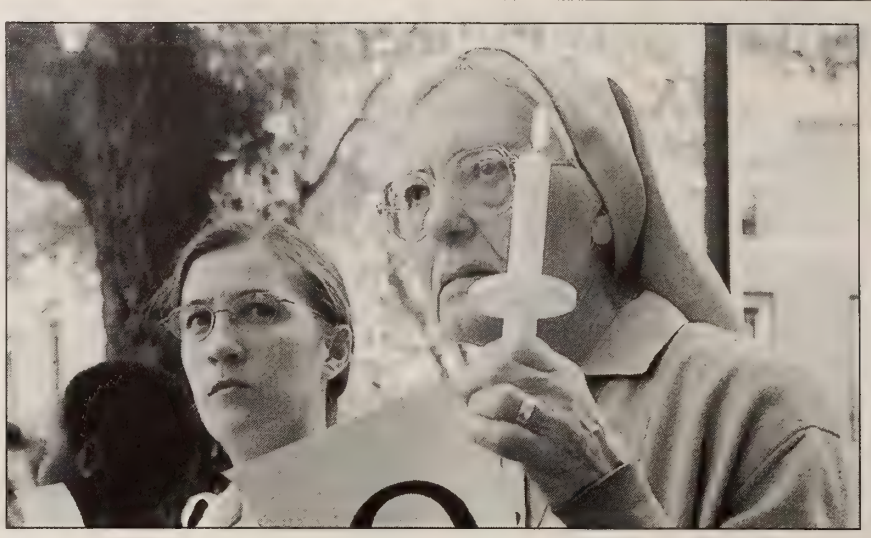
ROME (CNS) — The wisdom born of study and prayer can help people discover, respect and promote what St. Francis of Assisi described as the harmony of all creation, Pope John Paul II said. In a message to Franciscans involved in higher education, the pope said members of the order, like St. Francis before them, must help people make a solid and informed choice to live according to the Gospel. The Sept. 18-28 meeting at various sites in Italy attracted representatives of the 27 colleges, universities and research centers operated by the Order of Friars Minor in 14 different countries. The order released the text of the pope's message Sept. 21.

### Retired New Ulm Bishop Raymond Lucker dead at 74

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Retired Bishop Raymond A. Lucker of New Ulm died Sept. 19 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Home in St. Paul after a long struggle with cancer. He was 74. He was to be buried in the Catholic cemetery in New Ulm Sept. 25 following a funeral Mass at New Ulm's Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. A theologian and educator, Bishop Lucker was head of the New Ulm Diocese from 1976 until 2000, when, following surgery for melanoma, he requested early retirement for health reasons. The cancer returned and spread shortly after his retirement. He had doctorates in theology and education and was nationally known as a pioneer in catechetical renewal. He was a founder of the Catechetical Forum and was director of the U.S. bishops' national Department of Education in 1969-71.

### Top Vatican official says Catholics focus too much on power

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Even after 2,000 years, Jesus' modern-day disciples are still arguing over who comes first and who should have power instead of focusing on promoting holiness, said Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger. "If he (Jesus) came among us today and asked us what we were talking about, we would have to blush and fall silent" like the disciples in the Gospel, said the cardinal, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Cardinal Ratzinger told the pastoral convention of the Diocese of Aversa, Italy, that too often ecclesiology — the theology of the church — gets so bogged down in questions of structure that the purpose of the church is overlooked. The cardinal spoke Sept. 15 at the meeting; the text of his speech was published in the Sept. 17-18 edition of L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Religious in Rome urge peace**

**A nun carries a poster urging "justice and peace without vengeance" during a candlelight vigil at the U.S. Embassy in Rome Sept. 24. More than 100 priests and nuns participated in the vigil.**

### Cancer-stricken boy's story becomes TV movie subject

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — Craig Shergold of England is alive and well and soon will be the subject of a made-for-TV movie about his miraculous recovery from cancer. Shergold's story is told in "The Miracle of the Cards," which will air 9-11 p.m. EST Nov. 10 and again on Thanksgiving, Nov. 22, on the Pax network. Fourteen years ago, Shergold, then 8 years old, was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. His mother made a public plea for get-well cards to be sent to Craig so that he could make the Guinness Book of World Records as an incentive to keep him going in his struggle against the cancer. The rest, as they say, is history. Shergold got a spot in the book for being the recipient of the most cards — 350 million and counting. The movie's premise is that one of those cards resulted in a miracle.

### Military archbishop terms response to terrorism 'obligation'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. response to terrorism "need not arise from a backlash of anger" or retribution but out of "a reasonable obligation of immediate and long-range self-defense," said Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services. He made the comments in a Sept. 19 pastoral letter to chaplains who serve the 1.4 million Catholics in the military worldwide. He asked chaplains to share his letter with their faithful at Mass Sept. 23 and with members of their command. "We are entering a new battle and it is probable that new moral dilemmas will arise for which there is not a pat solution," Archbishop O'Brien wrote in the letter, released to Catholic News Service Sept. 20. "Combining the time-honored principles of just war with reason and a sensitive conscience will help us through."

### In fighting terrorism, bishop urges resolve and moral restraint

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Moral restraint is needed along with resolve in the U.S. campaign to end terrorism, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said in a letter to President Bush. The USCCB head, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, said the country has a "moral right" and "grave obligation to defend the common good" against terrorist attacks. But he said U.S. actions also must be governed by the restraints of law and "sound moral principles, notably the norms of the just-war tradition." Bishop Fiorenza's letter, dated Sept. 19 and released Sept. 20, just hours before Bush was to address the nation in a speech to a joint session of Congress, said the nation's bishops "pray that you will find just, effective ways to respond with resolve and restraint to the long-term task of ending terrorism."


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# Students write letters of hope

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School students have a letter-writing campaign on the horizon, one they hope will lift the spirits of their New York City peers.

Though writing letters won't change world events, Holy Trinity students want to share solidarity in prayer with the students who've lost so much.

"We're sending letters to the schools near the area where the terrorist attacks happened," said Holy Trinity eighth-grader Jonathan Jerome. "We're trying to express our feelings to the children up there on a student level."

The letter writing sprung from a suggestion of Holy Trinity Campus Minister, Father John Hanic. "It gives our students the opportunity to write what they're feeling," he said.

From the Archdiocese of New York's schools office, Father Hanic located three schools located in the borough of Manhattan. "That [area] was most impacted by those events," said Father Hanic. "Family members of the students were in the World Trade Center." Family members, he said, work for police or fire departments. These children "had relatives, they had friends that were actually killed in the incident."

"These schools are located within the distance of the World Trade Center," said Father Hanic.

To the principals of the three selected Manhattan schools, Father Hanic wrote, "Many of our students would like to write students of your school expressing their concerns over the terrorist attacks in your city." The project isn't mandatory at Holy Trinity, although it's anticipated an overwhelming segment of the 1,033 Holy Trinity students will put pen to paper.

Holy Trinity students are well aware of the tragic events of Sept. 11. Many saw the travesties unfold right before their eyes. It wasn't long after the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center that teachers switched on classroom televisions. For a media-savvy generation of students, watching terror before their eyes was surreal. The world has changed before the eyes of 13-year-old Dara Angelo. "We saw this on TV. Students in New York saw it there. And that has to be so much worse."

"We had community prayer together," said Father Hanic. Responding to such horrific events is difficult, but the Catholic campus rallied in faith and prayer.

Two weeks following the life-altering events, students of the Charlotte Catholic middle school are in the throes of formulating their thoughts. The visual images of the terrorist attacks are difficult to process, yet Holy Trinity students are determined to — at least for a few moments — erase painful images and instead share words of comfort.

"I hope they find comfort in the letter," said Jonathan Jerome, who hopes to hear back from his letter recipient. "And," he adds, "that hopefully, in the future, we will become good friends."

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org*

# In Brief . . .

### New Yorkers pray, reaffirm devotion for city, nation

NEW YORK (CNS) — Thousands of New Yorkers came to Yankee Stadium Sept. 23 to pray and to reaffirm their devotion to their city and nation after the devastation of the attack on the World Trade Center. Organized by the religious community at the request of Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, "A Prayer for America" became a three-hour event that mixed dependence on God, celebration of religious pluralism and defiant patriotism. "You picked the wrong city; you picked the wrong country" was the message Adm. Robert Natter had for terrorists at the presentation of the colors. Introduced by Oprah Winfrey as master of ceremonies, those offering prayers, Scripture readings and messages were primarily Jewish, Muslim and Christian — Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox — but also included Sikh and Hindu participants.

### Charities now face long-term needs of victims of attacks

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Immediately after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, people gave blood in droves and donated vast quantities of food, water, clothes, batteries and cell phones for rescue workers. But long-term needs in the wake of the tragedies in New York, at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania are not so obvious, nor are they things people can easily collect from friends, neighbors or co-workers. "The needs are decreasing from basic supplies to long-term, more labor-intensive needs," said John Keightley, vice president for development and communications for Catholic Charities USA, based in the Washington suburb of Alexandria, Va. By Sept. 21, the organization had collected $1 million at the national level to be allocated to diocesan Catholic Charities agencies.

### Vatican signals wider, qualified support for U.S. military action

ASTANA, Kazakstan (CNS) — As Pope John Paul II made a four-day visit to Central Asia, the Vatican appeared to signal a wider — though still qualified — margin of support for eventual U.S. military action against terrorists around the globe. The pope's own pronouncements during his Sept. 22-25 stay in Kazakstan were consistent with his previous warnings against a retaliation taken in "vengeance" or any armed intervention that could deepen divisions in the world. But statements by papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls indicated that the Vatican would understand if the United States decided to go after terrorists in "self-defense," especially if it meant warding off future attacks.

### Religious leaders meet Bush, urge guidance of moral principles

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two dozen religious leaders from a spectrum of faiths, including two cardinals, met with President Bush Sept. 20 to pray and advise him about the U.S. response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. In a statement issued shortly after the White House meeting, the religious leaders said the country has "both a moral right and a grave obligation as a nation to protect the sanctity of life and the common good." The statement said, "We should respond not in the spirit of aggression, but as victims of aggression who must act to prevent further atrocities of terrorism." Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston said the group prayed with the president, offered advice about how the United States should answer the terrorist attacks, and then sang a verse of "America the Beautiful."


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# 'We are all commissioned,' Mepkin Abbey abbot tells audience

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

ARDEN — Everyone who has stayed for the end of Mass has heard the familiar dismissal statement, but it's more than just a tidy way to finish the service. It's a statement packed with meaning, the Right Rev. Francis Kline, OCSO, abbot of Mepkin Abbey near Moncks Corner, S.C., told a group at St. Barnabas Church on Sept. 15.

This was "A Love Beyond All Telling: Witnessing to Our Faith," a conference sponsored by the Asheville Vicariate Faith Formation Leadership Team.

After Abbot Kline's talk, the conference featured breakout sessions on "Liturgy," facilitated by the abbot; "Youth Strategies," facilitated by Mary Ann Poli, director of Youth Ministry at St. Barnabas; "Small Faith Communities," facilitated by Linda Schlensker, chair, Diocesan Resource Team for Small Christian Communities; and "Cultural Diversity," facilitated by Terry Aiken, consultant on diversity and sensitivity training.

Abbot Kline's theme for his keynote address was "Go, the Mass is Ended. We Are All Commissioned." He spoke on commissioning, the importance of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the reconciliation aspects of the Mass, and how Christians are called to be reconciliation to one another.

The commissioning at the end of Mass, he said, "means that there is grace involved, that the Holy Spirit is behind that. The dismissal rite has a very important function. It's at the basis of our faith. Every time, it's a commissioning. For Christians who live at the depth of the Paschal mystery, this is not a surprise."

To get to that depth, Catholics need the readings, the Eucharist and reconciliation.

Just what is Mass about? For one thing, it's about reconciliation.

"When we come to church, we encounter God's saving love," Abbot Kline said. "Our Sunday celebration is to put our whole lives and our problems in perspective [to realize that we're] not the center of the world. The Sunday celebration is the theological gathering of God's people. God says, 'You have sinned against me, but I forgive you.'"

This goes all the way back to what happened before and after the Resurrection. "At the apogee of Jesus' ministry, the apostles denied him and fled," Abbot Kline said. "Peter denies him, but Jesus looks at him, and Peter knows what he has to do. Peter's sorrow is the basis of his ministry as first pope."

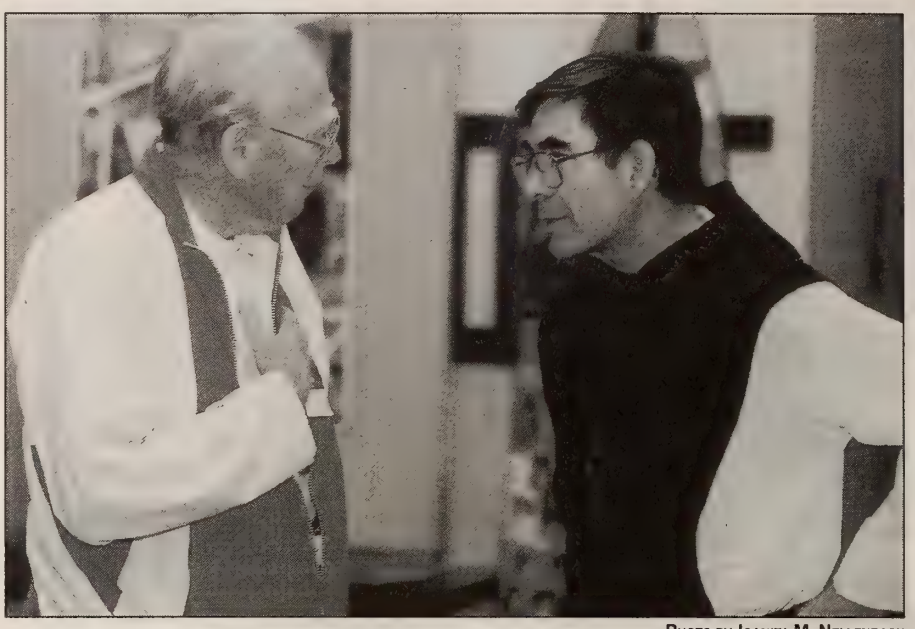


Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**Abbot Francis Kline chats with Robert Kane, a parishioner at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, during a break in the Asheville Vicariate conference, "A Love Beyond All Telling: Witnessing to Our Faith."**

Then, after he is raised from the dead, Jesus appears to the disciples in the upper room. "Put yourself in that scene," Abbot Kline said. "What would you really do? I'd be embarrassed. I'd think about all the times I'd been unfaithful."

Jesus offers peace, then tells the disciples, "Whose sins you shall forgive they are forgiven ..." (John 20:23). "When Jesus said 'Whose sins you shall forgive," it's their sins being forgiven so that they can forgive others," the abbot said. "[He's saying that] I give you the ministry of reconciliation. The first thing he's concerned about is that we know we're forgiven."

The readings at every Mass, tell those listening what they should do. Some people, the abbot said, would rather just skip the readings and have Communion. He added that the readings have to come first, for Eucharist cannot take place without the readings; the readings are the first encounter with Christ at each Mass.

"The readings are so important," Abbot Kline said. "This is God looking us in the eye and saying, 'Where is the relationship?' Then we have the intimate relationship of the Eucharist. We cannot take the Eucharist into our bodies without knowing what we're doing. God wants a living, conscious relationship with us every day. The theological function of the readings is to have an intimate relationship with God."

In fact, the Gospel reading for the weekend of the conference is the story of the "Prodigal Son" (Luke 15:11-32), an example of God's desire to reconcile with human beings and have an intimate relationship with them.

"In the prodigal son, the [younger] son does everything wrong," Abbot Kline said. "How many of our children don't do what we think they should?"

The father watches for the son and runs to meet him.

"The father isn't just waiting," the abbot continued. "While we were yet sinners, God [like the father in the story] has met us more than half way. God responds to our sin by saving us. The father gives the fatted calf and the celebration and the ring on the finger, and the older brother hates the father because the father is so prodigal."

What God gives to mankind is his son, the abbot said, "not to condemn the world but to save it. God doesn't stand aloof in this universal fellowship attitude. God gets in there. He sends out God — not some second-rate emissary.

"When the priest says, 'Go, the Mass is ended,' we go out with all this joy and forgiveness, and we're supposed to tell everybody. I give you a $25 Christmas gift this year, and you come back and give me a $2,500 Christmas gift next year; that's what it's like. It's not like you gave me a $25 Christmas gift, I'll give you a $26 Christmas gift. God is not mincing; we mince."

And the fruit of that reconciliation and gift can help people reach a deeper level of faith that can see them through even such tragedies as the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11.

"The fish on the surface feel the movement of the waves," Abbot Kline said. "The fish who are deeper know something is going on, but they're able to keep swimming. Wanting to smash [those who committed the atrocities] is natural, but the Gospel is not natural."

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# Charlotte author tells 'Amistad' story from native's view

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — "The winds had turned into aggressive gales, filling the foremast; the waves swelled to higher heights, swaying the schooner back and forth on the staggering and turbulent crests of the ocean's waves. The schooner zigzagged, feigning to capsize here and there. The masts hummed in protest, with each rush of the passing gale, keeping the schooner afloat. While this was taking place, trouble brewed below deck."

So writes Joseph Lambert in his newly published "Amistad Wahala," the chronicle of slaves whose capture, revolt and fight for freedom added to the growing 19th-century argument over the institution of slavery.

More than a century and a half after the slave rebellion aboard a Spanish ship bound from Cuba, the Charlotte author says the incident's lesson is a historical reminder of people's right to freedom.

With a profound curiosity in the story of 53 African slaves from what is now Sierra Leone, Lambert wrote the book on that group whose uprising at sea and eventual trial in the United States led to a landmark decision before slavery itself was abolished here.

A native of Sierra Leone, Lambert pursued the project with firsthand knowledge of the people, history and culture of that country.

"Especially coming from Sierra Leone and knowing the atrocities that were committed at the time against my countrymen, I took a very deep interest in the story," said Lambert, a parishioner of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte.

The slaves revolted in 1839 against the Spaniards who had purchased them in Havana. Sengbe Pieh, a member of the Mende tribal group, led the rebellion that overtook the ship call La Amistad. Though the mutineers demanded that the Spaniards' hired crew return them to Africa, the captain secretly changed course to the Northeast and landed in Long Island, N.Y.

The surviving crew reported the uprising, the slaves were arrested and they were put on trial in New Haven, Conn. An ensuing drama pitted former U.S. President John Quincy Adams as the slaves' defense attorney against the federal government as the case reached the Supreme Court, while questions over property rights and a person's inherent right to freedom reached international audiences.

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the slaves. They returned to Africa in January 1842.

The Amistad story was popularized in a 1997 Steven Speilberg film.

Lambert, who came to the United States in 1992, calls his work a historical fiction — one that keeps intact the facts of the saga while adding a human face to the events with dialogue, emotion and the cultural perspective of a native Sierra Leonean.

"While researching and writing this project, I could imagine the pain and suf-

See AMISTAD, page 14

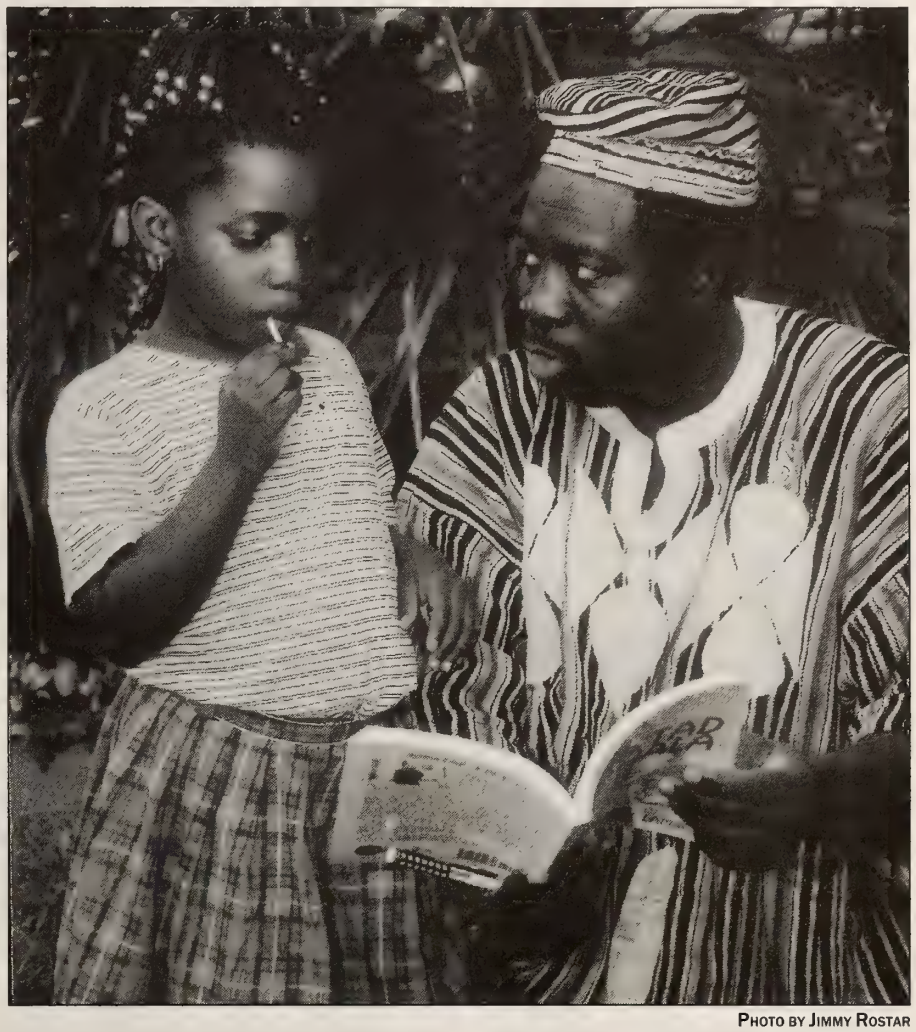


Photo by Jimmy Rostar

**Joseph Lambert shows his daughter, Zinnia, photos from his newly published book. Lambert dedicated the book to Zinnia and her younger brother, Cody.**


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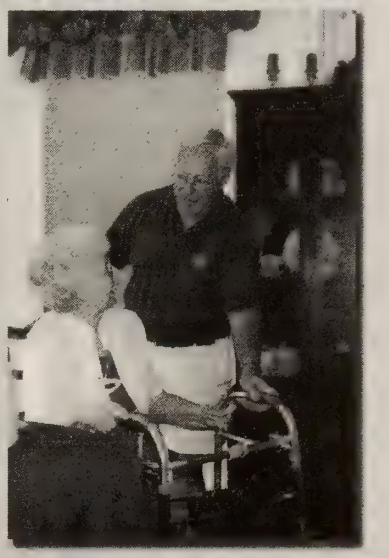
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**Book Review**

# Book on anti-semitism work of professional historian

REVIEWED BY EUGENE J. FISHER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Unlike the wholly discredited "Hitler's Pope" by journalist John Cornwell, David I. Kertzer's "The Popes Against the Jews: The Vatican's Role in the Rise of Modern Anti-Semitism" is the work of a professional historian.

The useful material, which I would hope every Catholic would read, is the material that comes out of Kertzer's actual research.

***THE POPES AGAINST THE JEWS: THE VATICAN'S ROLE IN THE RISE OF MODERN ANTI-SEMITISM,* by David I. Kertzer. Alfred A. Knopf (New York, 2001). 358 pp., $27.95.**

Kertzer has written up his results in lively and compelling fashion. This research is contained in the first of the three parts of his book, a bit over a hundred pages.

The rest, sadly enough, reads more like a polemic. Its tone and content often remind the reader of the bad old days of nativist, anti-immigrant — i.e., anti-Catholic — bigotry.

Kertzer's original research used 19th- and 20th-century material from the archives of the Vatican's Holy Office of the Inquisition, now the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. It was only in 1998 that the Holy See opened these archives to researchers.

Kertzer narrates, for example, cases of forced baptisms in the House of Catechumens in Rome and the appallingly squalid conditions of the Jews in the ghettos of the Papal States.

He writes about the efforts of ghetto Jews to gain their freedom. He describes how those efforts became linked in the minds of the people who ran the Papal States with all that they felt was dangerous about the Enlightenment and its ideology of militant secularism.

These Enlightenment theories were in fact dangerous to the monarchical ideas behind the Papal States.

All of this will be painful — but ultimately healthy — reading for American Catholics who were dealing with the idea of religious freedom back in 1776.

I would say that the papacy's loss of temporal power was ultimately one of the better things to happen to the Catholic Church in its long history.

The bishops of the world, gathered together and guided by the Holy Spirit at the Second Vatican Council, I believe, also saw it this way in voting overwhelmingly for the declarations on religious liberty and on the Jews in "Nostra Aetate."

Before the Second Vatican Council the saying went, "error has no rights." Since the council the right of human conscience has been the consistent teaching of the church. Kertzer's problem is that he does not see this, or perhaps has not done sufficient homework to understand it.

In making his point about the Vatican's role in European anti-Semitism, Kertzer misconstrues the Holy See's document "We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah." Kertzer says that "We Remember" states: "The Catholic Church can bear no responsibility for the rise of modern anti-Semitism." Nowhere does it say that, of course.

What Kertzer has done — unpardonable in a professional historian — is turn a both/and into an either/or.

True, the Holy See's document does spell out at one point the logically and historically necessary distinction between Christian anti-Judaism and modern racial anti-Semitism. But making a distinction does not, contrary to Kertzer's odd logic, imply that there is no relationship between the phenomena being distinguished.

In a guide on how to use "We Remember" in Catholic schools, the U.S. bishops' conference put it this way:

"Christian anti-Judaism did lay the groundwork for racial, genocidal anti-Judaism by stigmatizing not only Judaism but Jews themselves for opprobrium and contempt. So the Nazi theories found tragically fertile soil in which to plant the horror of an unprecedented attempt at genocide."

The bishops continue, "One way to put the 'connectedness' between the Christian teaching of anti-Judaism and Nazi anti-Semitism is that the former is a 'necessary cause' to consider in explaining the development and success of the latter but not a 'sufficient cause.' Christian anti-Judaism alone cannot account for the Holocaust."

Many other historical factors, which Kertzer studiously ignores, were involved. Kertzer, having set up his straw person, proceeds to waste an awful lot of the reader's time demolishing it with great relish.

Kertzer's prosecutorial stance leads him to omit key facts. For example, Kertzer omits the telling detail that the deportations of the Jews of Rome did stop on the day of the conversation between the Vatican secretary of state and the German ambassador in 1943. Some scholars believe that the discussion led the Germans to end their deportations of the Jews of Rome. However it is interpreted, it is a fact that the deportations stopped, and that the Jews of Rome went into hiding, in large part in the monasteries and convents of the city, with the knowledge of the Vatican, which regularly supplied them with food to feed the hidden Jews.

This book may have been begun as serious scholarship, but it ended up as anything but, which is a loss for all of us, Jews and Catholics alike, since the author is capable of much better work than exhibited here.

*Fisher is associate director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

# Word to Life

*October 7, Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*
*Cycle C Readings:*

1) Hebrews 1:2-3, 2:2-4
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
2) 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14
3) Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In these days after the World Trade Center and Pentagon tragedies, many have returned their focus to God. I've always added the phrase "or on takeoffs and landings" to the traditional wisdom, "There are no atheists in foxholes."

Now I would add "or in a national emergency." And all of us find we need that increased faith to face life with confidence. This Sunday's readings offer us encouragement to do just that.

A couple of weeks ago the answer to my personal quandary about how to convey the message of this week's readings waltzed into my office, emptying my trash, cleaning my floors. He was different in a noticeable way. When I would ask how he was doing, he would give a joyous reply, praising God. He was sincere, and he worked very hard. One evening he and I started talking and found we were about the same age, had grown up here and had done similar work in local high schools at about the same time 30 years ago. From that opening, he launched into a shortened version of his personal witness.

Like the prodigal son, he had squandered a number of years in riotous living, destroying his family in the process. Only three years ago at The Potter's Church in Oak Cliff, a Dallas suburb, he had responded to an altar call — reluctantly, he said, with a friend tugging him to the front — and God had changed his life.

Immediately he no longer had a taste for alcohol. He hungered for the word of God and turned his energies to living a holy life. And he was not reluctant to tell anyone who would listen.

Most of us haven't experienced the redeeming love of Christ in this way, but in truth we've all been redeemed by his blood. The Hebrews reading is a favorite verse of certain evangelists, but don't let that make you think it any less true: "How shall we escape if we ignore a salvation as great as ours? Announced first by the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who had heard him. God then gave witness to it by signs, miracles, varied acts of power and distribution of the gifts of the Holy Spirit as he willed."

One of those miracles picks up pieces of litter in my office five nights a week and empties my trash. I've seen the results of its work in just the past two weeks. God hasn't quit confirming his redemptive word, and we must be faithful to proclaiming it with our lives in both word and deed.

**QUESTION:**
*Have you prayed lately for God to use you in making his kingdom a reality among us?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Sept. 30-Oct. 6**

**Sunday,** Amos 6:1a, 4-7, 1 Timothy 6:11-16, Luke 16:19-31; **Monday (St. Therese),** Zechariah 8:1-8, Luke 9:46-50; **Tuesday (The Guardian Angels),** Exodus 23: 20-23, Matthew 18:1-5, 10; **Wednesday,** Nehemiah 2:1-8, Luke 9:57-62; **Thursday (St. Francis of Assisi),** Nehemiah 8:1-4, 5-6, 7-12, Luke 10:1-12; **Friday,** Baruch 1:15-22, Luke 10:13-16; **Saturday (St. Bruno, Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher),** Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29, Luke 10:17-24

**Scripture for the week of Oct. 7 - 13**

**Sunday,** Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4, 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14, Luke 17:5-10; **Monday,** Jonah 1:1—2:1, Luke 10:25-37; **Tuesday (St. Denis and Companions),** Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 10:38-42; **Wednesday,** Jonah 4:1-11, Luke 11:1-4; **Thursday,** Malachi 3:13-20, Luke 11:5-13; **Friday,** Joel 1:13-15, 2:1-2, Luke 11:15-26, **Saturday,** Joel 4:12-21, Luke 11:27-28





CNS PHOTO FROM UPN

**Stars of new UPN sitcom "One On One"**
Kyla Pratt and Flex Alexander star in the new UPN sitcom "One on One"

# "Local News" chronicles work of Charlotte station

By GERRI PARE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — The day-to-day news operation of an NBC affiliate in Charlotte, N.C., is recorded over the course of 10 months in the five-part documentary series, "Local News," airing Tuesdays, 10-11 p.m. EDT, starting Oct. 9 on PBS (check local listings).

WCNC, struggling to rise out of its third place in the ratings, is trying to downplay crime and sensational stories in favor of community issues. It's not easy. Cameras capture the debate in episode one, "To Work a Miracle," about whether to devote an hour of air time to how several white families have sued to overturn Charlotte's landmark 1971 plan to desegregate schools by busing students.

Newly hired news director Keith Connors, concerned the audience won't sit still that long, tells disappointed education reporter Sterlin Benson Webber that she must cover the story in a half-hour. It's an ongoing battle between going for higher ratings and seeking to better journalistic standards at the station.

In another segment, the news director is also under pressure to go on the air with reports of bomb threats at local schools but must weigh the urgency of putting on breaking news — and the audience it draws — with the need for verification lest his station broadcast mere rumor and possibly spread panic.

Racial tensions in the newsroom are confirmed when longtime producer Wanda Johnson Stokes resigns, believing she has not advanced as far as she should have because she is African-American.

The first episode raises some of the concerns of the business of finding, gathering and reporting local news, but mostly follows various staff members on their daily assignments in the studio and in the field.

The quick cuts jump around, making it difficult to get an immediate handle on the assorted players. Further episodes will likely resolve this, but for the opening hour the focus seemed a bit scattered between people and news assignments. What does emerge, however, is that the staff is a hardworking collection of professionals who are serious about their job and want their voices to be heard.

The cinema-verite style of following participants around does not make for compelling visuals. It does, however, convey a sense of authenticity about the many decisions that have to be made each news day. The difficulties of determining news priorities sometimes go to issues of broadcast journalism, community, race and ethics. And since two-thirds of Americans primarily rely on local TV news for a better understanding of the issues, what fuels the complexities and eventual compromises made in newsrooms makes for a worthwhile subject.

Future episodes will deal with a staff firing that outrages the African-American community, a hurricane that boosts ratings but stirs staff unrest, the continuing school desegregation debate, a return to crime reporting and an unwelcome assessment of the news operation by the media conglomerate that owns the station.

The series would be of particular interest to those already in or considering a career in journalism and to TV viewers sometimes labeled as "news junkies." Based on the opening hour previewed, others may find the program to be not exceptionally engaging, either intellectually or emotionally.

*Pare is director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Pope honors long-remembered personal heroes in Kazakstan

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

ASTANA, Kazakstan (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's visit to Kazakstan gave him a chance to honor some long-remembered personal heroes.

Among them were the priests and bishops of Polish descent who suffered and died in Soviet gulags after being deported from their homeland in the 1930s.

At a Mass in the Astana cathedral Sept. 24, the pope recalled several martyr-pastors whom he has long admired and some that he knew personally.

"In heart and spirit I relive the unspeakable trials of all those who suffered not only physical exile and imprisonment, but public ridicule and violence because they chose not to renounce the faith," he said in a sermon before some 350 priests, nuns, seminarians and lay missionaries.

The pope's connection with the Kazak martyrs goes back to his youth and helps explain his determination to visit the former Soviet republic in Central Asia, where almost all of the 180,000 Catholics are descendants of deported families from Germany, Ukraine and Poland.

When growing up in southern Poland, one of the future pope's spiritual directors was Father Tadeusz Federowicz. Father Federowicz was assigned to the Archdiocese of Lviv in what is now Ukraine, and when he learned that a group of his parishioners was being deported to Central Asia, he obtained permission to share their plight.

He invented a new type of pastoral care for deportees, the pope recalled with pride at the Mass.

The pope also remembered Father Wladislaw Bukowinski, whom he also had known personally in Krakow. The priest ended up in a gulag in Kazakstan, and when offered his freedom he chose to remain among the prisoners. Eventually he secretly founded a congregation of nuns that is still active today in numerous former Soviet territories.

The pope recalled the "unshakable confidence in God's power" demonstrated in a diary entry by Father Bukowinski, who wrote: "We have been ordered not to spare ourselves but, if necessary, to give our lives for the flock of Christ."

While evoking the trials under the "long winter" of communism in Kazakstan, on several occasions the pope said the pastoral challenges today are somewhat different.

The spiritual void left by the atheistic regime makes people "vulnerable to the myths of consumerism and hedonism imported from the West," he told the region's bishops.

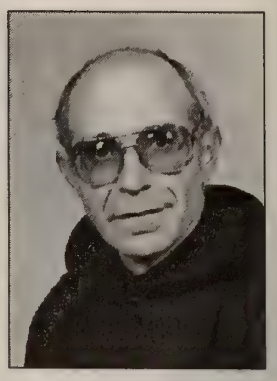
For that reason, he said, evangelization should start with an effort to educate people in the faith and help restore their spiritual ideals.

The pope also encouraged the local church to look beyond its traditional ethnic borders in announcing the Gospel. The number of Catholics has shrunk in Kazakstan in recent years, as ethnic Germans and Ukrainians have gone back to their ancestors' homeland.

The local pastor at the Astana cathedral, Father Otto Messmer, said his congregation used to be half German but now has just two or three German families.

He also said that, in 12 years as pastor, he had baptized one native Kazak.

# Guest Column



Father JOHN C. AURILIA, OFM CAP.
Guest Columnist

## Are we winners or losers?

The recent and tragic event of Sept. 11, 2001, gave me the opportunity to read again Chapter 10 of St. Luke's gospel. Jesus is heading to Jerusalem, crossing a Samaritan town. He sent messengers ahead, as any good leader would do. The Samaritan villagers, however, refused to receive Jesus. This caused James and John to ask Jesus if they should command fire from heaven to consume the village. Jesus, in turn, rebuked the disciples because he is not in the business of punishment, revenge, or destruction; he is in the business of love. Jesus asks his followers to pray for laborers to help the elite corps of disciples in their mission of love. The harvest is indeed vast and abundant.

Jesus knew that the disciples were at risk, which was worth taking, just as King David as a boy had to face Goliath and later as a man dodging Saul. In the best tradition of David, Jesus continues to be the poet laureate of the Bible. When our Lord says that he sends the disciples out "like lambs in the midst of wolves," he creates an image of grace (lamb) to defeat the violence (wolves). Of course this is poetry, which is more powerful than prose. He sends them "like sheep" to exhibit the qualities of vulnerability and harmlessness. Sheep are fragile creatures. The Scripture says "the lion will lie down with the lamb." I may add that the lamb won't get much sleep! When a communist zoo-keeper boasted that in one cage they kept a wolf and a lamb, an impressed visitor wondered how they managed to make that biblical prophesy come true. "Simple," said to zoo-keeper, "we just put in a new lamb every morning."

By connecting Jesus' event with the latest tragedy of Sept. 11, we understand some important paradoxes:

First: Many things are worse that defeat, and compromise with evil is one of them.

Second: You are never defeated until you defeat yourself.

Third: The highway of fear is the shortest route to defeat.

Fourth: Don't take your defeat like a man who blames his wife for it.

Our country has learned, in a very painful way, that love and duty are not easy, but they are the only vitamins which give us energy to live our daily lives. There is a story from the Middle Ages about a young woman who was expelled from heaven. As she left, she was told that if she would bring back the gift that is most valued by God, she would be welcomed back. She brought back drops of blood from a dying patriot. She brought back some coins that a destitute widow had given to the poor. She brought back a remnant of the Bible that had been used for years by an eminent preacher. She brought back some dust from the shoes of a missionary laboring in a remote wasteland. She brought back many similar things but was turned back repeatedly.

One day she saw a small boy playing by a fountain. A man rode up on horseback and dismounted to take a drink. The man saw the child and suddenly remembered his boyhood innocence. Then, looking in the fountain and seeing the reflection of his hardened face, he realized what he had done with his life. Tears of repentance welled up in his eyes and began to trickle down his checks. The young woman took one of these tears back to heaven and was received with joy and love.

At this time, we don't have the World Trade Towers, we don't have more than 5,000 people presumed dead, but we have the upper hand to control terrorism in an effective way, we have heroes who died "on duty"..... we have the tears of those who lost their loved ones. According to Jesus' philosophy, are we winners or losers?



# Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Column

## When tragedy strikes

When tragedy strikes, families rally. Over the years our family has endured tragedy in the dying of members. When a loved-one dies, no matter what other urgencies, we gather, we console, we prepare services, we reach out to others, and we pray. Even those of us who are less inclined toward religion, worship and prayer join in the intentional prayerfulness of family life during tragic times.

When tragedy strikes we become more generous and more loving. There have been times when a family member's grief erupted into anger. The experience of tragedy can provoke us into destructive behavior, scapegoating and looking for someone to blame. At those times, our family becomes even more generous and more loving. We smother the hate with love. We hold on to each other as though each member is precious. And as we love each other through the difficult time of grief, we rise transformed by the loving that has bonded us.

In the very same way, our nation is rallying in this horrible time of grief. Just like a family we put aside other urgencies to gather, to console, to prepare services, to reach out, and to pray.

The weekend after the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C., houses of worship received extraordinary crowds of faithful worshippers. Late-night comics took on more somber styles in their monologues. Professional sports teams halted play. In different ways patriotism has risen in our nation and revealed a compassionate people.

However, this national tragedy has provoked some of us to destructive behavior. Anger has erupted into hateful scapegoating of followers of Islam and people of Arab extraction. A mosque in a nearby community was the target of a hateful mob, many of whom brandished American flags as though they were weapons against their victims.

Leadership, religious and political, quickly renounced such xenophobic hatefulness and called us to the higher symbolism of freedom for which our flags stands. The generous and loving spirit of America will smother the hatefulness of the few. And like families our nation is rising transformed by the love that binds us. Indeed, we are a family.

This is our blessing — not our military might and our economic prosperity — rather our capacity to stand strong in the face of tyranny and still be free to love. May God keep on blessing America!

**Questions for reflection**

- *How has a family tragedy been transforming?*
- *How has the terrorist attack on America made you more generous and more loving?*
- *What are you doing to smother hate during this national tragedy?*



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### The Past As Past

Wearing clerical clothing is a terrific magnet. People respond to our priestly uniforms in a variety of ways, but they certainly do react. In the best of circumstances, you get a kindly nod of the head and a smile that says "Good to see you, Padre!" Then there are stares that are harder to categorize. Some people seem intrigued that anyone does what we do for a living. Some gaze at you as if you were more an object than a person. But, by far, the most interesting are those with a bone to pick. These folks would never call or write to complain, but with a priest right in front of them, they reason, "This is my chance to tell him what I think of them all!" They also seem to think that talking to one priest will get the message to every priest.

In one exchange, a woman waylaid me at an airport to ask if I knew her town's priest, Father Paul. I asked her the priest's last name. She wasn't sure. Then I asked her where her hometown was located. She told me it was in northern Minnesota. I explained that I come from New York, don't know many priests from Minnesota. The woman looked a little puzzled. "I thought that you all knew each other," she admitted.

At a recent wedding reception, a man came up to tell me that while he was baptized a Catholic Christian, he "hasn't seen the inside of a church for almost 40 years." Presuming he wanted to tell me his story, I asked, "How come?" Seems that when he was about 20 years old, he heard a priest preach a sermon he didn't like. The priest was his pastor and apparently suggested that people should donate a particular percentage of their income to the church. Nothing new about this; most folks recognize "tithing" as a type of responsible stewardship. But for this disgruntled listener, it was too much. He told me, "You know, I really resented that guy telling me how much I should put in the basket. That's my decision, Father, not his!"

He's certainly right about that. Each person must decide for himself or herself what is an affordable amount to share with our faith community. But for me, a larger question remained. So I asked it.

"You mean that you stayed away from praying with your faith community, reflecting with them over the sacred scriptures and receiving the sacraments for 40 years because of one priest and a message you didn't like?" The man nodded. "Well," I concluded, "that seems like a very dear price to pay."

That man is not unique. I have met many people who've left their home faith communities because of past slights or misunderstandings. Yes, hurt is a difficult thing to handle. But isn't working out our differences equally vital? Isn't seeing our religion as bigger than the relationship we have with a single person equally important?

I have met a few priests, who, from my viewpoint, just didn't measure up, but they never cost me my beliefs. Probably because I recognized them as members of a church, not the whole community. Can you imagine how few homes would be intact if every time people fought or disagreed someone walked out? Families, friendships and marriages endure because we acknowledge differences, express disappointments, try to heal wounds, and then move on. Human beings don't have perfect relationships. But part of the glory of all faiths is the power to forgive, the grace to be reconciled.

The man I told you about happened to be a Catholic, but the same story could be told in any religious community. I can't help but hope that he - and those like him - will look again at the great good they miss when they use the mistakes of the past as an excuse for not celebrating a spiritual present. They might be surprised by all the good that's been done these past 40 years. What a shame if they miss the next 40!

# Coming of Age



AMY WELBORN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Priorities rearranged

For weeks, perhaps months, my oldest son had been looking forward to a particular football game. This game was part of a great rivalry that he was very interested in as a student at one of the universities.

He was primed for it, ready to go, not just as a spectator but as part of a media crew helping to film it for his college's athletic department.

Win or lose, it was going to be one of the most exciting weekends of his life so far.

Then Sept. 11 came. And passed. And for days, smoke billowed out from a mass grave in Manhattan.

The game, of course, was canceled. But even before that, my son suddenly, unimaginably, had become indifferent to it.

I only spoke with him over the telephone and only in quick conversations before he dashed to class or went back to work, so I couldn't see his face. But I could hear it in his voice.

Suddenly, life had shifted, and with it priorities and a sense of what was important.

Perhaps the same thing happened to you.

Maybe you'd been spending a lot of time fretting about your appearance or your weight. Perhaps you were sniping back and forth with other kids in school about webs of loyalty and friendship. Maybe you were spending a lot of time reading and thinking about the comings and goings of a certain movie, sports or music celebrity. Maybe you weren't speaking to one or both of your parents.

Then you saw planes dashed into the ground and into buildings. You saw buildings filled with parents, brothers, sisters, friends and grandparents burn and collapse.

You saw hundreds — thousands — of people forget about everything else, drop their daily routines and worries, and rush to help in any way they could. You were probably one of those people, whether you gave blood, or a little cash or lots of prayers.

Smoke billowed out for days from the rubble of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. In a field in Pennsylvania, a plane left nothing but an ugly gash burned through the earth. Within an hour, as you watched these horrific things on the television at school, several things probably became very clear to you.

Life is precious and precarious.

There is more to the shadows of this world than "differences of opinion" or various lifestyles and opinions. There is right, and there is wrong. Evil exists.

I think I know what's important now.

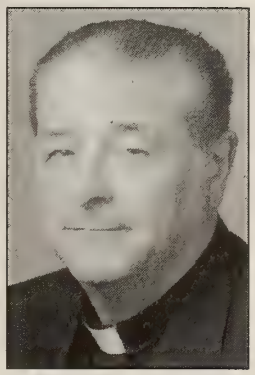
So in that moment, the strangest things happened: The motivation for those petty spats evaporated. The doings of mindless celebrities were exposed as incredibly shallow. And for the life of you, you couldn't think of a single reason not to tell your parents you loved them.

If you're like my son, you couldn't care any less whether or not that football game ever got played at all.

These are strange, perplexing, sad and even frightening times. There's a lot of hard thinking, listening and praying we all should be doing. We're praying for peace, wisdom, justice, strength and peace once more.

And with everything else, we're praying that we'll never, ever take the gift of life for granted again. Because we can't. What we've seen won't let us.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Did God the Father Also Suffer on the Cross?

*Q. Did God the Father and the Holy Spirit suffer the crucifixion with God the Son? This odd question arose in our discussion group. Most of us agreed the answer is no, but we had no good reason. (New York)*

A. You might be surprised to know that your question came up very seriously in the early decades of Christianity.

One group of clergy and theologians advanced the idea that Father and Son were actually two names for the same divine person. They were called "modalists" because they believed God reveals himself in three "modes": Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Modalists were identified by several names, one of which was "patripassianists" — from "pater" (father) and "passio" (suffering) — because they believed the Father suffered on the cross along with the Son.

The church's theology of the Holy Trinity was not yet fully developed. Questions about the divine sonship of Jesus and his relation to the Father were heavily debated, however, and Christian teaching about the three persons in God was gradually being formulated.

Other theologians, including Tertullian and Hippolytus, rejected the new teachings as contrary to the affirmations about Jesus in the Gospel of John. The church's later formalization of Trinitarian dogmas, of course, confirmed those intuitions.

Modalism was condemned by at least two popes, Callistus in the year 220 and Dionysius in 260.

As the saying goes, this is probably more than you wanted to know, but it should answer your question.

*Q. I recently took my family to a cathedral miles from our home to celebrate a special day. During Mass our asthmatic son was driven out of the church by the incense.*

*We realize the symbolism of incense, but that is not much help for people with serious reactions to these chemicals. Doesn't the church realize there are many men and women and children for whom incense is not only annoying but downright hazardous? (California)*

A. I know from my mail on the subject that your son is one of many Catholics who experience serious physical reactions to incense. But I don't know what can be done about it, except for pastors to be aware of the problem.

In a previous column I reported that, surprisingly to me at least, manufacturers have tried without success to produce a nonallergenic incense with a satisfactory aroma. The ones I spoke with suggest only that priests use less incense during the liturgy.

An Ohio pharmacist informs me of a product called "Maxi-Masks," blue masks designed specifically to filter out allergens of this kind. They may be bothersome, but they are inexpensive and might solve the problem for many people.

*A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about receiving the holy Eucharist is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria IL 61651.*

*Questions for this column may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# Amistad, from page 9

fering these slaves must have endured as they were chained below deck," he said. "As someone from Sierra Leone, I have explained some of the culture that existed at the time and used the language they would have used. I've done a lot of research and just told the story as it should be told."

Lambert tells that story largely through a discourse between James Covey, an abolitionist who actually accompanied the freed slaves back to Africa, Covey's adopted brother, and a wealthy African who paid to hear Covey's stories of the Amistad account.

Lambert shares the account "from a traditional perspective with deep spiritual considerations," including how the slaves were evangelized.

"The captives themselves, in the days the saga was going on, were introduced to Christ and to his teachings," Lambert said. "Most of them did acknowledge Christ, and some did not bear malice or grievance. Even after all they went through, they were able to forgive. They were very appreciative of their freedom.

The story took Lambert more than six years of research and writing — a process he thoroughly enjoyed.

"When I sit down to write, I engage my mental faculties in full," he said. "My creativity comes into play, and I am able to visualize things and use my creative mind to tell a story."

Lambert said he learned much in the research and writing phase about his native country and the world. Much of that history contains troubling chapters, he said.

"This was a very engaging project. It was personal," he said, adding that tribal conflict is what largely started and contributed to the slave trade.

"There is a long history of tribal conflicts, tribal wars," he said. "Then, the European was there. The American was there. They played on these conflicts, supplying weapons to one faction and weapons to another faction, and then when these factions clashed the members captured each other's men, women and children who were sold as slaves."

Lambert said Sierra Leone to this day is divided by tribal conflict, economic deprivation and social upheaval. "Deep, ill feelings are still there," he said.

While the Amistad story does depict darker sides of the human condition, many people's worldview changed in the wake of those events, Lambert said — including some of the slaves' themselves.

He said the case involved the only successful slave revolt in U.S. history, but more importantly, it showed the resolve of a people determined to prove their freedom. That historical lesson of respect is universal, he said.

"Man shouldn't be bad to another man, to put it very simply," Lambert said. "We go to a land from our history to know where we are going in the future. We must learn from our past mistakes.

"That's the Christian way to move ahead."

*For more information on "Amistad Wahala" by Joseph Lambert, call (704) 569-9674.*

*Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org*

# Journey of Hope comes to North Carolina

ANCHORAGE, Ak. — "The Journey of Hope ... From Violence to Healing," a nonprofit organization is a nonprofit organization led by murder victims' family members who support alternatives to the death penalty, brings a series of speaking engagements to North Carolina next month.

The first event will be Oct. 5 in Charlotte. Other events within the Diocese of Charlotte are currently scheduled in Asheville and the Triad.

On Oct. 18-21 in Raleigh, Journey to Hope joins the 25th anniversary conference of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

At the presentations, family members will recall their tragedy of losing loved ones, their struggle to heal, and their reasons for supporting alternatives to the death penalty. The events will bring together death row inmates' families, those released from death row, and abolitionists from around the world.

The events will take place at churches, schools, universities, town meetings and a host of other forums.

The Journey of Hope is asking for volunteers, publicity, housing and events scheduling.

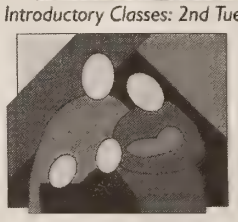
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## CONFERENCE, from page 5

In his homily at the closing Mass, Bishop Curlin spoke of his prayer that people will continue to commune with God and each other through the work of the Holy Spirit.

"For many people, the church's continued existence is an insolvable mystery," he said. "There is no institution in the history of the world that has withstood so many assaults from its enemies and so many betrayals by its friends.

"There are a thousand reasons why it should have perished with the centuries. There is only one reason that explains its survival: Pentecost. With the coming of the Holy Spirit, the work of the church began and, because of his abiding presence, that work will continue until the end of time."

Father Kemp, a former Washington pastor who coordinates the biblical justice program "Living the Just Word," spoke of communion with God in terms of justice as discussed in Scripture.

"We are preachers of one God," he said, noting that biblical justice centers on a sense of justice that sees the world binding one person to another - "one world, one God, all brothers and sisters."

"Everybody is called in the Hebrew covenant not for just ourselves alone, but for somebody else," he said. "The work of ministry is a work that belongs to us all."

Father Kemp said the new covenant revealed through Jesus furthers that truth. He said true union with God comes in Jesus' teachings of sharing in his testament, "Do this in memory of me."

"Whenever you receive the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist, his love is given to you," he said. "It is the same love that he shared on the cross."

Friendship as a sacrament was the topic Egan explored in his presentation. Egan, who founded and now directs the Center of Spirituality at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame University, is a professor of theology at Notre Dame.

Through friendships grounded in a love for God, Egan said, people experience the presence of Jesus.

"A sacrament is a manifestation of Christ in our lives," said Egan, who wrote about this topic in a book co-authored with Lawrence Cunningham called "Christian Spirituality: Themes from the Tradition." "We have seven sacraments especially chosen by the church as reflections of those moments in the life of Jesus in which Jesus manifested to us in a saving way."

The faithful can find other sacraments by celebrating the common gift of sharing in the reality and presence of Christ, Egan said. Friendship is one such example.

"The gift of friendship, before we in our particular ways ever become friends, exists in God," Egan said. "In the triune God is friendship — Father and Son bonded and joined together in the Spirit, who is love."

An awareness of friendship with God himself is a key way to realize how Christ can be at work in the faithful today, he said. That relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, then, progresses to our relationship with others, he added.

"We are living the trinitarian life when we are friends who grow in goodness with each other," he said.

Growing in goodness in accord with the church's teachings on human relationships was a theme Father Di Noia explored in his address, "Ministry with Gay and Lesbian Persons: Catholic Theological and Pastoral Perspectives."

Father Di Noia reiterated the need to base ministry to gay and lesbian Catholics in full communion with church teachings and explained how moral law is designed to help rather than hinder the faithful as they seek to connect with God and one another.

"God wants us to be in communion with him and with one another in him," he said. "Our union with one another, the church, is nothing other than the extended family of the Trinity — invisible now, but visible in glory and certainly ... visible to us when we share the glory."

Father Di Noia, a Dominican priest who served until April as executive director of the U.S. Catholic bishops' Secretariat for Doctrine and Pastoral Practices, was appointed in 1997 by Pope John Paul II to the International Theological Commission. In May, he became director of the Intercultural Forum at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C.

He said that in the context of ministry, it is important to understand the differences between legalistic and moralistic mentality - that is, the enforcement of rules as lawgiver or offering guidance that benefits someone.

When it comes to church teaching in ministry, that pastoral response is vital, he said.

"Most people think that when you make a law, it is to prevent someone from doing something," he said. "But the Catholic tradition says that laws are made for you and me to seek freedom. Freedom leads us to the greater good."

In the context of church teaching on human sexuality, he said, people who minister in Catholic gay and lesbian ministries must make known the fullness of the church's teachings.

"We cannot divide our bodily being from our spiritual being," he said. "What we do with our bodies matters to our soul. This is the root of the church's teaching about human sexuality: that communion, by its very nature, is creative."

Working in even the broadest framework of Christian faith, "communion is meant to be pro-creative, just like God," he said. The challenge in any ministry where human sexuality is discussed is to ensure that church teaching on the creative role of sexual communion is conveyed, while reassuring those being ministered to that chaste love is Christ-like love.

"No moral theory which does not confront the truth of their situation really helps them," he said. "It's not ministry. It's something else."

True friendship is about bringing others into the fullness of realizing their relationship with God, he said.

"The Catholic faith is about transforming the human person," he said. "We don't have to deny the struggle (people may encounter), but on the contrary, we have to acknowledge it."

The conference also provided an opportunity to pay tribute to two ministers to gay and lesbian Catholics whose work has been well-known for decades.

Bishop Walter Sullivan of Richmond was honored for his quarter-century of work with the gay and lesbian community, while Father Gene McCreesh — a Jesuit who served the Charlotte Diocese and who spearheaded the national conference's appearance here — was praised as a champion of those in spiritual need.

In a videotaped message from Towson, Md., where the ailing priest is in hospice care, Father McCreesh offered greetings and prayers to the conference participants.

"The one thing I wish to all of you (is) to join the Lord's own voice that God loves us all, that this is the night in which all are invited to come and to join," he said. "We are together as brothers and sisters, as sons and daughters of God, rejoicing all the grace that God has given to us all.

"How blessed we are to have such a God."

*Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org*


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# Faith surrounds, enriches deacon's life

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CLEMMONS — Catholicism has been a way of life for Rev. Mr. Jerry Schumacher since he was a child. He remembers his days as an altar server with a fondness in his spirit and warmth in his heart. He grew up around many Catholic families in his childhood neighborhood in Buffalo, N.Y., and he and his friends would walk to church and to the nearby Catholic school.

"Everyone I knew went to Catholic school. It was the norm, and Catholic education meant a lot to me," said Rev. Mr. Schumacher. "I learned enough Latin to serve as an altar boy in the sixth grade and enjoyed it."

His early dedication to his religion has remained with him through his life and propelled him into ordained ministry as a permanent deacon. He cannot imagine not being a deacon and has found a source of strength that he did not have prior to ordination in 1988.

"I have found that I have the grace and ability to do things I wouldn't have or couldn't have done before. It has intensified my life in Christ as savior and my dependence on that in my everyday life," said Rev. Mr. Schumacher, who serves at Holy Family Church in Clemmons. "I feel stronger as a Catholic."

That strength also provided much-needed support when his wife, Mary Ellen, died in 1999 from complications of diabetes. It is a subject about which the deacon still has trouble speaking, but he is comforted by her memory and acknowledges her presence throughout his work.

"She has been and still is a part of my ministry and always will be."

The two became reacquainted in college after losing touch in grade school. After a college courtship and graduation in 1957, they were married in 1958. Unfortunately, an illness while he was in the Army Reserves caused the newlyweds to miss their honeymoon. Their wedding took place in the midst of basic training, and Schumacher had succumbed to a lung infection.

During his time in the service, he wrote to his sister, a Franciscan sister, describing how the base chapel was a sanctuary for him. "I maintained my belief in God and always attended Mass. The chapel meant so much to me, and it gave me a presence that I needed. It (his faith) is the one thing that kept me going."



Rev. Mr. Jerry Schumacher

After being discharged, he began working in the accounting department of National Gypsum Company and settled with his wife in Buffalo. They raised their seven children while Schumacher moved up the corporate ladder and into the data processing division in the mid-'60s. Partly because of the cold temperatures and precipitation in Buffalo, in 1978, the entire company relocated to Charlotte.

"It came as quite a shock for me and my family. There was quite a bit of discussion during that six-week time frame, and we had to decide what to do. It caused some complications for us in the beginning, but I don't think it was a mistake to move here. I don't think I would have become a deacon had I stayed up there."

The Schumachers became very involved with St. John Neumann Church during its early years while settling in the growing Southern city. After leaving the company in 1983, he began working for Piedmont Airlines, now US Airlines, as a senior systems analyst and moved again to Winston-Salem. He says that his move to the Piedmont-Triad area was instrumental in his becoming involved with the permanent diaconate.

Msgr. Anthony Kovacic, who was diocesan director of the permanent diaconate at the time, was also the pastor at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem where Schumacher had become active as a parishioner. Msgr. Kovacic suggested the permanent diaconate to Schumacher, and he discussed it with his wife.

However, it was not the first time that the idea of the permanent diaconate had come up in the Schumacher household. During the time of the first diocesan class, Mrs. Schumacher thought that their children were too young for their father to make that kind of commitment to the church. This time, however, she agreed, and Schumacher was accepted into the diocese's second diaconate class.

Rev. Mr. Schumacher, who will celebrate his 66th birthday on Thanksgiving this year, has been serving at Holy Family Church for nearly a decade and is involved with Cursillo, his four grandchildren with one on the way and various other ministries. He says that sometimes, simply being there for someone in need is all he can do.

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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## RESPECT LIFE

### INTERCESSIONS FOR LIFE -- OCTOBER 2001

**October 7th:** For the grace to defend the Gospel of Life, that every baptized man and woman might defend by word and example the inalienable right to life from conception to natural death;
***We pray to the Lord.***

**October 14th:** For a spirit of gracefulness and care for all parents and grandparents, that we might honor all who have chosen the inestimable value of parental love;
***We pray to the Lord.***

**October 21st:** For the gift of faith, that we might see God's face in the hungry, the abused, the homeless, and all who are forgotten;
***We pray to the Lord.***

**October 28th:** For scientists and medical researchers, that all might use the gifts of intellect and ingenuity for the glory of God and the protection of the lives he has placed into their hands;
***We pray to the Lord.***

### UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

**Oct. 7: Respect Life Sunday: Life Chain!** Contact for Charlotte area churches: David Prophit, **704-554-8336** or Jeff Norkus, **704-595-6444**

**Oct. 9: Evening Retreat for Post-Abortion Healing:** St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte, Daily Mass Chapel, 7:30 pm. Call Martha, **336-659-1342**

**Oct. 9: Journey of Hope.** From Violence to Healing: Our Lady of Assumption, Charlotte, 7 pm.

**October 10: Evening Retreat for Post-Abortion Healing:** Our Lady of Mercy, Winston-Salem, 7:30 pm. Call Martha **336-659-1342.**

**October 12: Mass and Life Chain:** Holy Trinity Middle School. Time: TBA

**October 19-21: Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekend:** Living Waters Reflection Ctr., Maggie Valley. Call Paula Bolick, **828-684-8022.**

**October 26-28: Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekend:** Catholic Conference Ctr., Hickory; call Debbie or Martha, **336-659-1342.**

**November 15: Choices in Assisted Reproduction: A Guide for Catholic Families.** St. Gabriel, Charlotte, 7 pm. Call Respect Life Office **704-370-3229.**

**December 8: National Night of Prayer for Life:** Individual parishes

**December 25: Birth of Jesus Christ**

**December 28th: Mass in Remembrance of today's Holy Innocents** - the children lost to abortion! St. Vincent de Paul, Charlotte, 12:10 pm.

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES**
**Respect Life Office** - 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203 - **704-370-3229**
E-mail: MaggiFN@cs.com

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# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

October 5, 2001
Volume 11 ▾ Number 3


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God added his testimony by signs, wonders, various acts of power, and distribution of the gifts of the Holy Spirit according to his will.
— Hebrews 2:4




CNS PHOTO

**This is the poster art for Respect Life Sunday, observed Oct. 7 this year. The theme of the 2001 educational campaign is "Every Human Life Has Its Origin in the Heart of God."**

# U.S. bishops unveil Respect Life program

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In preparation for Respect Life Sunday, observed Oct. 7 this year, the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities released materials focused on the theme of "Every Human Life Has Its Origin in the Heart of God."

Included in the packet of materials was information on a program called "Rachel Goes to College," a campus outreach offering post-abortion healing, as well as six articles focusing on issues ranging from the death penalty to euthanasia and stem-cell research.

The bishops' Respect Life program begins each year on Oct. 1 and continues throughout the year.

"Evidence of a world without loyalty to God is not difficult to discern," said Bishop William G. Curlin. "There are countries where souls are crushed to make them conform to a pattern of society in which the state has usurped the place of God. We might be tempted to believe that such conditions could not exist in our own beloved America, where liberty is our proudest boast.

"Yet, there are some among us who continue to deprive the most innocent and vulnerable citizens of liberty by denying them the right to life through the tragedy of abortion."

Maggi Nadol, Respect Life coordinator for the Charlotte Diocese, noted the significance of bringing this year's theme to life.

"The theme for Respect Life for this year is a theme we have heard numerous times, perhaps stated with slight variations," she said. "While we may intellectually agree with it, our faith calls us to go further. It calls us to live the message and look at others with the eyes of Jesus.

"Often, the best place to start, and possibly the most difficult, is within our own families."

The campus outreach for the Project Rachel post-abortion reconciliation program, which is offered at more than 140 diocesan offices around the country, is highlighted this year because "the highest rate of abortion in the United States is among college-aged women," the program materials note.

"Most (college women) do not know where to turn for help," the materials added. "Many have no idea that help and healing are even available anywhere."

The six articles included with the program materials for 2001-02 addressed such topics as spiritual care for the dying, the death penalty from the perspective of a prison chaplain, raising children with Catholic values, and emergency contraception.

Other articles were written by Susan E. Wills, assistant director for program development in the secretariat, on emergency contraception; Dr. Anton-Lewis Usala, chief scientific officer and medical director of Encelle Inc., on stem-cell research; nurse and author Kathy Kalina, on support for the terminally ill; and volunteer prison chaplain Joseph Ross of Washington on the death penalty.

*For information on Respect Life events and programs in the Diocese of Charlotte, call Maggi Nadol, diocesan Respect life coodinator, at (704) 370-3229.*

### Catholic, Orthodox clergy seek common ground

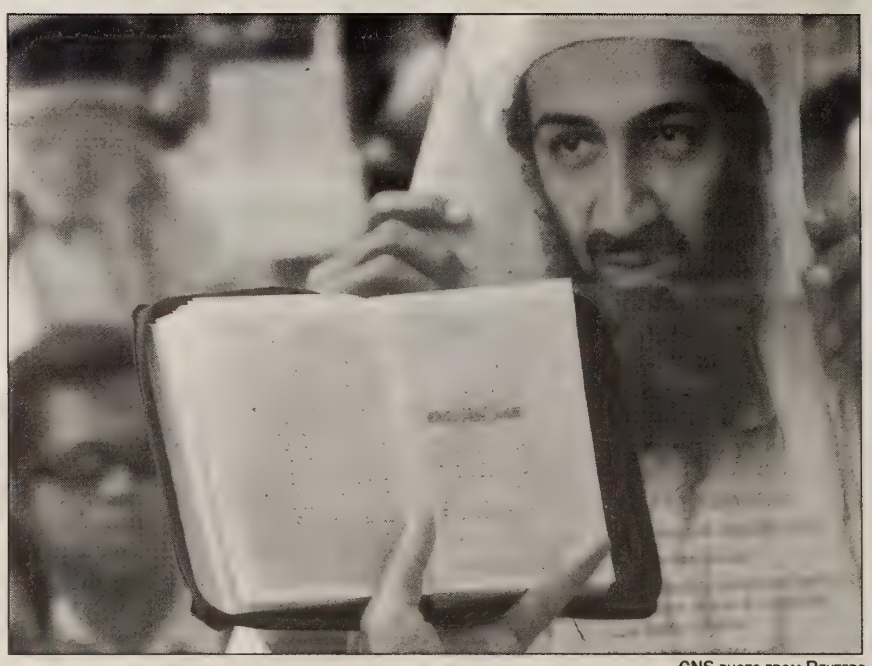
MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) — Nearly 200 Catholics and Orthodox turned out Sept. 21 for a forum on what it means in their churches to follow Christ. Organizers said it was the first formal Catholic-Orthodox meeting in the Twin Cities since 1988. Six clergy members, including Catholic Auxiliary Bishop Frederick F. Campbell of St. Paul-Minneapolis, formed a panel on the topic, "What Does It Mean To Be a Disciple of Christ Today?" Bishop Campbell said he believes the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks "have put our conversation in an entirely new context" and could help bring Catholic and Orthodox churches into a closer relationship. "Many issues (that arise from the attacks) will be religious and will involve faith," he said. "These historic events, I think inevitably, will have to draw us closer together."

### Head of Northern Ireland's police says sectarianism very high

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — The head of Northern Ireland's police force said the depth of bitterness and sectarianism in North Belfast is currently as high as any time over the past 20 years. "The violence is crazy," said Royal Ulster Constabulary Chief Ronnie Flanagan. "People must realize these situations can only have one outcome — the loss of life." Flanagan spoke Sept. 27 amid renewed violence in a Catholic community in North Belfast. Sectarian tensions in the Crumlin Road-Ardoyne district of Belfast have been high since early September because of a daily picket at Holy Cross Primary School, a Catholic girls' school. The picketers are Protestants who live close to the school and who claim that they are being intimidated by some of the parents of the Catholic schoolchildren.

### Armenia's tiny Catholic minority celebrates Mass with pope

ETCHMIADZIN, Armenia (CNS) — After watching Pope John Paul II being hosted and honored for two days by Armenia's Orthodox church, the country's tiny Catholic minority got its turn on the final day of the papal visit. They came with great enthusiasm if not in great numbers. About 5,000 Armenian Catholics joined an equal number of Orthodox at an outdoor Mass Sept. 27 at Etchmiadzin, outside the Armenian capital of Yerevan. The Catholics cheered their pope loudly as he mounted the steps of the altar, and the pope gave them a pep talk in his sermon. "As Armenians, with the same rights and duties of all Armenians, you are helping to rebuild the nation," he said. Catholics, too, are heirs to the country's history and culture, he said.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Koran is held up before Bin laden image**

**A copy of the Koran is held up before an image of Osama bin Laden during a rally against the United States in central Jakarta, Indonesia, Sept. 28. A leading Muslim cleric in Indonesia, home to the world's largest number of followers of Islam, warned that Washington could trigger a "war between Islam and Christianity" if it fails to prove its case before etaliating over the Sept. 11 attacks.**

### To draw vocations, religious must be holy, committed, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II told religious men and women the best way to attract vocations was personal holiness and a radical commitment to Christ. "Yes, it is necessary to show young people the face of Christ contemplated in prayer and tenderly served in neighbors with freely given love," the pope said in a message to participants in a Sept. 25-29 plenary meeting of the Vatican congregation for religious. The plenary meeting was focusing on renewed commitment to religious life, which particularly in Western countries has seen a severe vocations shortage in recent decades. In his message, released at the Vatican Sept. 27, the pope said a main role of men and women religious was to serve as teachers of holiness to the whole church.

### Foreign-born priests filling gaps in U.S. ministry

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At Saturday Masses for Hispanics in Lebanon, Tenn., a parishioner reads the homilies of Father Zacharias Payikat, a native of India, in Spanish. In the Archdiocese of Portland, Ore., church officials began borrowing priests from Oaxaca in Mexico about eight years ago when they discovered two sizable indigenous communities of Mexican immigrants living there, each of which spoke only its own Indian dialect. These situations illustrate the trend in U.S. dioceses to import foreign priests to fill pastoral gaps. Some foreigners come to minister to immigrants from their own country or to people from their own ethnic or language group. Others arrive just to plug up the U.S. clergy shortage.

### Interreligious perspectives given at forgiveness conference

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — There is no room for compassion or forgiveness for a crime of the magnitude of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack, or for the sin of rejoicing in it. That's what Judaism teaches, according to Solomon Schimmel, speaking Sept. 15 at Holy Cross College's conference about forgiveness. He spoke during the conference's interreligious theological forum. A professor of Jewish education and psychology at Hebrew College in Brookline, he was joined for the forum by Jesuit Father Edward Yarnold, of Holy Cross and Oxford University, and Mohamed Lazzouni, director of interfaith relations at the Islamic Society of Greater Worcester. Schimmel elaborated on his point about the terrorist attack, saying that even if the perpetrators repent, they cannot make reparation to the dead, the dead cannot forgive them and no third party can forgive them for taking another person's life.

### Catholic Charities in New York ready for long-term relief efforts

NEW YORK (CNS) — Catholic Charities of the New York Archdiocese began responding immediately after the World Trade Center was hit, and is getting set to continue into the long range future. Msgr. Kevin L. Sullivan, chief operating officer and acting director, said in an interview Sept. 25 that the needs were extensive because almost everyone in the New York area lost someone close or knew someone who did. He himself knew four people lost — two relatives of his staff members, a friend from college days and someone he sat with on an agency board. The needs will "emerge over time," arising in as-yet unknown ways and calling for more services and different kinds of services, he said.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**October 7 — 9:45 a.m.**
Meeting with adult education group and 11 a.m. confirmation
St. Elizabeth Church, Boone

**October 9**
Installation of Archbishop John Myers
Newark, N.J.

**October 11 — 2:15 p.m.**
Mass for seniors at Fall Day of Reflection
St. Mark, Huntersville

**October 12-14**
Directing permanent diaconate retreat
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

## Diocesan planner

**October**

**10** CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Bobbe Conlin at (704) 643-1376 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

**11** CHARLOTTE — The Fordham Alumni Club of the Carolinas invites the alumni of all Jesuit colleges to its second annual Jesuit College Networking Night to be held at Tyber Creek Pub, corner of South and Tremont, from 6-9 p.m. Jim Palermo, a Canisus graduate, will be the speaker. For more information, call Joe Robinson at (704) 366-3759.

**13** CHARLOTTE — The Respect Life group of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., will be sponsoring a pro-life Mass this morning at 9 a.m. followed by a rosary. For further information, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

**13** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Christian Mothers' Group will be hosting a children's consignment sale today from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. with items sold at half-price from noon-2 p.m. on the church grounds located at 3016 Providence Rd. Consignors are needed to provide quality children's clothing and equipment and maternity clothing. For information, call Sally McArdle at (704) 541-1756.

**13** CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be hosting its annual Ye Olde Village Shoppes Holy Family Bazaar today from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Attendants may take advantage of autumn and holiday harvest shoppes, bake shoppe, country store, quilt raffle and other events and-items. For further details, call the church office at (336) 778-0600.

**13** FRANKLIN — The Smoky Mountain Vicariate will sponsor a one-day workshop for Community Life Commission members and all persons interested in the

### Court to review mandatory contraceptives in health coverage

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CNS) — The California Supreme Court Sept. 26 agreed to review an appeals court decision requiring Catholic Charities of Sacramento to comply with a state law requiring employers to include contraception in health plans that cover prescriptions. Without comment, the high court's six judges voted in private in San Francisco to review the July 2 decision by the 3rd District Court of Appeal in Sacramento. Catholic Charities argued in a suit filed last year that the law should be set aside because it violates the group's religious freedom.

### International Caritas sends team to Pakistan to aid Afghans

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The church's confederation of Catholic relief agencies, Caritas Internationalis, is sending an emergency-response team to Pakistan to provide aid during the exodus of Afghan refugees. The eight-person team is made up of European and U.S. medical and operational professionals who have dealt with humanitarian crisis situations in the past, the Vatican-based organization said Oct. 1. Two operational experts from Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency, will be on the team. The Caritas response came as refugee experts around the world warned of a growing crisis in Pakistan, which is already home to tens of thousands of Afghans who have fled their country in recent years.

### Pope asks bishops to work toward holiness, rethink materialism

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At the start of a monthlong meeting on the bishop's role in the church, Pope John Paul II asked bishops to re-examine their attachment to material goods and recognize their need to work toward holiness. Poverty was "an essential trait of the person of Jesus and his ministry of salvation and is one of the indispensable requirements for the proclamation of the Gospel to be heard and welcomed by humanity today," the pope said Sept. 30. Nearly 250 bishops from more than 110 countries were gathering at the Vatican Sept. 30-Oct. 27 for a Synod of Bishops on how to revitalize their ministry.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Boys walk past destroyed vehicles in Belfast**

**Schoolboys walk among destroyed cars following a night of loyalist rioting along Crumlin Road in North Belfast Sept. 27. Police said rioting began when a peaceful protest in a Protestant area degenerated into violence. Thirty-three officers were injured when they stopped the crowd from moving into nearby Catholic streets.**

### Kidnapped Divine Word priest released in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia (CNS) — A Divine Word priest kidnapped by Colombian guerrillas was released unharmed, announced his missionary order. Father Pavel Sochulak, a 33-year-old missionary from Slovakia, was kidnapped Sept. 23 when armed men took him from a bus traveling to Bogota. The kidnappers were believed to be members of the National Arm of Liberation, one of Colombia's main guerrilla groups. The priest was released Sept. 27 in the war-ravaged Antioquia province in northwestern Colombia. Father Sochulak was handed over to two clergymen, said Father Noel Rebancos, a member of the Divine Word provincial council in Colombia.

### Participant calls synod 'in-service training' for bishops

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A participant in the world Synod of Bishops said the monthlong meeting would be "in-service training" in personal holiness and building up the entire church. Bishop Paul Khoarai of Leribe, Lesotho, said the meeting focusing on the ministry of bishops would be "kind of a refresher course," covering everything from prayer to promoting justice. The Lesotho bishop was one of several synod participants speaking at an Oct. 1 Vatican press conference.

### Mother Angelica suffers minor stroke

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (CNS) — Mother Angelica, founder of Eternal Word Television Network in Birmingham, returned to her "Mother Angelica Live" TV show Sept. 25 after a three-week absence due to a stroke. In a posting on its Web site, EWTN described the stroke as "minor" and said, "Her doctors firmly believe that the impact of this stroke is temporary and will result in little, if any, lasting effects." At the start of her Sept. 25 show the 78-year-old nun, a Poor Clare of Perpetual Adoration, joked about an eye patch she was wearing because she could not close her eye properly — one of several signs of slight facial paralysis resulting from the stroke.

### Opus Dei members hope founder will be canonized next year

ROME (CNS) — Members of Opus Dei said they have no confirmation their founder, Blessed Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer, will be canonized in 2002, but they hope it is true. Italian news media reported Sept. 29 that a commission of cardinals from the Congregation for Sainthood Causes had voted recently to recognize the healing of a 69-year-old Spanish radiologist as the miracle needed for Blessed Escriva's canonization. Msgr. Flavio Capucci, an Opus Dei member and promoter of Blessed Escriva's cause for canonization, said Sept 29, "The examination of the miracle on the part of the Congregation for Sainthood Causes has only provisional value. The final decision is up to the Holy Father and becomes public at the moment the decree is read; until then, there is nothing to do but wait."

### Thousands pledge peace at Web site after Sept. 11 attacks

CINCINNATI (CNS) — The Franciscan-sponsored Web site www.PledgePeace.org has reported an increase in activity since the terrorist attacks on the United States Sept. 11. Between Sept. 11 and 14 an undetermined number of site visitors have pledged 10,000 hours of peacemaking activities. The site passed the 900,000-hour mark Sept. 14, reported Judy Ball, a project coordinator. As of Sept. 26, pledges totaled 941,786 hours. Individuals who have visited the site since it was created in December 1999 are pledging to take some extra time to make the world a more peaceful place.

social ministry of the church. The workshop will be held today from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St. Augustinian Father Joseph Genito, director of the Augustinian Justice and Peace Office in Philadelphia, will be the presenter. For details about the Sept. 29 registration, call the church office at (828) 524-2289.

**14** CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., will be hosting a harp concert this afternoon at 2 p.m. Over 40 harpists from the Charlotte Chapter of the American Harp Society will present a concert of light, classical and sacred music featuring children, Suzuki and handbell ensembles. A love offering will be taken at the event. For more information, call the church office at (704) 554-7088.

**14** CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with Redemptorist Father John Smyth from St. James Church in Concord with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

**15** CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

**17** CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., will be hosting a session for those who have lost a parent or those working in bereavement ministry tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. The facilitator, Iris Prnadi from the Hospice of Charlotte, will be speaking about the strong relationships that people have with their parents. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

**19** WINSTON-SALEM — St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 E. 12th St., will host a neuro-linguistic programming (NLP) workshop presented by Jesuit Father Richard McHugh beginning tonight at 7 p.m. and concluding at 3 p.m. on Oct 21. NLP is a means of personal, social and spiritual growth which can lead to uncovering the meaning of spirituality and prayer. The program is free, but registration by Oct. 17 is required. For more information, call the church office at (336) 725-9200.

### Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — The Kabaka Dancers and Drummers of Our Lady of Consolation Church will be sponsoring a day trip to Atlanta Nov. 3 featuring holiday shopping at an outlet mall, a tour of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. historic sites, underground Atlanta and the "World of Coca-Cola." The trip via motorcoach will also include breakfast, lunch beverages and movies on board. For more information about the Oct. 25 deadline, call Sandy Murdock at (704) 568-1573 or Willis Joseph at (704) 568-3813.

CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel School Auction 2001 will be held Nov. 17 at the Museum of the New South, corner of College and 7th Sts. Merchants and silent and live auctions will be featured to raise money for the school. For tickets, call Teresa Luse at (704) 545-6555, and for questions, call MaryAnn Jerrum at (704) 542-2488.

### Ongoing

ASHEVILLE — The fall hours for the Nazareth House Family Ministry and Lending Library, 474 Haywood Rd., are as follows: Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m., Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Nazareth House is a family ministry dedicated to promoting the blessings of Christian marriage, chastity, natural family planning and post-abortion healing. For further details, call (828) 250-9690 or e-mail nazarethhouse@juno.com.

*Please submit notices of events for the diocesan planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# Young adults are resource for church, ministerial work

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

BELMONT — Catechists, college students, campus ministers and others working with the 18-35-year-old population gathered at Sacred Heart Convent on Sept. 28 and 29 to discuss the role of young adults in the church. The one-day institute, "Meeting the Challenges of Ministry with Young Adults in a New Millennium," provided information from a national young adult ministry symposium for campus and young adult ministers this past summer.

Joan Weber, coordinator of young adult ministry services for the Center for Ministry Development (CMD) in Connecticut, presented the findings to two groups and opened opportunities for discussion among those who work with young adults, many of whom are young adults themselves. The CMD, a non-profit, national, Catholic organization, offers training for young adult, youth and family ministers and religious educators.

Weber said no matter in which ministry people are involved young adults play key roles in that ministry in some way.

"We all have to become a more young adult friendly church," she said as she shared the research from "Ministry with Young Adults - A National Catholic Initiative," the six-year study funded by the Raskob Foundation, initiated by the Catholic Campus and National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Associations and conducted by the CMD, and the results of subsequent national meetings and gatherings.

"The ultimate goal of young adult ministry is to integrate young adults into the full life of the faith community. The key word is not 'young'; it is 'adult,'" explained Weber. "What young adults want from the church is what older adults want ...feeling welcomed in a parish, being provided with opportunities to help the poor and needy and being offered quality worship."

According to the data from the national initiative, young adults, some from the "Generation X" and "Millennial" eras, have key characteristics that need to considered when trying to formulate ways and ideas to bring young adults into parish life. Both groups are pragmatic, spiritual, willing to volunteer, have a fear of commitment, are more accepting of cultural diversity, are more technologically savvy and more mobile.



Photo by Alesha M. Price

**From left to right, Colleen McDermott, diocesan director of campus and young adult ministry; Joan Weber, guest speaker and Tom Tempia, youth ministry volunteer at St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville talk during a break at the young adult ministry presentation held at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont on Sept. 28-29.**

"One of the biggest challenges in young adult ministry is mobility. We have to teach young adults skills to pass them along to others to teach someone else," said Weber, who also reported how many young adults do not feel welcomed in various churches and feel excluded from parish life and their faith in general.

Maria Hernandez, campus minister at the Neumann Center at Duke University in Durham, said, "We work with campus ministers, so we have a lot of students who are involved with campus ministry and getting ready to go out into their professional lives. We just want to make sure they are well-formed and ready to be involved in parish life."

The question is how to attract young adults to parish life and involve them in parish programs. Weber suggested that older Catholics "move over" to allow young adults to belong to parish councils and committees. She told the audience to speak to at least one young adult at Mass next Sunday or invite a young adult to a parish or diocesan function. Offering young adults opportunities to serve and connecting them with religious communities are two examples of how people can reach out to the age group.

Weber stressed that the relationship is two-fold: If a parish is not young-adult friendly, then that person should try to find one that is, or he or she should work to make that parish more conducive to his or her needs as a young adult. However, all parishes should strive for the latter, to make their parishes more accessible to young adults.

"I received some strategies on how to approach this void that we have in our parish and how to attack what I see as a missing link," said Larry Cadorniga, director of youth ministry at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, who hopes to make some strides in young adult ministry in his parish. "We have a young adult core group, and I would like to integrate ourselves into the broader fabric of the parish by utilizing current parish activities."

One way Colleen McDermott, diocesan director of campus and young adult ministry, wants to reach young adults is through diocesan and regional gatherings where people can discuss issues that affect them and to become acquainted with other Catholics in their age range. McDermott hopes that diocesan endeavors like a yearly conference, retreats and the sustained involvement of vocational directors will help young adult ministry will continue to develop and grow in the near future.

She said that the Theology on Tap program that started in Charlotte and will continue this month and in November and the small faith community gatherings and retreats that developed from those gatherings helped in bringing people together to fellowship, pray and reflect on Scripture.

The diocesan office will also be offering a national training program for those interested in young adult ministry. The Diocese of Charlotte is only one of 12 dioceses in the country that received a grant to offer the four-weekend program to interested parties.

For more information about young adult ministry, Theology on Tap or the training program, contact Colleen McDermott at (704) 370-3212.

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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# 'We must remember victims of the Holocaust,' says Greensboro speaker

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — Dr. Aldona Wos is a child of a survivor of the Nazi concentration camps and a Polish immigrant of the 1960s who left her beloved Warsaw when her father, Paul 'Zenon' Wos, an expert on waterways, came to Florida.

They became citizens of the United States.

Eventually, Paul was called back to Poland to work. It was there that Aldona finished her medical education to become a doctor. Then, Aldona returned once again to her home of preference, this time living in New York.

She began a family and, at the birth of their twins, Ania and Andrew, Wos decided to give up working to dedicate her life to her children. Shortly thereafter, she and her husband, Louis DeJoy, were transferred to Greensboro, N.C.



Dr. Aldona Wos

Being from a very patriotic family, Wos couldn't understand why there was so little known of the 5 million Christian victims of the Nazi Holocaust.

She was among a group of historians, authors, survivors and art pieces comprising an education program at First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro Sept. 12 and 13 called The Polish Experience in World War II: Christian Holocaust Survivors.

Wos relates that what her father reads about the Holocaust is not what he remembers. He and millions like him are being ignored.

"Survivors have so much to say, especially about the horrors that affected their lives during those troubled times," she adds.

Not only is the view of Poland very different from the reality of what happened, but according to Wos, there is a general lack of knowledge and a very distorted view of what really went on there.

She sadly but proudly tells of how every member of her family and her friends' families from Poland were in either slave labor camps or concentration camps. Yet, as she stressed over and again, the true story of Poland has not come to light.

One of the main causes is that the population of Poland dropped from 35 million before the war to merely 19 million after the war by attrition through murder, exportation to Siberia and displacement. Hitler's intention was not religious. His orders, according to a decree given to the German army was "... kill without pity or mercy all men, women and children of the Polish race and language. Only in such a way will we win the vital space that we need..." "Be hard ... be without mercy. The citizens of Western Europe must quiver in Horror."

To achieve this goal, 85 percent of the Polish people were earmarked for liquidation. According to Wos, that is the sole reason that the death camps like Auschwitz were built. It was here that non-Jewish Poles were brought for extermination at least two years before their Jewish compatriots started to accompany them.

There, they all, Christian and Jew, ate, slept, suffered and died as one.

To shed light on the Polish liquidation during which Christians were forced to wear yellow triangles and the Jews a yellow Star of David, Wos has set on a mission to bring out the truth because of its historical and political significance.

To this end, the individual Polish/American freedom fighter decided, at her own expense, to bring together some of the foremost authorities on Polish history ever assembled into one place to tell the Polish story.

Speaking at the Greensboro event were Dr. Richard Lukas, a historian and author of such books as "Forgotten Holocaust" and "Did the Children Cry?", for which he received the Janusz Korczak Literary Award from the Anti-Defamation League; and Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski, a survivor of 5 1/2 years at Sachesenhausen who authored "Poland: An Illustrated History" and "Jews in Poland" among others.

Special guest commentators were Dr. Marek Chodakiewicz, from the University of Virginia; and Dr. John Radzilowski, from the University of Minnesota. Also on hand to give personal reflections were Michael Preisler, survivor of 3 1/2 years at an Auschwitz concentration camp; Bozenna Urbanowicz Gilbride, child survivor of German slave-labor camps who is a member of the Speakers Bureau at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and who received the prestigious Louis E. Yawner Award for N.Y. state Department of Education, Board of Regents; Wanda Lorenc, a teen-age concentration camp survivor who was awarded seven War Medals of Honor; Paul Wos, a concentration camp survivor who was a rescuer of 12 Jews and the recipient of Israel's Yad Vasham Medal of Honor, as well as a participant of the Warsaw Uprising and a member of the Polish Underground/Home Army for which he received six Medals of Honor.

In addition, renowned artist Jan Komski had put part of his collection on loan to Dr. Wos.

This group was to meet on Sept. 11 at the First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro and on Wednesday at UNCG. Because of security reasons, the Tuesday meeting was transferred to Thursday. Interestingly enough, one of the guest speakers was waylaid in New York because of the cycle of terror which began there.

The conference had an overflow crowd of more than 1,000 with many being turned away for lack of space at UNCG and a crowd of about 500 at First Presbyterian. The first phase of Dr. Wos' quest has been met. The truth is being told even as she makes plans to continue her efforts for the future.

# Msgr. Thomas P. Burke, veteran priest of Charlotte Diocese, dies at age 77

The Reverend Monsignor Thomas P. Burke, 77, of Belmont, N.C., died on Friday, September 28, 2001, at the Marian Center. Monsignor Burke was born on September 15, 1924, in Westport, County Mayo, Ireland, a son of the late Thomas Burke and Annie McGuire Burke. He was educated at Dublin, Ireland, and Gregorian University in Rome. He was ordained into the Priesthood in 1954. He served as a Priest in Enugu, Nigeria, for 17 years, where he built four parishes and four schools. He spent one year on the Ivory Coast airlifting children after the BiAfran War. He came to the United States and served in Detroit, MI, and Brooklyn, NY, prior to being invited to the Diocese of Charlotte by Bishop Michael J. Begley.



Rev. Monsignor Thomas P. Burke

Monsignor Burke served as Administrator of St. Benedict's Church in Greensboro, NC, as Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton, NC, Pastor of St. John's Church, in Waynesville, NC, and served as Rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral Parrish in Charlotte, and was a Missionary Volunteer in the US Virgin Islands.

On his return to the United States, Monsignor Burke served as the initial Administrator of Holy Spirit Church in Denver, NC. He served as Pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church in Charlotte, Pastor of Queen Apostles Church in Belmont until he retired in 1995.

During his retirement Monsignor Burke lived in Belmont, and the last two years, resided in the Marian Center with the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina.

Monsignor Burke is survived by his sister, Sister Mary Thomas Burke, of Belmont, NC; three brothers, Dominick F. Burke, JD., of Stratford, CT; Noel A. Burke, of Westport, County Mayo, Ireland, And Joseph M. Burke, of London, England. Monsignor Burke was preceded in death by his sister, Kathleen Caden.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, October 2, 2001, at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Road, Charlotte, with The Most Reverend William G. Curlin, Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte. Interment will be in Belmont Abbey Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5-8 p.m. on Monday, October 1, 2001, at St. Patrick Cathedral with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Marian Center, 103 Mercy Drive, Belmont, NC 28012, or to the Diocesan Seminary Fund, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28203.





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### Pope evangelizes in Kazakstan, urges unity in Armenia

YEREVAN, Armenia (CNS) — On a journey through parts of Central and Western Asia, Pope John Paul II tried to fan the flame of Catholic evangelization in Kazakstan and cement an ecumenical friendship in Armenia. To both countries he brought spiritual solace for the many people suffering from past and present trials — the persecutions of history, the outrages perpetrated by communism and the modern struggle for economic survival. Along his Sept. 22-27 journey, unfolding world events prompted the pope to condemn terrorism, urge caution in military retaliation against terrorists and emphasize that the church has no war to fight with "authentic Islam."

### Family grieves, churches survey damage after killer tornado

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two sisters active in their Clarksville, Md., parish were killed Sept. 24 when tornadoes ripped through the Washington metropolitan area. The unusual twister that killed Colleen Marlatt, 23, and her sister, Erin, 20, demolished temporary buildings on the campus of the University of Maryland at College Park, severely damaged a shopping center and smashed trees, windows and roofs at several Catholic churches and schools in the Washington Archdiocese. The Marlatt sisters were both students at the university near Washington. When the tornado struck, their Mercury Sable was picked up and carried over an eight-story dorm building, then smashed into a stand of trees 300 yards away. Described as devoted Catholics, both sisters graduated from St. Louis School in Clarksville and from Notre Dame Preparatory School in Towson.

### Muslim-Catholic couple share concern in aftermath of attacks

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It's almost hard for Teri Rizvi to remember a time when she couldn't spell Afghanistan, much less find it on a map. But the country, currently at the forefront of international news, is now part of her daily vocabulary and concern, particularly since her husband's family resides in neighboring Pakistan. And the concern goes both ways. Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Pakistani relatives have been calling and e-mailing Teri, who is Catholic, and her husband, Zafar, a Muslim, worried that the couple and their two sons, could be victims of anti-Muslim sentiment. Teri Rizvi, associate vice president for public relations at the Marianist-run University of Dayton, Ohio, reports that her family has experienced nothing but support from the local community.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS)

**Bishops gather for Mass opening monthlong synod**

**Bishops from around the world gather in St. Peter's Basilica with Pope John Paul II for Mass opening the monthlong Synod of Bishops Sept. 30. Church leaders were meeting at the Vatican for talks on the role of the bishop.**

### New Benedictine abbot in Oregon receives miter, crosier

MOUNT ANGEL, Ore. (CNS) — A majestic Mass Sept. 24 at Mount Angel Abbey officially welcomed the Benedictine monastery's new abbot and emphasized the abbey's strong bond with the larger Portland church. "We gather at the same altar," said Abbot Nathan Zodrow, who in July was elected 10th spiritual leader of the 118-year-old abbey. In front of a congregation that filled the abbey church to the upper-story arched walkways, Archbishop John G. Vlazny of Portland presented the 49-year-old abbot with his miter, crosier and ring. But the archbishop told him that "no gift will be more important in your leadership and service than your faith."

### Bishop Houck named president of Extension Society

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop William R. Houck of Jackson, Miss., has been named president of the Catholic Church Extension Society of the United States. Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, made the appointment on the recommendation of Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, who serves ex officio as chancellor of the Extension Society. Bishop Houck succeeds Msgr. Kenneth Velo, a priest of the Chicago Archdiocese who currently serves at Our Lady of Hope Church in Rosemont, Ill. A native of Mobile, Ala., Bishop Houck studied at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore and at The Catholic University of America in Washington and was ordained for the Archdiocese of Mobile in 1951. He was named an auxiliary bishop of Jackson in 1979 and became its bishop in 1984.

### Theology professor at Georgetown receives U.S. Catholic Award

CHICAGO (CNS) — Diana Hayes, associate professor of theology at Jesuit-run Georgetown University in Washington, received the 2001 U.S. Catholic Award at a Sept. 21 luncheon at Loyola University in Chicago. Since 1978, the editors of U.S. Catholic magazine, published by the Claretian Missionaries in Chicago, have given the award to an individual or group for furthering the cause of women in the Catholic Church. Hayes was recognized for her pioneering work as a "womanist theologian," a field she defines as a theology "of, by and for black women, which seeks to build a new community of faith that would eradicate racism, sexism, genderism, classism and homophobia."


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# After 20-year scrutiny, Vatican releases new book of saints

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Sts. George and Christopher have survived a 20-year scrutiny, keeping their traditional feast days in a Vatican list of saints approved for public devotion.

The martyr St. Philomena did not make the cut, though, in the revised "Roman Martyrology" released Oct. 2 at a Vatican press conference.

The new martyrology is a 773-page book listing saints and blesseds by their feast days and indicating that their public veneration is approved by the church, said Archbishop Francesco Pio Tamburrino, secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

The absence of a name like Philomena's "denotes the lack of an officially authorized cult," usually because there is not enough historical evidence to be certain that the person existed, he said.

However, in the case of St. Christopher and others, even if much of the information surrounding the saint is considered to be legend, evidence of public devotion going back to the first centuries of the church's existence is considered to be "empirical proof" that such a person existed, Archbishop Tamburrino said.

The archbishop and Cardinal Jorge Medina Estevez, prefect of the congregation, said others besides St. Philomena were removed, but they could not remember other names.

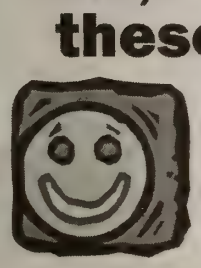
Many of the names removed were duplicates, they said. The research showed that the same person's name would be spelled slightly differently and entered on separate dates because the feast was celebrated on different days in different towns.

In 1969, Pope Paul VI removed St. Philomena from the universal calendar of feast days of the Roman rite and downgraded the celebrations of Sts. George and Christopher, leading some to believe they would be removed from the martyrology.

But Cardinal Medina, who proudly

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# TAC News Bytes
# Diocese moves ahead with wide-ranging technology plan

BY JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — A team of diocesan officials, parish leaders and technology advisers have pored through dozens of recommendations gathered at recent meetings across the diocese about how technology can benefit everyone involved in and impacted by the works of the church here.

The Diocese of Charlotte's Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) facilitated four regional meetings last month in the diocese's western, central and Triad areas. At the meetings, parish representatives gathered to exchange ideas and information with committee members. The meetings offered the chance to discuss goals and objectives, as well as challenges and concerns, of putting into action a sweeping technological plan that would involve every diocesan entity.

The meetings were the latest step in a comprehensive plan that will focus on enhancing the ministry of the diocese.

"Earlier this year, our diocese formed a technology advisory committee to determine how technology can effectively be utilized throughout the diocese. Included in this process was the creation of subcommittees — administration, education, social services, communications and pastoral — to concentrate on the needs of all concerned, and to participate in the development of a diocesan technology plan," said Karen Verney, co-chair of the administration subcommittee.

At the meetings, subcommittee members provided overviews of the ministries they represent, along with ways technology can enhance those ministries in the future.

The feedback parish representatives offered weaved around a variety of themes and concerns, including streamlining information diocese-wide, training for any new technology measures put into effect, and ways individual ministries can extend their evangelization efforts through technology.

The roundtable meetings were the latest step in the diocesan plan to utilize technology for the benefit of everyone involved in ministry here.

Technology experts, diocesan personnel and parish leaders were invited to a meeting last February to discuss an initial plan of action and to identify key areas where technology could be beneficial.

Follow-up meetings have taken place since then to refine those discussions and to discuss more specifically possible infrastructure of technology efforts, how technology could be used, how the diocese will train personnel and fund the project, and how to best implement the plan throughout the diocese.

As well, the five sub-committees continue to meet to further explore their own technology opportunities as they relate to a specific ministry.

Verney said she has been impressed by the collaborative spirit she has witnessed by all of the participants in these discussions thus far, from the initial meetings of the committee to the gatherings at the parishes.

"The technology plan for the diocese is following a dual path," said Bill Weldon, diocesan chief financial officer and co-chair of the Technology Advisory Committee. Deron Streitenberger, chief information officer of Republic Mortgage Insurance Co. and a parishioner at Our Lady of Grace Church, co-chairs the Technology Advisory Committee with Weldon.

"We are indeed developing a long-term and far-ranging strategic technology plan," Weldon said. "At the same time, we are addressing high-impact tactical opportunities that we can address now and move forward with specific recommendations. The regional roundtable meetings were extremely helpful in that regard."

*Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org*

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BISHOP MCGUINNESS HIGH SCHOOL
Lighting the way for Catholic education

# New high school beacon of light for Triad

BY JOANN S. KEANE
EDITOR

KERNERSVILLE — True Catholic school education is Christ-filled; its graduates are filled with Christ. Simple, concise and true. Such was the message of Bishop William G. Curlin on Sept. 30 as Bishop McGuinness High School flung open its doors, extended open arms and welcomed the community to join in celebration of the new high school's dedication.

The day would be one of gratitude and praise. For Principal George Repass, it was open house for parents and the community at large, coupled with the opportunity to openly thank the tireless efforts of so many who made the new building a reality.

It was the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, the high school chapel, however, that Bishop Curlin calls the 'heart of the school.' "Our young people will come here to pray collectively as a family; they will come here for a quiet moment of reflection."

"Christ makes this such a wonderful school," said the bishop during his homily. Following his message, Bishop Curlin would consecrate the altar, preparing it as a chapel, readied for the school to use for Mass. "We consecrate this altar on which the living Christ comes," he said.

The new school is the result of years of planning and dedication by many people, said Repass. "Our school has been blessed by a driving force; this force has been generated by a coming together of church and community leaders who have shown uncommon vision, recognition of need and determination to make it happen, no matter what obstacles."

"Today," said Repass, "we celebrate the loftiness of goals and determination, talents and character of those who came together to make the new Bishop McGuinness High School a reality." It is, he continued, "a reality that has inspired such awe and enthusiasm in the Catholic and larger community."

"This is a better physical plant than any high school we have in the three-city area," said Warren Corgan, who chaired the capital campaign. And the campaign was successful beyond expectations of its 2 million dollar goal. At the campaign end, 3 million dollars were tallied. "We raised more money than we thought we could raise ... that's gone a long way in financing the school."

Bishop McGuinness High School board president Joe Dickson sees the new school as a turning point for secondary Catholic education in the Triad. With 400 students, the new facility is barely at half its intended capacity. Dickson envisions that enrollment in the next five years. "It's almost like a beginning," he said. "This is a magnificent facility."

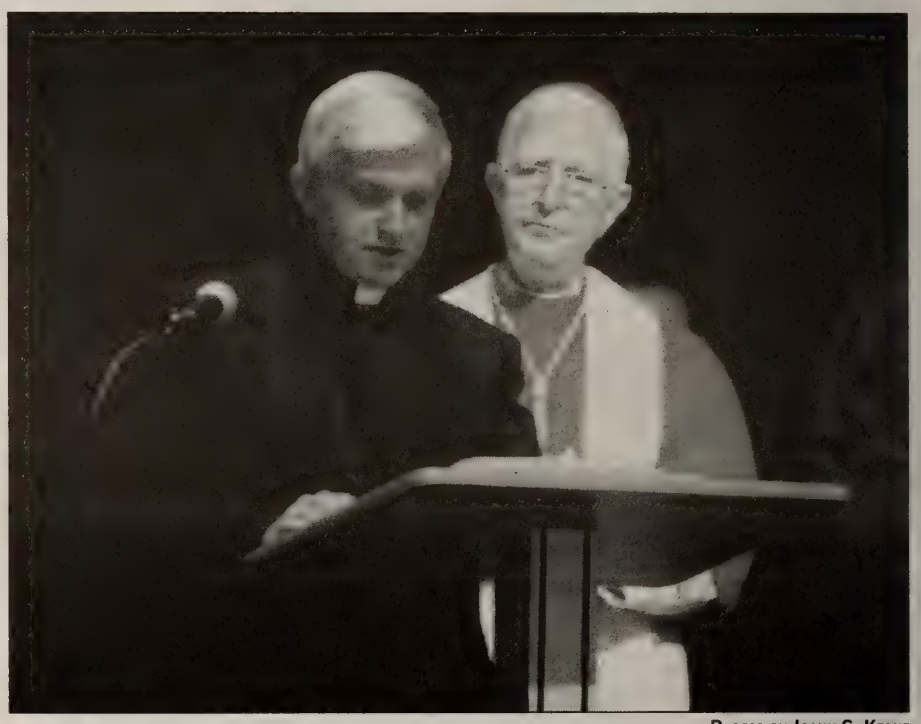
For Catholic education in the Triad region, the new high school does more than bring into focus that the schools are a unified system, said Superintendent Dr. Michael Skube. "We have a lot to be proud of," said Skube. Equally, he said, "It is people who have worked together to really look at the spirituality of what we're trying to do in terms of our schools."

The school building project has helped heighten the faith in the quality of Catholic high school education and revitalized those of us whose lives are devoted to it, said Repass.

"Bishop McGuinness High School has spent almost 50 years earning the loyalty and thanks of generations of students and their families," said Repass. The school demonstrates its effectiveness as an authentically Catholic - in the fullest sense of that description - environment for learning and growing. This, he said, embodies the future of Catholic high school education in the Triad.

"And we who are of [Bishop] McGuinness know with absolute certainty that it is a future that will be marked by excellence."

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org*



PHOTOS BY JOANN S. KEANE

**Above: Education Vicar Father James Hawker reads intercessions during the convocation of the dedication of the new Triad Catholic High School, as Bishop Curlin looks on.**

**Below: During the evening dedication service, Father Joseph Kelleher directed his comments to 'his friends,' the students, telling them, "I will always be there for you." Father Kelleher served Bishop McGuinness High School in several capacities over the years. Although retired, Father Kelleher remains a fixture on campus. He also thanked the students, "I am very grateful to you [students] for all you do for me because you make me a very happy priest. Pictured here, and Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor, listens as the priest speaks.**



We are proud to have been a part of the building team of the beautiful new Bishop McGuinness High School.

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Above left: Bishop William G. Curlin passes down the main aisle of the Immaculate Conception Chapel in Bishop McGuinness High School, sprinkling holy water as a sign of renewal.

Below left: "We consecrate this altar on which the living Christ comes," said Bishop William G. Curlin. During the dedication Mass, the bishop calls upon God to make the altar and the new chapel holy, visible signs of the mystery of Christ and the Church.

Pictured left: Students from Bishop McGuinness High School provided classical entertainment for participants of the dedication celebration.

Below: Campus Minister Martin Mata prepares incense for the school dedication Mass.



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# Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe travels through Salisbury Vicariate

By BETTE BARTHOLOMEW
Correspondent

SALISBURY — There could be no doubt in the local Mexican bishop's mind that Mary had appeared to Juan Diego in 1531 and requested that a church be built on Mt. Tepeyac, three miles northeast of Mexico City.

When Bishop Zumarraga had earlier ignored Juan Diego's request, Our Lady insisted that Juan return and give the bishop proof. She told him to hold up his serape and she filled it with unusual roses, which did not grow on that mountain or at that time of year anywhere.

No one was more surprised than Juan when he opened his serape and found an image of Our Lady on there painted with an unearthly substance.

For centuries, that serape was brought and laid on the altar steps, as people would approach it by crawling long distances on their bleeding knees just to touch or kiss it, because so many miracles had been ascribed to it.

The serape bearing the original image was preserved through the centuries and now hangs high up in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. It is witnessed by thousands.

Our Lady of Guadalupe was named patroness of Latin America in 1910 and of the Americas in 1945.

Dan Lynch, a retired banker, has taken on as his apostolate the scheduling and sending of a reproduction of the Our Lady of Guadalupe image around the world. Having recently returned from Russia, the 4-by-eight-foot image was received by Bill and Michelle Owens in Salisbury.

Bill Owens and Jose Capistrano escorted the image around the Salisbury Vicariate late last month, where she was being received love and admiration.

"I can't begin to tell you how well received the image was and (about) the generosity of the communities she visited," said Owens. He said plans in are in the works to bring the image back to the Charlotte Diocese next year.

The image visited many homes in the vicariate's Hispanic community and Sacred Heart School, and the Salisbury parish's youth group made 31 crosses to put around Our Lady, one for every day in October and to represent the thousands of abortions which are executed every day.

Sacred Heart also had a band, a procession to the church and a small fiesta following Mass and the rosary.

The multicultural flair of the ceremonies and celebrations emphasized Our Lady of Guadalupe as patroness of Latin America and the Americas, organizers said.

Bill Owens escorted her to the school of St. Leo School in Winston-Salem. The image also traveled to St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mocksville.

Jose Capistrano said, 'We Spanish consider Our Lady our mama; we want to honor her with love and festivities."

# Local Knights of Columbus council receives top international award

GASTONIA — Knights of Columbus Council 6700 of Gastonia has earned the distinction of Star Council, the international organization's top award for the 2000-2001 fraternal year.

The Catholic fraternal organization's headquarters located in New Haven, Conn., made the announcement. The award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership recruitment and retention, promotion of the fraternal insurance program and sponsorship of service-oriented activities.

The award was presented to the membership by District Deputy Ronald J. Dangelo at a special ceremony Oct. 1.

In announcing the local winner of the Star Council Award, Carl A. Anderson, president of the international organization, said, "Please accept my sincere congratulations upon attaining this prestigious award. The dedication to the principles and aims of the Order shown by your officers and members is exemplified by the high standard of excellence you have achieved. At the same time, I encourage you to carry forward this enthusiasm to meet the challenges that will face the Knights of Columbus in the years ahead."

"The Star Council Award is quite an honor for us. We're extremely proud of this accomplishment," said Eugene Courtemanche, head of the local group.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, family, fraternal service organization with nearly 1.6 million dues-paying members in more than 12,000 councils worldwide. In 2000, they gave more than 56.7 million hours of volunteer service and donated $116.1 million to charitable and benevolent causes, and most recently donated $1 million to the relief fund of the World Trade Center disaster.

# Diocesan faithful can take advantage of distance learning sessions

Those interested in seeking a master's degree or certificate in religious education or pastoral studies will have the opportunity to participate in LIMEX, a distance learning process through Loyola University of New Orleans. The information sessions will be held on the following dates:

Oct. 11 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Bishop McGuinness High School, 1725 NC Nwy. 66 South, in Kernersville; Oct. 20 from 1-3 p.m. at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., in Sylva; Oct. 21 from 1-2:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., in Charlotte and Dec. 8 following 9 a.m. Mass at St. Andrew Church, 149 Brook St., in Mars Hill.

For more information, call the contact in your area: Pat Millar at (336) 786-5892, Johanna Orlett at (828) 526-2418, Connie Milligan at (704) 364-3344 and Linda Schlensker at (828) 645-9633.


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**Book Review**

# Book on King James Bible a worthy resource for Catholics

REVIEWED BY JOANNE M. PIERCE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Catholic readers might be tempted to pass up "In the Beginning: The Story of the King James Bible and How It Changed a Nation, a Language and a Culture." After all, the King James Bible has been seen in the United States as the archetypal "Protestant Bible," having little or nothing to do with the devotional and worship life of Catholics.

**IN THE BEGINNING: THE STORY OF THE KING JAMES BIBLE AND HOW IT CHANGED A NATION, A LANGUAGE AND A CULTURE, by Alister McGrath. Doubleday/ Random House (New York, 2001). 340 pp., $24.95.**

Nothing could be further from the truth, as this intelligent and engaging book reveals.

Alister McGrath, professor of historical theology at Oxford University and dean of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, is a prolific author with numerous monographs, textbooks and more popular publications in print. His expertise in Reformation-era history and theology is clearly apparent in this meticulous book.

However, no one will find this a dull read. McGrath details the background of vernacular translations and the specific forces, events, and yes, even political machinations leading up to King James I's commission for a new English translation of the Bible soon after assuming the throne of England in 1603.

The first five chapters provide a fascinating look at the pre-history of the King James Bible. The development of the printing press is covered in Chapter 1, while Chapter 2 discusses briefly but clearly the evolution of English as a language valued in its own right.

The next three chapters provide a sketch of the theological and political forces at work during the Reformation, and how they shaped earlier vernacular translations of the Bible (both in English and other European languages). Both Protestant and Roman Catholic perspectives on biblical translations are addressed.

The heart of the book deals with the King James Bible itself. Its formation was wrapped in political, theological and economic maneuvering, as King James and his bishops tried to maneuver between the twin "dangers" of Roman Catholicism, seen as a threat to English political independence, and Puritanism, which was seen as a threat to the power of the monarchy. McGrath's discussion of the principles on which the translation was prepared is especially enlightening for Protestant and Catholic readers alike.

The final chapter outlines the lasting impact the King James Bible would have on English language and literature, both in Great Britain and in the United States. Finally, McGrath includes useful supplementary material at the end of the book, including a comparison of different English translations of one significant biblical passage (the beginning of Psalm 23), a historical timeline and a solid bibliography. A helpful general index closes the volume.

McGrath weaves an abundance of factual material into a lively, engrossing narrative. Frequent repetition of key points provides continuity for some readers; others, however, might find this an irritation rather than a help.

McGrath takes great care to give readers an "immediate" sense of the 16th and 17th centuries. Historical figures, for example, are described in a vivid and sometimes earthy way. These were real people struggling with questions of personal conscience, economic survival, and, in the end, the nature of faith in the face of life and death.

The King James Bible been an imporant factor in the evolution of the English language and English-speaking cultures across the globe. The process of its formation, approval and final acclaim as a masterpiece of English literature has much to teach us about changes in and controversies about Catholic devotion and worship since the Second Vatican Council. When all is said and done, we are still engaged in the same exploration: to discover the nature of faith in the struggles of contemporary life in the real world.

# Word to Life

**October 14, Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time.**
**Cycle C. Readings:**

1) 2 Kings 5:14-17
Psalm 98:1-4
2) 2 Timothy 2:8-13
3) Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The freezing rain fell thickly. The windshield wipers labored to maintain a narrowing patch of visibility. Ahead cars slid sideways toward the shoulder.

"I'm sorry, honey," he said. "We should've stayed home." They crested a hill, slowly, and a panorama of icy chaos lay below.

Cars were scattered across the freeway like kids' toys. Ahead, another hill, higher, icier.

"We'll make it," he said aloud and thought, "We're doomed." He sped up to add momentum, but a few yards from the top the car slowed, the wheels spun.

If they were lucky, they'd stall; if not, they'd slide backward into who knew what obstacle. He imagined the worst.

Behind, he heard loud, laughing voices. "Over here!" someone shouted. From nowhere a group of rosy-cheeked, knit-capped Good Samaritans appeared.

Finding traction for their feet where his tires had none, they stopped the slide, then pushed the car up over the hill. His heart raced with relief as the wheels gripped drier pavement.

Eager to escape, he steered for a path cleared by a truck and sped away. It wasn't until they were safely over the next hill that he realized he'd not thanked his rescuers. He wished he had at least shouted his appreciation as he drove away.

In Sunday's Gospel, only one of the 10 lepers Jesus cures comes back to thank him. In a moving demonstration of his humanity, Jesus marvels at their lack of gratitude.

In a dazzling show of his mercy he does not revoke their cure but leaves them free from their isolation and sickness.

The good news for us is that it's never too late to thank God for his gifts, which come, not in anticipation of our gratitude, but from his limitless generosity.

That we are sometimes paying enough attention to express our thanks is simply another gift.

QUESTION:
*Who in your life is someone you have forgotten to thank? What's one specific way you can express your gratitude to God for his kindness to you?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Oct. 7 - 13**

**Sunday**, Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4, 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14, Luke 17:5-10; **Monday**, Jonah 1:1—2:1, Luke 10:25-37; **Tuesday (St. Denis and Companions)**, Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 10:38-42; **Wednesday**, Jonah 4:1-11, Luke 11:1-4; **Thursday**, Malachi 3:13-20, Luke 11:5-13; **Friday**, Joel 1:13-15, 2:1-2, Luke 11:15-26; **Saturday**, Joel 4:12-21, Luke 11:27-28

**Scripture for the week of Oct. 14 - 20**

**Sunday**, 2 Kings 5:14-17, 2 Timothy 2:8-13, Luke 17:11-19; **Monday (St. Teresa of Avila)**, Romans 1:1-7, Luke 11:29-32; **Tuesday (Sts. Hedwig and Margaret Mary Alacoque)**, Romans 1:16-25, Luke 11:37-41; **Wednesday (St. Ignatius of Antioch)**, Romans 2:1-11, Luke 11:42-46; **Thursday (St. Luke)**, 2 Timothy 4:9-17, Luke 10:1-9; **Friday (North American Martyrs)**, Romans 4:1-8, Luke 12:1-7; **Saturday (St. Paul of the Cross)**, Romans 4:13, 16-18, Luke 12:8-12

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# Latinos start getting their due on TV in Showtime series

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — One aspect of American life largely neglected on television — Hispanics — gets at least some small due in the Showtime series "Resurrection Blvd."

The drama, which runs 10-11 p.m. EDT Tuesdays on the pay cable channel, deals with a widowed father (Tony Plana) and his five children, ages 18-30, all of whom live in the family home in East Los Angeles.

The family is Catholic and stays true to the faith, despite some of the children's misgivings about the church because of their mother's death.

"Catholicism is certainly a part of the Latino world, very much a part," Jack LoGiudize, one of the series' writers, told Catholic News Service.

"Sometimes (the children) go against Catholicism because they don't believe in it, because their mother died, was taken by cancer. So (they go through) all those feelings of 'I hate you. I hate the Catholic Church.' And then they come back to it, because it wasn't the church — it was just life," LoGiudize said.

Two of the sons (Michael DiLorenzo and Nicholas Gonzales) are boxers.

"It's a boxing family. Because it's a boxing family, it involves corruption," LoGiudize said. "Boxing is corruption, you know, so it's hard to stay clean within that arena — and this family does stay clean.

"At one time Italians were the big boxers. First it was the Irish, then the Italians, and then it was the African-Americans. And now it's the Latinos," he said, noting that on the American economic ladder, "Latinos are the lowest."

"It's about a clean Latino family that's struggling to do things the right way, and not doing it because someone's throwing money at them and they're taking dives — and how hard it is for a family unit," he continued.

"This show's about a family. And because this family sticks together, that's what makes our show work," LoGiudize said.

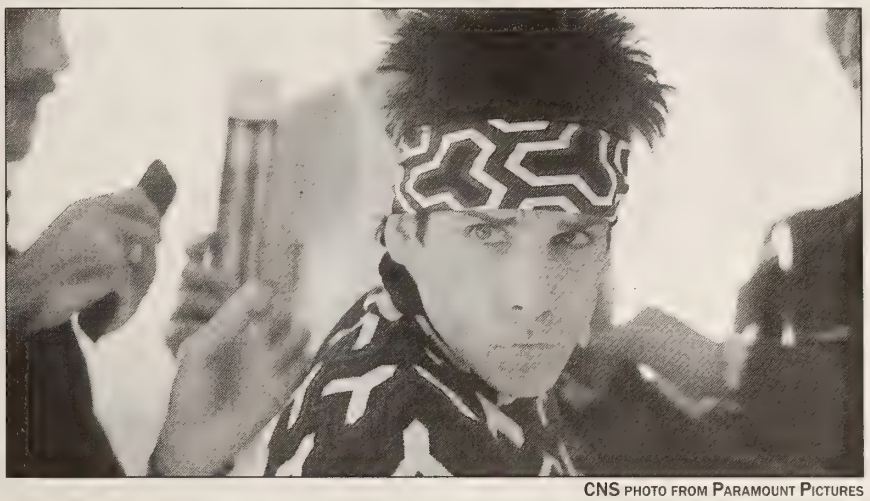
"Resurrection Blvd.," now in its second season, helped Showtime nab the 2001 Governors' Emmy Award in September for diversity in its programming.

It's the first weekly hourlong dramatic series to feature a predominantly Latino cast in front of the cameras and crew behind the cameras.

"Sometimes our language gets a little rough and sometimes we have brief nudity," LoGiudize acknowledged, but "it really is a clean show. This is a show about a really good family struggling to make it.

"Sometimes we'll have a murder, and sometimes we'll have a little bit of intrigue, but on our show, nothing is more important than when the family gets together," he said. "And I think that's what sells the show. It gets a little raw sometimes, but that's the way it is in East L.A."

If viewers don't care to see the brief nudity or hear the cursing on Tuesdays, they can tune in 7-8 p.m. Eastern time Saturdays and watch a cleaned-up version. "We cut it all out," LoGiudize said, "and our numbers keep going up."



CNS PHOTO FROM PARAMOUNT PICTURES

**Scene from movie 'Zoolander'**

**Ben Stiller stars as Derek in a scene from the new film "Zoolander." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

## Movie Capsules

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are recent capsule reviews of movies issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

**"Born Romantic" (United Artists)**

Offbeat British romance that follows six eccentric Londoners (including Craig Ferguson, Ian Hart and Olivia Williams) as they search for love at a salsa dance club. Better suited to undemanding audiences, writer-director David Kane's film features some fetching dance scenes and the occasional humorous moment, but the script simply can't make the lovelorn characters and quirky situations come alive. Some sexual situations and references, benign view of promiscuity, brief rear nudity and recurring rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Don't Say a Word" (20th Century Fox)**

Faulty thriller in which a New York psychiatrist (Michael Douglas) races against time to extract a mysterious code from a nearly catatonic young woman (Brittany Murphy) that will lead the ruthless kidnappers of his 8-year-old daughter (Skye McCole Bartusiak) to a valuable hidden gem. Though the frantic pace in director Gary Fleder's film heightens suspense, narrative inconsistencies and shaky characterizations produce a frustrating package. Intermittent violence with a few gruesome images, a fleeting sexual reference and sporadic rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Hearts in Atlantis" (Warner Bros.)**

Touching story set in 1960 in which a fatherless 11-year-old boy (Anton Yelchin) befriends an older man (Anthony Hopkins) renting a room in his house whom he discovers has a special psychic gift sought by dangerous men. Scott Hicks' tender film beautifully explores human frailties and vulnerabilities yet is often weighed down by its own heavy-handedness. Brief violence including a rape scene and fleeting crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

**"Training Day" (Warner Bros.)**

Raw drama in which a Los Angeles rookie cop (Ethan Hawke) has one day to prove he's got the right stuff to be part of an undercover drug-busting team only to discover its leader (Denzel Washington) is as corrupt and as murderous as any of the drug dealers. Director Antoine Fuqua turns a story of moral choices into a bloated action film where violence is a poor substitute for substance. Excessive gory violence, racial stereotyping, gratuitous full nudity, constant rough language and brief profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Pope says trip to Asia encouraged minorities, interfaith work

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said his trip to Kazakstan and Armenia helped spread a message of interreligious and ecumenical cooperation, while encouraging the small Catholic minorities in both places.

The pope, speaking at a general audience Oct. 3, thanked religious and civil authorities for the success of his Sept. 22-27 trip — the first by any pope to either Asian country.

In the wake of the U.S. terrorist tragedy and the build-up of military forces for a possible strike against militant Islamic groups, the pope said he hoped his appeal in predominantly Muslim Kazakstan for worldwide religious harmony had an effect.

"From that country, in which followers of various religions live peacefully, I reaffirmed forcefully that religion must never be used as a reason for conflict," he said.

"Christians and Muslims, together with believers of every religion, are called to firmly repudiate violence, in order to build up a humanity that loves life and that develops in justice and solidarity," he said.

The pope said he wanted to bring Kazakstan a sign of hope after the long years of Soviet repression, which saw the country used as a testing grounds for nuclear weapons and as a destination for hundreds of thousands of deportees, including many Christians.

"In my encounters with the authorities and the people, I clearly perceived the desire to overcome this harsh past, in which human dignity and human rights were oppressed," he said.

He said he was encouraged that modern Kazakstan, with more than 100 ethnic groups, was committed to developing a free and fair society. The country's voluntary abandonment of its nuclear weapons was a sign of its commitment to peace, he said.

In Armenia, another former Soviet republic that gained independence 10 years ago, the pope said he wanted to pay homage to a Christian people that has endured unspeakable sufferings through the ages. Among them, he said, were the "mass exterminations" at the beginning of the 20th century — a reference to the 1.5 million Armenians killed by Ottoman Turks.

The pope thanked the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Catholicos Karekin II, for hosting him throughout the visit and said the joy he felt at the various ecumenical encounters would long remain in his heart.

The pope said he was moved by his final event marking 1,700 years of Christianity in Armenia, a brief visit to a dungeon where tradition says St. Gregory the Illuminator prayed 13 years for the nation's conversion, which finally came in the year 301.

The pope disclosed that he had brought back to Rome a votive lamp as a remembrance of the site and placed it in a new chapel in the Vatican's Synod Hall, where the pontiff was presiding over a monthlong Synod of Bishops.

# On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist



### Blessing the Barbecue

Different cultures have unique blessing ceremonies: house blessings, blessings of animals, blessings of fishing vessels, blessings of lottery tickets (just kidding).

Thus, my daughter-in-law's recent gift to my son makes me wonder if it might be time to consider an American Blessing of the Barbecue. A barbecue grill like this baby should not be wheeled onto one's property without some kind of ceremony besides blowing out a handful of candles. This hummer is unreal.

It resembles a 1954 Nash, only with nicer paint and wheels, and no doubt it smokes less. It might be faster in a straightaway too.

For those not familiar with a 1954 Nash, think of a commercial hair-setting dome crossed with a giant potato with training wheels.

This barbecue machine has to weigh roughly the same as a forklift, comes with a trailer hitch and should be licensed with the motor vehicle people. It features about the same number of levers, dials, gauges, switches, knobs and valves as the torpedo room of a World War II submarine, and I am pretty sure its propane tanks could power one for a couple days.

The owner's operating manual is about the size of a Tom Clancy novel — in hardback.

This woman obviously knows my son well. He inherited the switch-knob-button-pushing gene from his mother's side of the family. At age 4 he actually started our 1964 VW Beetle and drove it into his pre-school's chain-link fence.

You know the kind. They cannot ask, "What does this switch (or dial, handle, button or crank) do?" without simultaneously pushing, pulling, shoving or turning it. I don't know why they even ask the question because they are about to answer it for themselves.

"I think this thing is a distant relative of that wizard machine in the Wizard of Oz," I teased him. "I still like mine better."

He smiled. "At least I don't have to have a fire permit to use mine."

"It's old-fashioned and practical," I countered.

"You got a point there," he smiled. "Not many people out there attempt to barbecue over a washing machine tub."

People make fun of my BBQ, which really is the metal tub from an old washing machine. I had three legs welded onto it in tripod fashion some time ago. One of the welds burned through though, so I have one side propped up on a cinder block. Still works just fine. The holes in the sides let through lots of air for the fire.

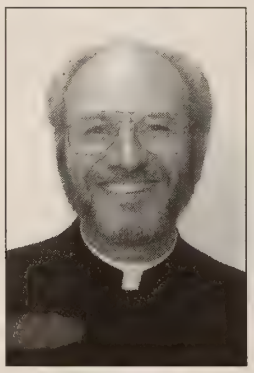
For a grill I welded pieces of rebar together in a grid. It's a little over stout, but makes great burn marks on steaks. And I can use it for a boat anchor. I don't use propane, only wood.

"I think you should invite Msgr. O'Kneel over for a blessing of the barbecue party," I suggested.

"Does that mean I would have to avoid barbecuing meat on Fridays?" he laughed.

Actually, I think he had a good point. At least he didn't make any jokes about "holy smoke."

*Comments are welcome. E-mail Uncle Dan at cnsuncle@yahoo.com.*



# Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH, Glenmary
Guest Columnist

### Out of Mourning — A Reflection

How can the Christian Scriptures help us deal with the innocent workers at the World Trade Center, the gratuitous sacrifice of airline travelers, or the undaunted dedication of New York's Finest and the NYFD?

What images bring understanding? Rachael weeping for her children? Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane? Mary standing at the foot of the cross? Each suggestion brings a nuance, an insight, a reflection. Yet making sense of the magnitude of violence on Sept. 11, 2001, begs for logic not easily found.

Scripture, not political science or economics, addresses the issues that confound us most profoundly: the spirit of evil, the terror of violence, the grasping of greed, the power of death. Reason fails to satisfy. Finding the appropriate image from Scripture promises the needed balm to heal our wounds and build a better world.

"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers" (Lk 10:29). This story about violence begins with the victim who could be anyone. Traveling is risky business. But the parable highlights the Good Samaritan who brings compassion in his heart and spends resources from his means.

In the midst of smoke and fire over 300 police and firefighters rushed to victims of the attack and gave their lives in the process. Unnumbered volunteers streamed into New York to share their skills in medicine and disaster relief. On one airliner, passengers rose against the terrorists and struggled to wrench control from them. These images remind us that while absolute protection can never exist, disaster calls forth Good Samaritans who testify that real security rests with the spirit of community. They devote themselves to the victims and prefigure the eternal care of the Good Shepherd.

Eventually we yearn for perspectives about the cause. What Scripture applies now? How do the impoverished and powerless of the world see us? Does "I-was-hungry-and-you-gave-me-to-eat" of Matthew 25 apply? Or does the Rich Man and Lazarus better suggest an image? The targets of the terrorist attack, the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, symbolize our economic and military strength. While America contributes the most in absolute dollars to the world's humanitarian causes, it shares a smaller percentage of its GDP than many other countries. The two copper coins of the Widow's Gift in Mark 12 represented more commitment than the great sums of the rich people. Solidarity, the principle that can unite the world and promise the greatest security for all, combines a spirit of commitment and common good with its bequest of dollars.

Most troubling appears the proposed responses to the terrorist attack. What image of Scripture now? The Holy War? Jesus expelling the moneychangers from the temple? Since violence begets more violence, the high ground belongs to a proportional and creative non-violent response. Jesus rebuked Peter and told him to put away his sword, because "all who take the sword will perish by the sword" (Matt 26:52.) The only future lies with supporting a serious world court to try crimes against humanity.

Final image: Christ on the cross hung between earth and heaven to redeem humanity. On Calvary the blood of Christ mingled with the blood of criminals. Father Mychal Judge, killed while ministering to a fallen firefighter, prayed as the church in the midst of chaos and evil at a place where the blood of terrorists and victims mingled at the base of the World Trade Center. Calvary came to America, but with it the possibility of a new experience of Resurrection for those who understand the images.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### The Gift of Letting Go

Bill LaRousse is a sensational guy. We attended college together and he was someone admired and liked by most. I can't remember a bad word spoken about the man.

Sadly, in our freshman year, Bill's dad died. His already close ties to his mother, Mary, and his brother, Lloyd, were only strengthened. The loss seemed to make them even more aware of their need to be a close-knit family. But after college, Bill decided that he wanted to follow in the footsteps of his Uncle Walter, a Maryknoll missioner who for many years has served some of the world's neediest people. Now, Bill is a Maryknoll missioner, too, and for most of the past 20 years he's been a source of faith and practical assistance to the people of the Philippines. He rarely gets home but communicates with his Mom and brother often.

I respect Bill's choice of ministry immensely. It demands a special gift, that of detachment, the ability to step away from what we love for the sake of a greater good, or a more profound need. There's no doubt that Bill loves his family, but there is even less doubt that his presence in the Philippines has made an incredible difference for the good.

Chris Cardone is a Dominican priest. He, too, was a local boy loved by all who knew him. Chris chose to leave a privileged life, strong family ties and personal popularity to become a missionary in the Solomon Islands. On his infrequent visits, Chris comes back looking too thin and tired, even sick with malaria. But I've never seen him unhappy. In fact, comfortable as his R-and-R may be, he always gets antsy after a while. He wants to get back to the people he loves and serves. In recent years, Chris's family and friends have hoped that his assignment would end, and that he'd come home to be the son, the brother and the uncle they've been missing. Then, just as that looked possible, things changed dramatically.

Chris was selected to become a bishop for the people of the Solomon Islands. Now, every priest offered the chance to be a bishop can refuse it. In this case, you might think that was a real possibility. After all, agreeing to being a missionary bishop means that we are not likely to see Chris Cardone back home on any permanent basis until he's ready for retirement. But "yes" is exactly the answer Chris gave, though it came with great personal sacrifice. At the Mass held to celebrate Chris Cardone's elevation to the episcopacy, no moment was more tender than the one in which he thanked his parents. That emotion-laden acknowledgment recognized that in choosing to serve, he may never again live in his parents' homeland.

Bill LaRousse and Chris Cardone have made a choice to be people of detachment: people who love their families deeply, but love the call to help God's larger family even more. Theirs is a life of sacrifice and of self-giving. Some may see in their decisions something extraordinary. Indeed, they have made heroic choices. But they are not alone. Parents make similar sacrifices.

Every day you rise at dawn to go to work to support your family, you are self-giving. Every time you do without something you want so that your children can have what they need, you are just like Chris and Bill. Think about it: after years of loving, educating, encouraging, nurturing and sacrificing for your child, what's your ultimate purpose? To let them go so that they can create a unique existence, independent of the very people who formed them, just as Bill and Chris live so that their people will know freedom as God's children. Detachment is never easy. But it's the way we choose to love others more fully than ourselves. It's a power each of us has for making God's world a better place.

# The Bottom Line



ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

### Mystery Story Holds Clue

Everybody loves a mystery story. I was attracted to one that appeared recently on the front page of my area's daily newspaper, headlined "Mystery Chairloom."

The subtitle read, "Family Keepsake Hid Secret Message." The story told of a chair that had been brought by two sisters to an upholsterer, Monte Wright, in Danbury, Conn.

When Wright took the old seat out, he discovered a series of dots, like dominos, burned into the rail that had been hidden behind the chair's seat. Clearly, it looked like a message, but what did it mean?

The sisters, Nancy Kear Johnson and Kathi Kear Rainville, probably very excited about this find, related a story. The chair had been given to their great grand-uncle, New York Judge Edward B. Kear, by a prisoner at Sing Sing, the notorious prison in New York state a century ago.

This man had made the nicely carved, upholstered chair as a thank-you to this judge, even though he was the man who had sent him to prison. Passed down through four generations in the family was a story saying that somewhere in this chair was a message from the prisoner to their great grand-uncle. Now, for the first time, it appeared to be true.

The story invited anyone reading this who could crack the code and decipher the message to come forward.

As I read the story, what really caught my attention was what the sisters said about their relative, a Republican judge in Westchester County, N.Y., in the late 1800s. He was a Quaker, and he kept in touch with the men he sentenced, visiting many of them while they were in prison. Apparently he visited this one man in Sing Sing on a regular basis, helping him change his life for the better.

In gratitude, the man made the chair while he was in prison, the sisters said. When this man was subsequently released, he and the judge stayed in touch.

I have done much prison work since my son and his wife were murdered, and what I see going on in our criminal justice system today is a far cry from what I read in that story. The prisons are inhumanly overcrowded, with little within them that constitutes a semblance of rehabilitation.

If prisoners today could be visited by the judges who sentence them, showing compassion, as Kear did, I wager we'd see a reduction in the high recidivism rate on the part of so many released prisoners, made worse by their experience behind bars.

I've read much about Sing Sing because the brother of an aunt by marriage was executed there. Scott Christianson, in his book, "Condemned," relates how 606 men and eight women were executed in the electric chair at this infamous prison from 1891 to 1961.

This was a horrendous prison. I found the fact that a judge would visit a man he sentenced there to be a story of hope about human compassion.

There's a great postscript to the mystery story. The riddle of the dots was decoded by an area woman named Phaedre Fayad. The prisoner's message was, "I am innocent, but I forgive thee."

Today we have more than 2 million inmates in our nation's prisons. We're finding an uncomfortable number to be innocent. If they had a Judge Kear, perhaps they, too, could be moved to forgive.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Thomas a Kempis' "The Imitation of Christ"

*Q. What is your opinion of the book by Thomas a Kempis, "The Imitation of Christ"? A priest strongly urged me to read it for meditation, but I'm not finding it helpful. It seems so "otherworldly," and not much connected to my life. It's been a classic for centuries, the priest said, so maybe I'm missing something.*

A. "The Imitation of Christ" has indeed been one of the most widely read books on Christian spirituality nearly ever since it was written, probably sometime early in the 15th century. Printed in numerous languages, its beneficial influence on Christian spirituality has been immeasurable.

You put your finger, however, on one reason other spiritual writings have been found more useful in these later times.

The "Imitation" was among the first works of what was then referred to as "Devotio Moderna," modern devotion. It was called modern because it placed greater emphasis on the inner life of the individual, on interior meditation, in opposition to the rather speculative and philosophical focus of spirituality in preceding centuries.

"Devotio Moderna" centered more on Christ's humanity and on self-denial. It was especially suspicious of scholarly speculation. What does it profit if you speak learnedly about the Trinity but displease the Trinity by your lack of humility? it asked. "I would rather feel contrition than know how to define it" (I.1).

Another favorite theme was that involvement with the world brought only temptation and danger. It quoted approvingly the noted Roman philosopher Seneca's statement, "Whenever I go out among men, I come back less a man" (I.20).

In other words, the "Imitation" seemed more a guide for monks and women religious than for people at work in the world. The message, not uncommon at that time, seemed to be that the model of Christian spirituality was monastic; people in the world, therefore, became holy only insofar as they imitated the prayer and self-constrained life of monks.

"The more constraint you put on yourself," said the "Imitation," "the more progress you will make; that is certain" (I.25).

This view of the spiritual life was countered by later writers who maintained that all vocations and professions provide the means and direction for a saintly life, that holiness was closely connected with doing one's daily work well, within the framework of Christian love of God and neighbor.

An early and influential example of this approach was St. Francis de Sales. Writing nearly 200 years after the "Imitation," he declared in his "Introduction to the Devout Life" (Chapter 3), "It is an error, nay rather a heresy, to wish to banish the devout life from the army, from the workshop, from the courts of princes, from the households of married folk."

Devotion which is purely contemplative, monastic and religious, he continued, cannot be practiced in these "worldly" callings, which are also suitable for leading to perfection.

Writings and teachings along these lines by St. Francis significantly inspire Catholic and other Christian spirituality to our own day. In fact, even admitting his somewhat dated style and expressions, it is still difficult to find a book for Christians in any walk of life more down to earth, practical and encouraging than his "Introduction to the Devout Life."

"The Imitation of Christ" continues to provide solid guidance for our spiritual lives. It only needs to be balanced, perhaps in some instances corrected, with a conviction that Christian sanctity for most of us is intimately bound to our vocations and relationships with each other, that here too the church lives and carries on the mission given it by our Lord.

# St. Pius X has 100 percent participation in Crop Walk

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — For the first time in its 21 1/2 years of sharing and caring, St. Pius X School has achieved a goal of 100 percent participation by all of itsstudents, according to Vice Principal Carmel Kessler.

Kessler says that whereas in the past, the school participated on a Saturday, this year's participation is probably the result of having the Walk during school hours.

The school's portion of the Crop Walk, which raises funds for the hungry in Greensboro and throughout the world, took place throughout the day on Wednesday, Sept. 26. Each class walked for a half hour during the course of the day.

This is but one of many Crop Walks arranged by religious communities, schools, businesses and civic organizations throughout the Greensboro area. The area goal set for this year is $221,000, the proceeds of which are to be divided in portions of 25 percent for Greensboro's Urban Ministry's Potter's House Community Kitchen, which feeds more than 350 people per day. The remainder goes to the World Church Service for their overseas effort to feed and educate the poor and needy in countries like Vietnam, says Vicky Sprieger, co-chairperson for the St. Pius X Parish/School Crop Walks.

To show the enthusiasm of the entire school community, Sprieger indicated that parent sponsors bought all of the T-shirts for both students and staff. In addition, the school has arranged to have a disc jockey to play music while the students did their walk.

The DJ was P.J. Stanford, an eighth-grade student at St. Pius X.

Stanford, who has attended St. Pius X since kindergarten, has his own setup with which he performs for community events. He also volunteers to play at basketball games and will be the DJ at the school's upcoming Christmas Dance.

Pledges were handed in after the walk.

According to Sprieger, the total of St. Pius X proceeds will hopefully beat the $20,000 figure raised by this event last year.

Eighth-grader Dennis Studer says he is "happy to participate in order to help those are not as fortunate as we are."

Contributing his own allowance for the cause, eighth-grader James Witherspoon claims that this Walk "means I'm helping even if its only one person. It still makes a difference. This is something I wanted to do."

Kate Grussing is an eighth-grade student who says she is "very happy to be participating in the Crop Walk."

"It's my way of doing something for the community," she said.

"If I raise money, then I'm basically helping (those in need)" says Ashley Moore, an eighth-grader.

All proceeds collected by St. Pius X School will be added to the overall contributions of the Parish Crop Walk, which will take place at Oct. 21 at the Greensboro Coliseum.

CROP was founded in 1947 under the wing of Church World Service. Its mission was foremost to assist Midwest farming families to share their goods with people in Europe and Asia following World War II.

Over the decades, CROP no longer serves as an acronym; it covers the wide range of community, interfaith hunger education and fundraising efforts sponsored by Church World Service and involving 22 regional offices across the nation.

The first Crop Walk took place in Bismarck, N.D., an event that raised $25,000 to help stop hunger.

Now, about 2,000 communities across the United States sponsor Crop Walks.

This year, officials predict, Crop Walks will share more than $3.5 million with food banks, food pantries, community gardens and other local efforts nationwide.

# Gathering billed as 'largest death penalty abolition rally in N.C. history'

RALEIGH — Actor Danny Glover will be the keynote speaker at a march and rally against the death penalty Friday, Oct. 19 at 1:45 p.m. in downtown Raleigh.

The march will proceed from the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty conference site at the Brownstone Hotel (1707 Hillsborough St.) to Central Prison. It will also make stops at the N.C. Supreme Court, State Capitol, General Assembly and Executive Mansion. Return transportation will be available.

In addition to master of ceremonies Danny Glover, speakers will include representatives of state and national death penalty organizations, legislators, religious leaders, students, attorneys and members of the Journey of Hope... from Violence to Healing, a group of murder victim family members who will be nearing the end of a 17-day speaking tour of North Carolina.

Organizers hope that this will be the largest march and rally for abolition of the death penalty in the history of North Carolina.

The march is part of a four-day 25th anniversary conference of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. This is the first time the conference is being held in North Carolina. Conference cosponsors include North Carolinians Against the Death Penalty and People of Faith Against the Death Penalty.

Highlights of this year's conference include a panel discussion on the North Carolina moratorium movement; a clergy breakfast; and a lot more, including keynote speeches by Nation journalist Bruce Shapiro; Sister Helen Prejean, author of "Dead Man Walking"; and Robert Meeropol, son of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and director of the Rosenberg Fund for Children.

To register for the conference, visit www.ncadp.org.

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## Pastoral care training sessions continue this month

CHARLOTTE — There will be free pastoral care training sessions, sponsored by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministry, St. Gabriel Church and St. Matthew Churches, continuing Oct. 9, 16 and 23 for parish volunteers to provide pastoral care to the elderly in retirement facilities, assisted-living facilities, nursing homes, memory-impaired facilities and for the homebound. All training sessions will be held at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., from 7-9 p.m. To register, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

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# NEW BOOK, from page 7

claims St. George as his patron saint, said: "St. George was never taken off the calendar. His feast was lowered from a mandatory to an optional feast, but no one ever said he did not exist."

Although the martyrology's name refers to its roots as a listing of Christians who were martyred for their faith, over the centuries it was expanded to include all men and women beatified or canonized by the Catholic Church.

Archbishop Tamburrino said the fact that someone is not listed in the martyrology does not mean he or she is not a saint. The tome is simply a liturgical book for authorized devotions in the Roman rite; it does not claim to be "a complete list of all the saints from Abel up to today."

The last edition of the martyrology was published in 1956, so the most noticeable difference in the new volume is the addition of the hundreds of people beatified or canonized by Popes John XXIII, Paul VI and John Paul II.

In fact, Archbishop Tamburrino said, the new martyrology also includes the seven men and women scheduled to be beatified Oct. 7 by Pope John Paul.

Although the congregation and its expert historians, archeologists and theologians spent more than 20 years working on the revision, "I could not tell you the number of saints" included in the volume, Cardinal Medina said.

Many of the more than 6,500 entries in the book include the name of one saint, then refer to his or her "companions" in martyrdom. Modern records include the exact number of companions and their names, but many of the older martyrologies used to compile the new book did not.

With the exception of truly infamous Roman emperors, the volume also excludes most references to the rulers under whose reign the martyrs died as well as to the popes who canonized or beatified them if the information was provided simply as a "chronological allusion," the archbishop said.

The volume published in early October by the Vatican was in Latin only. Bishops' conferences are expected to prepare translations of the volume, which Archbishop Tamburrino said he hopes will include other indexes.

The text of the Latin edition is organized as a calendar, beginning with saints and blesseds whose feast day is Jan. 1. The only index lists individuals by the Latin version of their first names, providing their date of death and referring readers to their feast day.

The archbishop said it would be helpful to have an index organized by the person's last name and perhaps others by category such as bishops or religious, by geographical area as well as a chronological listing.


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# Deacon's life marked with history, world events

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

HICKORY — Many of the events in Rev. Mr. Joe Garavaglia's life mimic the details of a history or anthropology book. Points in his life mark periods in American history that people study in class. His own development coincides with the growing pains of the country, varied and significant each in its own way.

He grew up during the Depression era, a time he says was difficult but was endured because everyone else in his Italian neighborhood in Detroit was also affected by the harsh times. His mother, an immigrant, brought her mother's cooking skills from Italy to America and kept her family fed with pasta she made and hung on the basement clothesline to dry and live chickens she would slaughter in time for Sunday dinner.

In the pocket of her oft-worn kitchen apron, his mother kept a rosary with her constantly — a sign of the family's deep connection with Catholicism. The family turned to the church not only for spiritual nourishment but also for familial and social support. His father would talk to the priest for his advice on political candidates and other topics. "Our family's life was around the church," said Rev. Mr. Garavaglia. "Mass and benediction was something we just had to do."

After attending high school during World War II, he and many of his friends joined the reserves in the late 1940s in support of their country. Graduation in 1949 meant active duty, and his early years in the Marines were characterized by war, freezing temperatures and marriage. He met his wife-to-be, Ilah, during one of his usual trips to a local restaurant near the Naval Air Station outside of Detroit.

After standing him up for "something else to do" for their first date, Ilah gave him a chance and agreed to a rescheduled date. This led to courtship and marriage in 1951. Their parents were not very happy about the union between the Italian Catholic and Baptist Irish, but love triumphed over all protests. The ecumenical marriage also brought a somewhat wayward Garavaglia back to his faith. They began attending Mass together, and he felt a strong sense of spirit from his new bride.

Six months later, Garavaglia was shipped to Korea to serve in the war. The frontline troops were confronted with bitter cold and death. "He would write home and tell me about how people had died in his arms. I know it was hard having those things happen to him at the age of 22," said Mrs. Garavaglia, who ironically prayed many rosaries for her husband's safety.

Frostbite from the extreme temperatures sidelined him for a while during his 13-month tour of duty, and he and his wife were sent to Cherry Point, N.C., for three years where their son was born and where Mrs. Garavaglia converted to Catholicism. Her relationship with the base chaplain provided the impetus she needed to dedicate herself fully to her husband's religion.

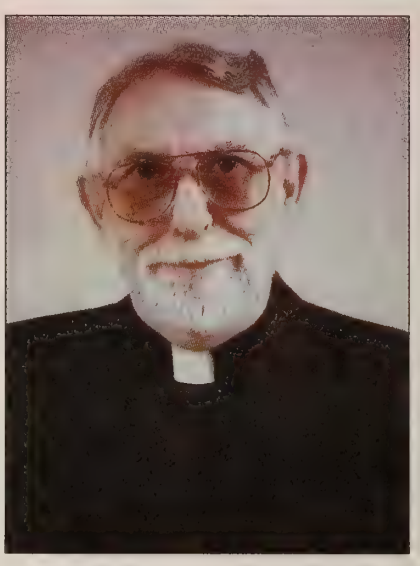
"I always went with him to Mass, but he never pushed me to become Catholic. I thought that if we were going to have a family that we should go to church together. My faith became stronger because of him," she said.

"It (her conversion) made our family whole because there always seemed to be something missing," said Rev. Mr. Garavaglia.

After four years in New Hampshire, the family was shipped to Naples, Italy. Even though the purpose was military-related, the Garavaglias were able to treat it as an extended holiday. "We toured several countries, and it felt like a vacation," remembered Mrs. Garavaglia, who squeezed into a Volkswagen with two other families to drive around the countryside.

"It was a wonderful, beautiful assignment. My unit supported the secret servicemen who would come over with the president," he said.

The couple also adopted their daughter while in Italy. They had wanted to adopt while in the States but had not been able to finish the process because of their many moves.



Rev. Mr. Joe Garavaglia

After returning to Cherry Point, Garavaglia was shipped out to Vietnam in 1965, a time when he says he grew closer to God. "I had been going to Mass, but I really didn't know the Lord until Vietnam. After two tours there, that's when I became closer to him."

The horrifying environment of war led to his deepening relationship with God. "I didn't see the chaplain very often, but I would assist him when I could. I was scared more in Vietnam than in Korea because it was a very different war. I felt a closeness to God then and knew that he would take care of me."

Retirement came after he was asked to go back for a third time to Vietnam, and they went to visit friends in Hickory, N.C., in 1970. They liked the area and decided to make their home in the western part of the state. Garavaglia began working as a personnel director for a local company, and the family settled in at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory and became involved heavily in parish life.

He was introduced to the permanent diaconate through a fellow parishioner who had been considering the ordained ministry. "I wasn't thinking about the permanent diaconate, and both of us (me and my wife) prayed about it. I simply figured that I wanted to get closer to God and to do more than I was doing. I thought it was where God wanted me to be," said the deacon, who was ordained in 1983 and began serving at his home parish. "We became closer to God and got closer to each other through the permanent diaconate."

Unfortunately, two strokes and quadruple by-pass surgery have limited the deacon's ministerial work, but his experiences as a patient have helped him with his hospital ministry as an associate chaplain and visits to the sick and dying. He credits God for his life and the time that he has been granted to spend with his wife, children and six grandchildren.

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

## Theatre Production Provides Hope with Great American Story

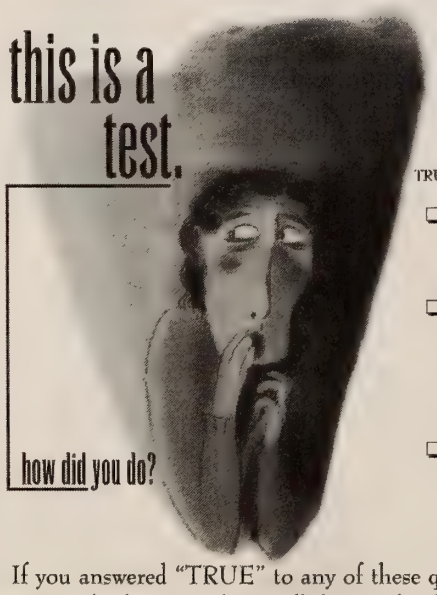
BELMONT — The Abbey Players/Belmont Community Theatre will present Eugene O'Neill's, "A Moon for the Misbegotten," October 8-14th at 8:00 P.M. in the Haid Theatre at Belmont Abbey College.

"A Moon for the Misbegotten" is the story of three misfits, each seeking the impossible, but come together for a fateful encounter one moonlit night on the steps of a dilapidated farmhouse. The father hopes to gain ownership of the farm by setting up a tryst between his daughter, Josie and James, the farm owner. Josie hopes it will be a night of love, while dissolute James seeks forgiveness and redemption for the guilt that haunts him. Their desperate dreams are at stake in this searing story by one of America's greatest playwrights.

The production is under the supervision of Simon Donoghue, who is celebrating his 25th Anniversary as Director of Theatre at Belmont Abbey College. Donoghue and the Abbey Players recently wrapped a successful production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!" in late August.

The Abbey Players have been in continuous production since 1884. They have proven to be an asset to the cultural life of Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties for more than 100 years. "The Players" have been housed in the Haid Theatre on the campus of Belmont Abbey College since 1979.

*Reservations can be made by calling (704) 825-6787.*


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*Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte*

*For more information, contact Gina Rhodes, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203, gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org*

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October 12, 2001
Volume 11 ▾ Number 5

# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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"Take care, then, that the light in you not become darkness. If your whole body is full of light, and no part of it is in darkness, then it will be as full of light as a lamp illuminating you with its brightness."

— Luke 11:35-36

# Waynesville parish celebrates 75th anniversary

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

WAYNESVILLE — St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and church hall were packed on the evening of Oct. 6 for the special Mass and dinner highlighting the parish's year-long celebration of its 75th anniversary.

Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated the Mass honoring the oldest North Carolina Catholic parish west of Asheville. Concelebrating were former St. John's pastors Father Gabriel Meehan and Father Thomas Walsh; Augustinian Father Dennis McGowan, current pastor; Augustinian Father Francis Doyle, pastor of St. Margaret Catholic Church in Maggie Valley; Augustinian Brother William Harkin, St. Margaret pastoral associate; and Augustinian Father Terrance Hyland, director of Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center.

Other events planned for the celebratory year include a St. John's School reunion Thanksgiving weekend, and "Come Home for Christmas" Dec. 16, with a parish dinner, and an evening of lessons and carols. The year will close with a parish picnic on Pentecost, May 19.

According to a St. John's Church history prepared by parishioner Ann Rollman, "Long before 1900, Mass was offered in private homes by priests from Asheville, often traveling on horseback. By 1920, Mass was offered in the ballroom of the Gordon Hotel located on Main Street, where Main Street Square is today. Outside the tourist season, early parishioners took the train to Asheville to attend Mass."

By 1925, the need for a parish west of Asheville had become clear. Bishop William Joseph Hafey of Raleigh established the parish in 1926 and appointed Father Bernard McDevitt as the first pastor.

In her history, Rollman says that, "Miss Sally McDowell's home on Church Street (site of the present church parking lot) was purchased and converted into a chapel, rectory and meeting place. The first Mass was offered in May of 1926 with 27 persons present. The parish embraced the eight western counties of North Carolina — an area of 3,471 square miles."

Half the parish's Catholics attended that first Mass. Rollman says there were only 50 Catholics in all of western North Carolina at the time. Later, other parishes would spring up in Murphy, Sylva, Maggie Valley and elsewhere in the eight counties. Now St. John has 234 registered households; its mission church, Immaculate Conception in Canton, has 34.

Ann Rollman was 23-year-old Ann Kramer when she journeyed from Jordan College in Menominee, Mich., in 1939 to work as secretary and housekeeper for Father Ambrose Rorhbacher, who was pastor at the time. He had met her at Jordan College and wrote asking her to fill the dual position.

"I couldn't live at the rectory with the priest," Rollman said, "so I lived with a Catholic family."

The family occupied an unheated house in Waynesville during the summer, but they and Rollman moved into the heated rectory during the winters. She remembers that people in Waynesville were very kind and that those who couldn't remember her last name called her "Ann Catholic."

After eight years at St. John, Rollman went back north to work in the Northwestern University business office. Eventually she returned to Waynesville, where she met and married Walter Rollman.

The year Rollman arrived in Waynesville, 1939, was also the year that the first nuns, Sisters of St. Francis of Milwaukee, Wisc., opened St. John's School in the Victorian-era house that is now St. John's rectory, she said. Later Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio, taught at the school, followed by Daughters of Charity. Eventually the church built a separate school building that accommodated grades K through 12; it closed in 1980.

The current St. John the Evangelist

SEE WAYNESVILLE, PAGE 8

## Church dedicated



PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

**Singing in praise and thanksgiving**
"El Coro de Niños Hispanos" (the Hispanic children's choir) of St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis sings the offertory hymn during the dedication of the new church building Oct. 6. See story, page 7.

### Weeks-long procession of funerals in New Jersey nears end

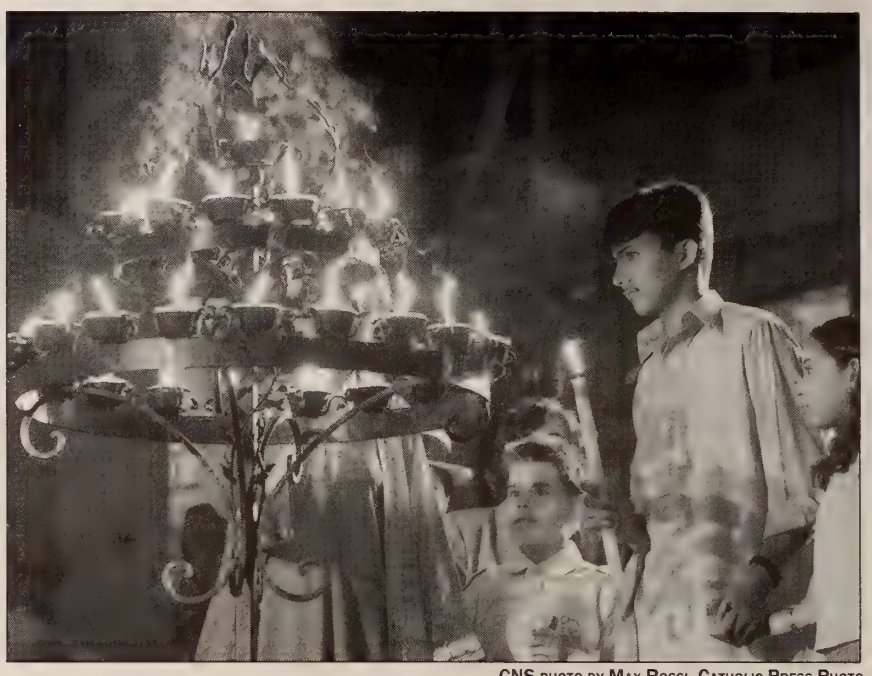
WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chaos and confusion that immediately followed the World Trade Center attacks have been replaced by quiet exhaustion in New Jersey Catholic parishes an hour away from ground zero. Parishioners in the commuter suburbs of New York City have flocked to their churches not only for solace but for the difficult task of attending back-to-back funerals for fellow parishioners, friends, neighbors, and relatives who died Sept. 11. What set these funerals apart were the photo displays where there would normally be caskets since most of the bodies were not yet found in the rubble of the fallen trade towers. At St. James Parish in Basking Ridge, N.J., only one body had been found of the 10 parishioners who died.

### Churchmen say respecting Eastern heritage can ease path to unity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Respecting the traditions of Eastern Catholic churches can enrich the entire church and ease the path toward unity with the Orthodox, several Eastern leaders told the Synod of Bishops. Melkite Patriarch Gregoire III Laham of Antioch told the Synod of Bishops Oct. 4 the Catholic Church's lack of respect for the identity, practices and traditions of its Eastern churches makes the Orthodox "lose all respect for the good will of the church of Rome." Too often, he said, instead of allowing the Eastern Catholic churches to be fully Eastern, "the exact opposite occurs."

### N.Y. archdiocese says Father Pavone had known he'd be recalled

NEW YORK (CNS) — A New York archdiocesan spokesman said Father Frank A. Pavone, the director of Priests for Life since 1993, has known for months that he was to be recalled for pastoral work in the archdiocese. Discussions on his return began "about nine months ago," and the reassignment "is not an unexpected development," archdiocesan communications director Joseph Zwilling said in a statement Oct. 2. He added that New York Cardinal Edward M. Egan gave sufficient advance notice to let Priests for Life make a smooth transition in leadership. Priests for Life had announced in a press release Sept. 10 that Cardinal Egan had asked Father Pavone to leave the organization for full-time work in the archdiocese.



CNS PHOTO BY MAX ROSSI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

**Children light candles for peace, religious tolerance**
**Children from Italy, Bangladesh, Eritrea, Peru and China light candles for peace and religious tolerance at the closing of a two-day summit of Muslim and Christian leaders in Rome Oct. 5.**

### Liturgical publisher offers resources in wake of attacks

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — The liturgical publisher Oregon Catholic Press has updated its Web site (www.ocp.org) to include extensive resources for liturgies aimed at addressing the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. "Prayer for the Nation" includes prayer resources and recommendations for general music, as well as suggestions for bilingual celebrations and liturgies with children. There is interfaith information (including reactions from Catholic and Islamic leaders) and lists of charities and Internet and print resources. The company also is offering free, one-time use of titles administered by Oregon Catholic Press for Sept. 11 remembrance liturgies.

### Theologian calls Internet key to adult faith formation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Internet is becoming a key tool for adult faith formation, Dominican theologian Father Paul J. Philibert told a gathering of church research leaders Oct. 3. He noted that St. Paul took his preaching to the agora, or public square, of the cities of ancient Greece. "The Internet is the agora of today. ... Any parish that wants to promote adult faith formation will probably have to begin on the Web," he said. Father Philibert addressed research and policy issues of the U.S. church today in a lecture before the annual dinner of the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University.

### Vatican prayed Oct. 11 for victims of terrorism

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said the Vatican was to join in a prayer day Oct. 11, one month after a deadly wave of terrorist hijackings in the United States. The pope made the comments Oct. 4 to about 250 participants at a Synod of Bishops, shortly after meeting in a private audience with former U.S. President George H.W. Bush. The pope said he had assured the elder Bush that "the entire synod assembly was feeling and living the suffering of the American people" and that "Oct. 11 will be a day of prayer not only in the United States but in the synod, too." Officials announced that Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York, synod recording secretary, was to return to his city to celebrate a memorial Mass Oct. 11.

### Iranian prelate says pope could be model for bishops' ministry

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the world's bishops gathered at the Vatican to re-examine their role in the church, one prelate proposed a model for their ministry: Pope John Paul II. Chaldean Archbishop Thomas Meram of Urmya, president of the Iranian bishops' conference, said Pope John Paul was a "living witness of happiness and hope" and as such could serve as a model for all bishops. Meanwhile, the question of shared governance continued to occupy a primary focus at the Synod of Bishops as more church leaders spoke in favor of expanding the authority of bishops' conferences. Others among the 34 bishops who addressed the fifth and sixth general sessions Oct. 3-4 called for greater support of poor dioceses, increased delegation of administrative tasks and the need to become comfortable with modern media.

### Irish government to hold referendum on abortion

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — The Irish government announced it will conduct a referendum proposing to close a loophole in Irish law that allows abortion in cases where a mother threatens suicide. The referendum would be on a proposed constitutional amendment that would outlaw abortion in most cases but would allow it to protect the life of the mother. The amendment would not affect women's ability to travel abroad to procure abortions, but it would redefine the legal definition of abortion so that it does not include the morning-after pill and intrauterine devices. If approved by the Irish electorate, the amendment would take effect only if specific legislation, the Protection of Human Life in Pregnancy Bill, were enacted within 180 days of the referendum vote — otherwise the amendment in its entirety would be nullified.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

October 20 — 5 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Ann, Charlotte

October 21 — 11:30 a.m.
Mass, dedication and celebration
St. Paul the Apostle, Greensboro

October 22-24
Provincial assembly of bishops and priests, Asheville

October 26 — 7 p.m.
Aquinas-Lutheran Banquet
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

October 28 — 2 p.m.
25th/50th anniversary Mass
St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte

## Diocesan planner

**October**

**17** CHARLOTTE — St. Bridget's Division of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians will be hosting their 3rd Annual Irish Pub Nite at Tyber Creek Pub tonight at 7 p.m. Along with Billy Mulligan's music and dancers from the Walsh-Kelley School of Irish Dance, a buffet dinner and raffle to benefit LAOH charities will also be offered. For information and reservations, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 or Imelda Panzer at (704) 362-1786.

**20** CHARLOTTE — There will be a career seminar at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., today from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. To help with rising unemployment and underemployment statistics, the seminar will cover resume writing, job hunting, networking and compensation. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

**21** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be hosting ultreyas and schools of leaders on the following dates and times: St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1:15-3 p.m. today with ultreya and potluck and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3 p.m. on Oct. 28 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

**22** MAGGIE VALLEY — Oratorian Father David Valtierra, director of the Oratory in Rock Hill, will be the facilitator at a retreat held at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, this weekend. "Reading Paul's Letters in Today's Church" will focus on the key passages in Paul's letters. For details, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

**22** NEWTON — The Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group will be meeting at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at

### Cardinal Keeler says October a time to recommit to value of life

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic Church designates October as a time "to recommit ourselves to building a culture in which every life is valued, no matter how poor or sick, how old or microscopic," said Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore. But too often contemporary culture downplays the value of human life, and the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 may seem like the culture has hit a new low, he said in a statement issued Oct. 3 for Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 7. The cardinal, who is chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said "humanity at its very best" was displayed after the attacks, as people came to the aid of coworkers, firefighters and police lost their lives rescuing others, and many who faced death called "to reassure their spouses and children that they loved them."

### NCCW forum on grief issues takes on added relevance

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — A symposium at the National Conference of Catholic Women's Sept. 27-30 convention in Nashville called "Opening the Door to Grief Issues" was already on the agenda. However, in responding to September's terrorist attacks, Father Terence Curley, a priest of the Boston Archdiocese who has written extensively about grief and bereavement, included information about crisis ministry in his session. He focused on the mourning process, ministries of consolation, and reflections on the unique gifts the Catholic Christian tradition offers in responding to grief and bereavement.

### Catholic youth meetings still planned despite attacks

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The National Catholic Youth Conference planned for December in Indianapolis will go ahead, despite changed security situations facing travelers and apprehension about the risk of further terrorist attacks. And though registration for next summer's World Youth Day in Toronto is just beginning, organizers say they don't expect the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to deter many people from attending events there either. Pope John Paul II has attended every World Youth Day since he initiated the meetings in the mid-1980s. The U.S. youth conference, scheduled for Dec. 6-9 with the theme of "Hope at the Crossroads," was expected to draw 26,000 teens and adult chaperones to Indianapolis.



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

**Musician instructs students in playing oud**
**Mickael Maroun instructs student Yunus Abu Hgag in playing the oud at the Arab-Jewish Community Center in Jaffa, Israel. Maroun said he believes music can be a bridge between peoples.**

### Synod participants call for bishops' 'examination of conscience'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The first week of the Synod of Bishops heard several calls for an "examination of conscience" on the part of bishops — in their daily lives, their pastoral methods and their use of modern means of evangelization. Bishop Nestor Ngoy Katahwa of Kolwezi, Congo, said Oct. 2 that the first task facing the bishops was to "convert ourselves." He said the bishop's ministry today is often marked by a search for privilege and by "soulless ritual practices" that do not engage bishops in a spiritual way. "We are more at home with the rich and the powerful than with the poor and the oppressed," he said. He added that the monthlong synod offered a perfect opportunity for a "profound examination of conscience."

### Religious leaders urge care against making terrorism scapegoats

ROME (CNS) — An international group of Christian and Muslim leaders, supporting the fight against terrorism, said great care must be taken to avoid making all Muslims or all members of any nation scapegoats for the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States. "The terrorists must be identified and disarmed, but that cannot be done if an entire culture, religion or nation is held responsible," Italian Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini of Milan told leaders attending a Christian-Muslim dialogue meeting in Rome. The Rome-based Community of Sant'Egidio, a lay group involved in work for peace and interreligious dialogue, called the leaders for an Oct. 3-4 "summit" as the United States and its allies prepared to launch an attack on terrorism.

### Bishops question if modern church governance reflects Vatican II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As more participants in a synod of the world's bishops took the microphone, a growing number questioned whether modern church governance achieves a co-responsibility model they said was envisioned by the Second Vatican Council. Several criticized the functioning of the synod, saying it fell short of the council's definition as a "privileged instrument of effective collegiality." Others supported expanding the competency of bishops' conferences and reducing the authority of Vatican agencies in local church decisions. The bishops were among 14 who spoke Oct. 2 during the synod's third general session.

### Comprehensive history of church in Virginia released

RICHMOND, Va. (CNS) — A 687-page volume chronicling the development of the Catholic Church in Virginia from the colonial period to modern times was released this summer by the Diocese of Richmond. Jesuit Father Gerald P. Fogarty, a professor of religious studies and history at the University of Virginia, researched and wrote the book, titled "Commonwealth Catholicism: A History of the Catholic Church in Virginia." The work was commissioned 12 years ago by Bishop Walter F. Sullivan of Richmond, who has called the work "a historical masterpiece."

### Vincent de Paul Society appeals for $1 million for terror victims

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has issued an appeal for $1 million to help the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. To initiate the "Victims of the Attack on America Campaign," the St. Louis-based society forwarded $125,000 to the New York area. "We know that the society's members, already actively volunteering to help, are not alone in their desire to help ease the pain of thousands of fellow Americans affected in so many ways by this indescribable tragedy," said Eugene B. Smith, national president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. "Our sincere sympathy and heartfelt sorrow (goes) to the thousands of children who lost parents, spouses who lost their beloved, and parents who lost children."

(828) 495-2039.

**23** FRANKLIN — All are invited to St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., tonight from 7-9 p.m. for an Office of Justice and Peace presentation of Catholic Relief Services' "Africa Rising: Hope to Healing" and Bread for the World's "Africa: Hunger to Harvest." The same session will also be presented at CCHS, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., in Charlotte on Oct. 30 and at BMHS, 1725 N.C. Hwy. 66 South, in Kernersville on Nov. 8. For further information, call Joe Purello at (704) 370-3225 or Terri Jarina at (704) 370-3234.

**23** WINSTON-SALEM — The St. Francis Center of Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, corner of Cherry and 3rd streets., is hosting a Jane Litsinger Day Retreat for Women entitled "The Search for Spiritual Direction in Everyday Life." This event held from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. is for women to step out of their worlds and into a space of prayer, silence, input and discussion. Lunch will be provided, and a free will donation will be accepted. Call Josephine Rosaschi at (336) 723-8241 for details.

**24** CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend the monthly memorial Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, that will be taking place tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they may be remembered during the Mass.

**24** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**25** CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., welcomes everyone to a healing Mass celebrated by Josephite Father Robert DeGrandis tonight at 7:30 p.m. Father DeGrandis has written over 40 books on healing and has spoken to groups around the country. For details, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

**26** HOT SPRINGS — The Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy 25/70, is hosting a Reiki weekend with Karen Purcott, a master Reiki practitioner in the Usai system of healing. Participants will have the opportunity to receive a laying-on of hands treatment and can reflect upon the gifts of the Holy Spirit. For more information, call the center at (828) 622-7366.

**28** HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

**November**

**3** CHARLOTTE — The Kabaka Dancers and Drummers of Our Lady of Consolation Church will be sponsoring a day trip to Atlanta featuring holiday shopping at an outlet mall, a tour of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. historic sites, underground Atlanta and the "World of Coca-Cola." The trip via motorcoach will also include breakfast, lunch, beverages and movies on board. For more information about the Oct. 25 deadline, call Priscilla Duncan at (704) 596-8269.

**4** CHARLOTTE — The Christian Mothers' Group of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., will host a special Mass for parents and grandparents of a deceased child or children today at 3 p.m. with a reception following the Mass. All are invited to arrive at 2:30 p.m. to light a candle or place pictures of loved ones in the sanctuary. A Mass for widows and widowers will be celebrated on Nov. 11 at 3 p.m. followed by a reception. For details, call B.J. Dengler at (704) 364-5431, Ext. 212

**8** CHARLOTTE — Room at the Inn will hold its 7th Annual Banquet, "Witness to Hope," this evening at the Charlotte Convention Center. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and featuring guest speaker Gary Bauer. Contact Beth for Oct. 20 reservations at (704) 596-0667.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# Foundation supports monks in their mission of evangelization

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

HAMLET — Abbot Patrick Shelton and Father David Draim are on a mission of evangelization. They bring a simple message for all in Richmond and Anson counties to hear: The Catholic Church is a welcoming community.

The Benedictine monks who serve at St. James Church in Hamlet and Sacred Heart Church in Wadesboro have spent their three-plus years in those Catholic communities relaying that message. Now, with funding from the Foundation of the Diocese of Charlotte, that message can be furthered in a way it never has before.

"Our concept is the church has something to offer to the multicultural community," said Father Draim, who appealed to the Foundation for grants to evangelize the local Hispanic and African-American populations. Father Draim said there historically has been little evangelical interaction between the local Catholic Church and those two communities.

"This funding is really going to open doors for us in terms of connecting with these communities," said Father Draim.

The grants came from income earned by four unrestricted and general-purpose endowments the Foundation manages. Such grants are new to the diocese, said Jim Kelley, the Foundation's executive director.

"Due to the generosity of Catholic donors, the Foundation currently has 84 endowments to benefit parishes, schools, agencies and organizations within the Diocese of Charlotte," Kelley said. "The majority of these endowments are restricted for use by these diocesan entities, but we do have several for unrestricted use or for more general purposes."

While restricted endowments fund specific projects such as scholarships, certain ministries and particular parish needs, the first three grant cycles from the unrestricted endowments "will focus on programs that effectively support those who are poor, minority communities and evangelical initiatives," said Kelley.

When Abbot Shelton and Father Draim heard about this opportunity, they were enthusiastic.

In their prior ministry to communities in Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Florida, the monks had enjoyed fostering healthy relationships among the multicultural and interfaith communities. Given the large Hispanic and African-American populations in this area, the monks saw a real opportunity for evangelization here as well.

The grant awarded to St. James Church is funding a Hispanic ministry project that includes the renting of a facility in nearby Ellerbe, where there is a sizable migrant community.

The project will provide a real Catholic presence for Latinos in the area by offering the celebration of Mass, hosting of English-as-a-second-language classes, Scouting meetings, Bible studies, faith formation and counseling.

While still in infancy now, the project will provide a long-lasting benefit to the people it serves over time, said Father Draim.

"What we've got now is a really good facility, and things are in the process of happening," he said. "We're trying to get the people to really take hold of it themselves," and part of the project includes empowering local Latinos to take on leadership roles.



Photo by Jimmy Rostar

**Jim Kelley, executive director of the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, presents a check to Abbot Patrick Shelton, pastor of the Catholic communities in Hamlet and Wadesboro. Kelley presented checks for two grants to the churches to fund multicultural evangelism projects in the area. Father David Draim also ministers in Hamlet and Wadesboro.**

In Wadesboro, the grant is funding an outreach project to the African-American community.

In the past few years, that outreach has involved going door to door, with the monks letting the black community know that the Catholic Church is open to all.

"In all of the ministry that we've done in the past, we've always had a very nice interracial component," said Father Draim, who seeks that same reality in Wadesboro where upon arrival he saw little interaction between the Catholic and the African-American communities.

"We thought that if we could get this grant, we would be able to build a base from which there would be interaction," he said. "And from there, hopefully we will see African-American people joining the church."

Their work of the past three years is already bearing fruit, as one African-American family was welcomed into the church last Easter.

The monks are prayerful that, with the grant funding, more organized efforts of bridging the gap between local Catholics, ministers and African-Americans will result in greater communication and interaction.

"People really do need to know they are welcome at our church," Father Draim said. "What we really want to get across is the Catholic Church is a welcoming community. I've met people who said they thought they'd never see the day when they'd be invited to a Catholic church. Now, that's happening here."

A spirit of welcome and outreach continues to drive the mission of the two monks and their Catholic congregations, as they witness the gradual coming together of communities that in these locales have, for the most part, historically existed independently.

Kelley is hopeful that more entities will explore the opportunity to fund efforts for the poor and minorities and for evangelization efforts in the diocese through the Foundation.

For the Catholic and multicultural communities of Hamlet and Wadesboro, that support will assist all to more personally come to know God, Abbot Shelton said.

"We thank the Diocese of Charlotte for the funding that will enable us to help others to recognize who and what Jesus Christ is all about," said Abbot Shelton. "This will certainly help what we've already begun."

### Foundation awards nine grants

CHARLOTTE — The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte awarded nine grants from income earned by four unrestricted and general-purpose endowments the Foundation manages. In addition to St. James Church in Hamlet and Sacred Heart Church in Wadesboro, the entities receiving grants are:

— Office of Faith Formation, Diocese of Charlotte, for resource materials for ethnic minorities in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate;

— Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office, Charlotte, for a family strengthening initiative;

— St. Joan of Arc Parish, Asheville, for youth evangelization;

— St. Aloysius Parish, Hickory, for Hispanic ministry;

— Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Lexington, for Hispanic faith formation;

— Catholic Social Services' Programa Esperanza, Charlotte, for Hispanic ministry;

— University of North Carolina at Greensboro Campus Ministry, for a refugee program.

The Foundation's next grant-making cycle begins with applications due in November, and decisions will be made in March 2002. For details or an application, call Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301.

*— Jimmy Rostar*

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# Parish celebrates anniversary, forges new path

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — On a sunny Sunday afternoon, parishioners gathered in a circle and watched as the bulldozer lifted the soil in a dramatic fashion. A new project has been unearthed on the St. Matthew Church grounds as construction for their latest addition is set to begin this fall. It is the next phase for a parish that has had an overwhelming growth spurt as it continues in its adolescent phase.

The parish celebrated its 15th anniversary Sept. 15 and 16 with a "Family Fun Day Festival" which included games, food, entertainment, a historical skit and various other events that celebrated their multiculturalism and unity as a parish family. The next day's groundbreaking marked the beginning of an expansion project for an ever-growing parish and Catholic population in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Today is a special day in the 15-year history of St. Matthew Parish. For the third time now, we have gathered as a community to break ground," said Msgr. John J. McSweeney, pastor, during the ceremony. "The buildings are symbolic of the living stones of the growth of the fervent faith of this parish; they are the living stones that build the church. The buildings are instrumental for us to provide for the needs of this church community as well as the broader community. It has been a privilege to be working with many individuals who have brought this project this far."

By mid-2003, St. Matthew will have added a ministry building, bell tower, daily Mass chapel and education center to its already existing sanctuary and parish center. The two-story, 30,000 square-foot ministry building, which will stand adjacent to the church structure, will house the nearly 70 ministries that the church offers with additional spaces and meeting rooms.

"Service is what the ministry building stands for," said Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, the pastoral associate who has been with the church for 11 years. "We will be able to carry on parish outreach as well as ministry to our own people, and it will provide the space we desperately need for operations."

The 3,500 square-foot daily Mass chapel will seat 175 and will serve the needs of daily communicants and those who would like to sit in quiet prayer and contemplation, explained Sister Jeanne Marie.

The 25-classroom, 62,600 square-foot education center will be built further down the parish lot. The center will be the location of parish faith formation classes and will be the site of a new elementary school in the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools system. The plan is that the K-5 student body of All Saints Catholic School in Charlotte will relocate to the St. Matthew site as St. Matthew Catholic School, and All Saints School will become a middle school facility, said Dr. Michael Skube, diocesan superintendent of schools.

Msgr. McSweeney thanked the parish council and building and capital campaign committees for their efforts with the project. Kevin O'Hara, building committee chair, has been with the parish since its early days when Mass was held in a South Charlotte theatre. He has watched the congregation grow from about 500 registered people to nearly 16,000 registered parishioners today.

"When you grow as fast as we have, the challenge is to make sure everyone stays active and understands the mission of the church," said O'Hara, who was also involved with the construction of the sanctuary and parish center. "As we have grown, we have understood where our needs are and have been very fortunate to acquire land adjacent to the new property so that we can support these new facilities. This is part of a master plan that was put together over 10 years ago."



Photo by Alesha M. Price

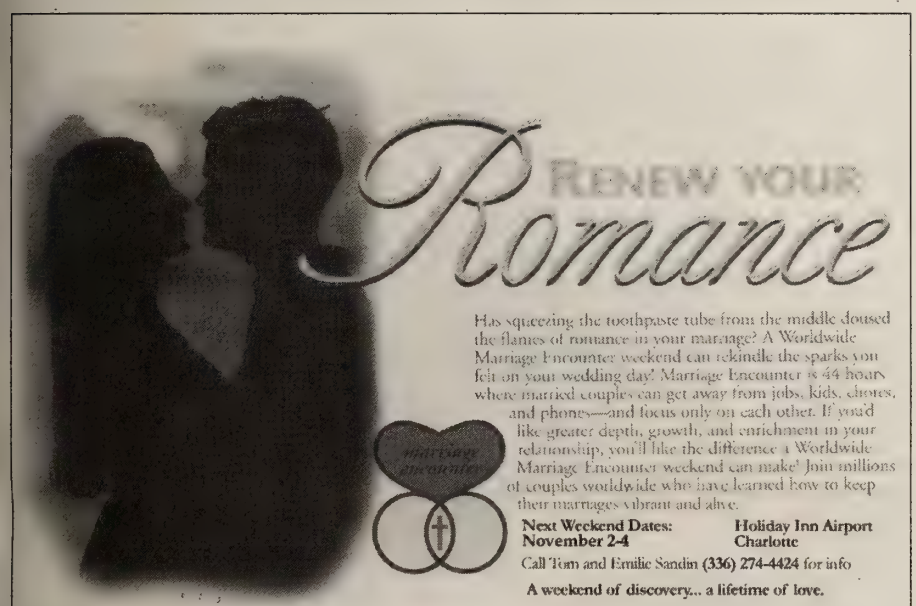
**St. Matthew Church parishioners watch as the bulldozer digs up the soil during the Sept. 16 groundbreaking in Charlotte.**

Time was allotted for a Native American traditional smudging ceremony performed to symbolically or ritualistically cleanse away negative energy and to ask God for his blessings. The smoke from burning cedar and sage acts as the cleansing agent. The idea behind the ceremony was to remember and honor the memories of the Native American tribes that once inhabited South Charlotte.

" ... There were people here on this ground who reverenced this land and recognized it as the gift of the Great Spirit. (Various tribes) farmed this land, walked in the woods and worshipped the one they called the 'Great Spirit,'" said Msgr. McSweeney.

Future parish projects also include a playing field, additional storage space, a columbarium, outdoor Stations of the Cross and walking paths framed with fountains.

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*


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**Former ambassador receives NCCW honor**
**Corinne "Lindy" Boggs, former U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, accepts the National Council of Catholic Women 2001 Distinguished Service Award from president K. LaVerne Redden at the organization's annual conference. Members of the NCCW met Sept. 27-30 in Nashville, Tenn.**

### Iran's president phones pope to discuss Christian-Muslim dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Iran's President Mohammad Khatami telephoned Pope John Paul II to discuss the importance of Christian-Muslim dialogue in bringing peace to the world. Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, a Vatican spokesman, said the Iranian leader wanted to discuss with the pope the international tensions following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. "In the course of the discussion, the importance and necessity of dialogue as an instrument of collaboration for building a world of peace and justice was underlined," the spokesman said.

### Wichita Bishop Gerber resigns; Bishop Olmsted succeeds him

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignation of Bishop Eugene J. Gerber of Wichita, Kan. Coadjutor Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted automatically succeeds Bishop Gerber as head of the Wichita see. The announcement was made in Washington Oct. 4 by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop Gerber, 70, had been head of the Wichita Diocese since 1983. Bishop Olmsted was appointed coadjutor bishop in 1999. Bishop Olmsted, 54, is a member of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Consecrated Life and their Committee on Priestly Formation. He is also on the board of directors of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network. Bishop Gerber also led the Diocese of Dodge City, Kan., from 1976 to 1982.

### Missouri priest-editor releases two new works

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (CNS) — Father Mark G. Boyer, editor of The Mirror, newspaper of the Springfield-Cape Girardeau Diocese, has published two new works: "Waiting in Joyful Hope: Daily Reflections for Advent" and "Filled with New Light: Daily Reflections for Christmas." Published by Liturgical Press, the 64-page pocket-sized booklets are for use by individuals or small groups during Advent and Christmas. Each two-page entry in the booklets has six parts: a title, notation of the readings for the day, a Gospel verse or two, a reflection, a question for meditation and a closing prayer.

### Catholic oud player uses music to bridge gaps in Israel

JAFFA, Israel (CNS) — Amid the growing chaos and uncertainty seeming to envelop the world, music teacher Mickael Maroun remains adamant that music can be a bridge between peoples. "Music is an international language. It doesn't belong to just one nation," said Maroun, 34, a Maronite Catholic. "As musicians we have to work to bring people closer together, to make them love this international language." Maroun is a well-known oud player in Israel. The 11-stringed oud, one of the most ancient string instruments, has its origins in Iraq around 3500 B.C. Maroun tutors oud students at the Arab-Jewish Community Center in the coastal town of Jaffa, adjacent to Tel Aviv. He also teaches at the prestigious Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem.

### Vatican says protecting environment goes along with globalization

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Environmental protection needs to go hand-in-hand with globalization, and corporations should be made to answer for actions that damage human health or the natural environment around the world, a Vatican official said. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, the Vatican's permanent observer to U.N. agencies in Geneva, made the comments in late September when he addressed a preparatory meeting of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, scheduled for September 2002.

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# Kannapolis Catholics dedicate new church in thanksgiving

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

KANNAPOLIS — "There are so many people to thank," said a smiling Redemptorist Father Karl Aschmann from the lectern of the newly dedicated St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis.

His words came near the closing antiphons of the dedication liturgy at the new mission church whose community Father Aschmann has ministered to for the past five years.

Indeed, the afternoon of Oct. 6 was a time of thanksgiving for the multicultural church community. The dedication liturgy brought to a close one chapter and opened another in the history of the mission church community in Kannapolis, where a rapidly growing Hispanic population in large part contributed to the need for a new church.

The former church building, which stood on the very site of the new structure, had housed the Kannapolis congregation since 1949. Especially in the past several years, the congregation outgrew the smallish white building.

Bishop William G. Curlin presided at the groundbreaking ceremony May 14, 2000. Now, less than a year and a half later, he returned to bless the fruits of the mission community's labor.

At the two-hour dedication liturgy, the bishop anointed the church walls, incensed the sanctuary and blessed the congregation with holy water. Moreover, he urged those assembled to concentrate on what "church" truly means.

"Today we are celebrating a wonderful moment in your parish history," Bishop Curlin told the congregation. "As we consecrate this church, we also celebrate on this altar the greatest gift we have in this world: Jesus Christ."

"We are the living stones of Christ," he said. "Yes, we are celebrating our beautiful new church building today, but the church was already here by your presence. The church is you."

The bishop said the greatest realization of the blessings that will occur in this new church comes through an awareness of Christ's presence, not only during Mass, but also in people's families, businesses and relationships.

"We must take the love of Jesus everywhere," the bishop said. "That is at the heart of our faith. The world needs Jesus. Our job is to bring the love of Jesus into the world."

The dedication ceremonies reflected the multicultural complexion of the church community. Readings during the Mass were read in English and Spanish, and the songs were sung bilingually. At a banquet in the parish hall after the liturgy, the community gathered to share in a meal seasoned with native dishes of its members.

"We are gathered here today to celebrate the opening of our new church — but there is a greater meaning in our gathering, which is to celebrate our community of faith and the togetherness of actions and contributions for both Hispanic and English parishioners in building not just our church, but our community," said Matthew Marbois in closing comments. Dolores Gomez Scebbi voiced the same message in Spanish.

Regardless of the language spoken, members of the congregation nodded and smiled. Applause sustained the smiles as various members of the community were called forth in appreciation for their work in completing the building of the new church.

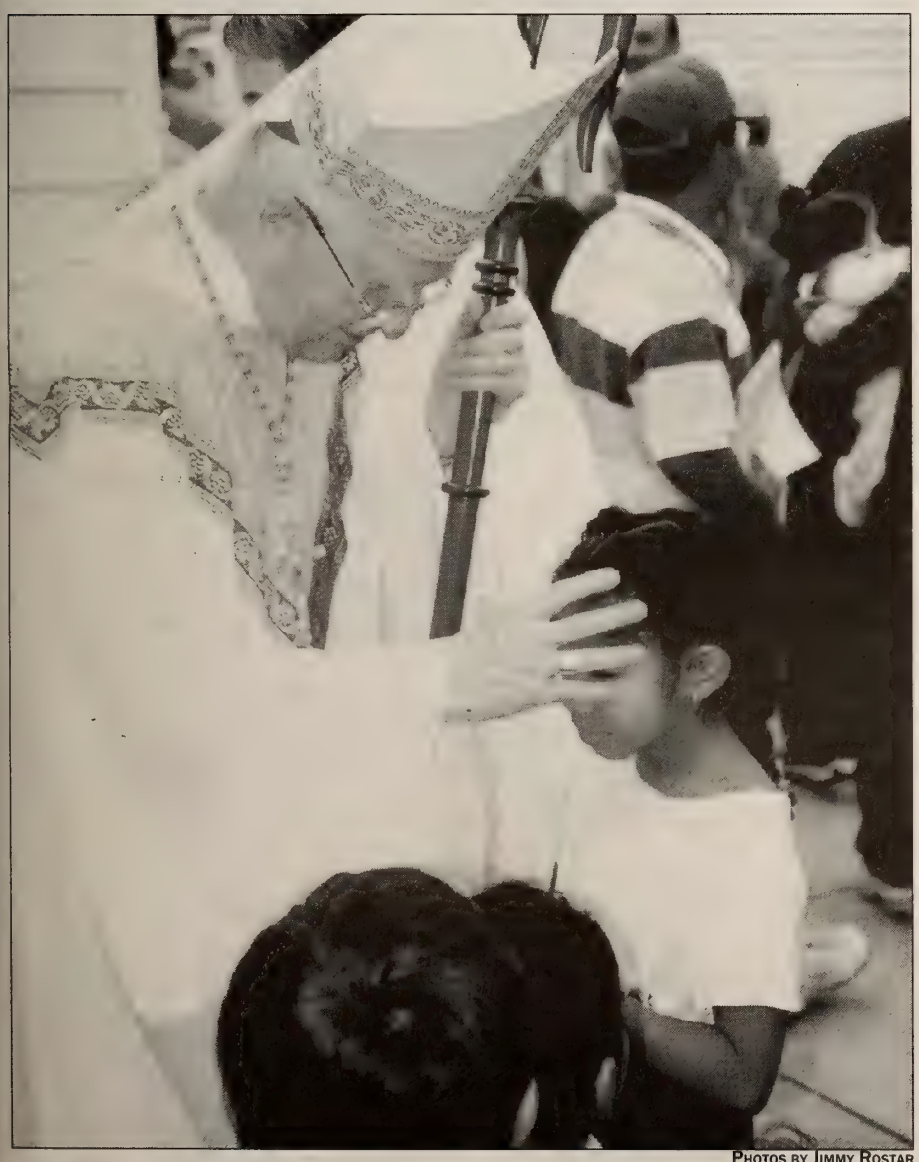
Father Aschmann was praised as a loving priest, a devout leader and an agent of goodwill in a varied church community.

"This church would not be here today without your inspiration and example," Marbois said from the lectern. "More importantly, our church community, English and Hispanic, could not have acted together in unity towards a common goal without you."

Father Aschmann called his love for this community "overwhelming" and added the support of everyone involved in the project — from diocesan officials to building committee members to each of the church's parishioners — was truly inspiring.

"I want to say a word of thanks to all of you," Father Aschmann told his congregation. "You know, it's your parish. It's not the priest's. As our bishop told us, we all are the church. We thank all of you for all that you've done."

*Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org*





Photos by Jimmy Rostar

**Bishop William G. Curlin was embraced by the Hispanic and Anglo communities who comprise the congregation. At upper right are Bishop Curlin and Father Karl Aschmann, administrator of St. Joseph Church.**

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## Waynesville, from page 8

Church, built in 1941, was dedicated Sept. 10 of that year, the same day as the dedication of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bryson City.

Harry Robbins became a parishioner four years later. He had met his wife, Wilma, during his Army Air Corps service in World War II. She didn't want to live anywhere but Waynesville, so they moved to the town and Robbins established an electrical and plumbing business.

St. John is special, he said, "because we've had special priests. I took care of all the plumbing and wiring in the convent, the rectory, and the church. All my kids went to the school."

Robbins also helped the nuns.

"The sisters didn't stay for the summer and would have to take a bus back to Tiffin," he said. "But I would borrow a station wagon and take them to Tiffin and bring them back in the fall. It was a nice trip, really a nice place to go."

Rollman and Robbins were among those honored for long-time service to St. John and to Immaculate Conception, St. John's mission church in Canton. At the conclusion of the Mass on Oct. 6, Bishop Curlin presented the parish's gifts to Robbins and Rollman and to fellow St. John parishioners Cristina Ammons, Steve and Lucille Czarnecki, Peter Gudris, Art and Amy Huber, Al and Mary Kampf, Annalore Lawrence, Pearl Lehnhard, George McAlee, Marie Rilling, James and Patti Schandevel, Carroll and Bernice Smathers, John and Jean Strong, and Agnes Zarczynski. Gifts were also presented to Immaculate Conception parishioners Nick Bonarrigo, Morris and Edna Kelly, Frank Mulvaney, and Jerome and Bonnie Schaefer.

That service typifies what Bishop Curlin highlighted in his homily.

"What makes a parish," he said, "is not buildings but the awareness of the presence of Jesus and the joy and love - our love for Jesus and our love for one another. I've been a priest for 44 years, and I've never had anybody say to me, 'I want to be Catholic because I read a book.' It's always somebody they knew. [They say] 'I'm so impressed with the way they live their lives.'

"What gives the power to this building is Christ in you. We will find God in one another. Don't think of 75 years of a building. Think of 75 years of loving people."



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

**Former St. John's pastor Father Gabriel Meehan chats with parishioner Joan Surber before dinner in the parish hall.**


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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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PS Form 3526, October 1999 (Reverse)

# CCHD executive director speaks of putting face on poverty

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

ARDEN — If all poor people in the USA were to populate a single locale, it would become the second-largest state, almost the size of California. Think about it: Here we are, comfortable in America, home of economic, technological and cultural prosperity. Yet, in America, one out of every six children lives in poverty.

In one of the richest countries in the world, the poverty rate is perhaps the highest of any industrialized nation.

But, many think poverty is somewhere else, somewhere across the globe. Certainly not next door, down the street, or across the state. *Au Contraire.*

"I would like to put a face on poverty in order to convey its personal impact," said Father Robert Vitillo, executive director for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

During the last weekend in September, Father Vitillo brought the message of CCHD to parishes in Arden and Mooresville, making time to hear about some of the CCHD-funded projects in Morganton and Charlotte as well.

"During the last 31 years, with the generosity of the Catholic community in the USA, CCHD has been able to fund more than 4,000 anti-poverty projects valued at more than $260 million," said Father Vitillo. "During this past year alone, CCHD offered $10 million to 317 local projects located in 47 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico."

"Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte have been most generous to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development," said Father Vitillo. "Over the years, the total national CCHD collection from the Diocese of Charlotte has amounted to $1,167,334." From the annual CCHD collection each November, 25 percent is retained locally to fund anti-poverty projects. In 2001, a total of $32,500 was awarded to 17 projects throughout the diocese.

This year, four projects in the Diocese of Charlotte received national grants:

— Piedmont Peace Project "Puentes" ["Bridges"] Latino Organizing Project: The Piedmont Peace Project was founded in 1985 as a multi-racial organization dedicated to building an effective movement for social, political and economic justice. The Puentes Latino Organizing Project seeks to fully involve Latinos in all aspects of social change. The group will use its $35,000 grant to ensure representation of Latino people in local and regional decision-making.

— Helping Empower Local People [HELP] Rural Organizing Project: HELP seeks to build a multi-racial, broad-based organization to involve poor, working and middle-class people in political and economic decisions affecting the community. The Rural Organization Project will use a $40,000 grant to work toward improving the quality of life, especially in education and school reform and neighborhood needs in Huntersville.

— Center for Participatory Change [CPC] Community Building Project: The CPC was founded in 1999 to create positive community change in low-wealth communities across Western North Carolina. The group will use a $25,000 grant to focus grassroots efforts on economic development to assist low-income people in building alternative community-based economic structures that generate new sources of income using existing skills and resources.

— Mountain Microenterprise Fund [MMF]: The MMF, established in 1991, operates in 11 rural Appalachian counties in Western North Carolina. It helps create jobs by enabling low-income people who are considered "unbankable" by commercial banks to start or expand economically viable microbuisnesses. MMF has developed the Maximum Outreach Program to reach the riskiest and lowest-income entrepreneurs who do not have access to microloans. This year's $50,000 economic development grant will enable MMF to increase the population served and to operate the MountainMade store in Asheville, a retail outlet that will sell goods that member businesses create.

For more information on the local works of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, contact the Diocesan Director of CCHD, Terri Jarina, (704) 370-3234.

*The 2001 campaign collection for CCHD in the Diocese of Charlotte will be taken in parishes Nov. 17 and 18.*


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**Book Review**

# Books convey spectrum of saints' sanctity

REVIEWED BY WAYNE A. HOLST
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

As of June, Pope John Paul II had canonized 451 saints and beatified more than 1,000. During his pontificate he has not only created more saints than any other pontiff before him, he has canonized more of them than all previous popes combined.

***LIVES OF THE SAINTS: FROM MARY AND ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI TO JOHN XXIII AND MOTHER TERESA,*** **by Father Richard P. McBrien. HarperSanFrancisco (New York, 2001). 672 pp., $34.00.**

***ALL SAINTS: DAILY REFLECTIONS ON SAINTS, PROPHETS AND WITNESSES FOR OUR TIME,*** **by Robert Ellsberg, Crossroad Publishing (New York, 1997). 560 pp., $19.95.**

Saints are popular today. People on personal spiritual quests are looking to emulate earthy models of sanctity rather than ethereal miracle workers. Saints help us understand that sanctity is not just a concept but something that is embodied and lived. Saints are ordinary people who happen to live the Gospel in extraordinary ways. The spectrum of sanctity is broad and deep.

In his book "Lives of the Saints: From Mary and St. Francis of Assisi to John XXIII and Mother Teresa," Father Richard P. McBrien, a professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame, has created a scholarly and a devotional book of saintly narratives. His "Lives" are an offering for the whole church and for the world. His selections are comprehensive, but obviously, with so wide a selection to choose from, they are not complete.

Stories are arranged as daily readings according to the yearly calendar of the Catholic Church, but the book is useful for Orthodox, Anglican and Lutheran Christians who are devoted to saints as well. Selections include founders and representatives of various religious orders and martyrs, and historically significant persons within and beyond the Catholic community. In this grand array are supplementary figures such as Mohandas K. Gandhi, Florence Nightingale, John Wesley, Anne Frank and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

The narrative core of the book is introduced by a series of helpful essays on the nature of sainthood and of spirituality. Saints not only shape but mirror the spiritual values of their eras. Some actually serve in retrospect as "countersigns" of sanctity when, for example, their psychologically unhealthy attitudes toward their own bodies and toward the reality of sexual intimacy sanctified by the sacrament of marriage were contradictions, not affirmations, of the Gospel.

This is a work of intellectual vigor, written in the same spirit and substance as the author's previous "Lives of the Popes."

The promotional material declares Father McBrien's book is "the first all-new compendium that is truly international, ecumenical and interreligious in scope." This is misleading.

Several years ago Robert Ellsberg, editor in chief of Orbis Books, produced "All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets and Witnesses for Our Time," consisting of 365 images of well-known and lesser-known humans — some Christian, some not. Ellsberg pioneered the concept of looking past the specific religious affiliation of the character he sketches and also through their personal flaws to see how God is actively revealed in their lives.

This is obviously not a traditional collection of saint stories. Quite a large number have not been canonized. Yet this user-friendly, more popularly written guide encourages readers to discover people through whom God may be at work — with or without the church's formal recognition.

Again, the breadth of subjects chosen is awesome. Characters from Old and New Testaments appear alongside Christian and non-Christian witnesses to the faith from the last two millennia. Ellsberg helps the reader to appreciate that God speaks through many persons within and beyond the process of canonization.

For those new to the saints or a bit bored with reading too many "authorized" narratives and eager to begin the exciting spiritual journey of discovering the meaning of sainthood, both books (depending on your literary tastes) are compelling. Read the selections through an entire year. Return to them as resources for personal reflection, sermons or talks.

*Holst is a writer who has taught religion and culture at the University of Calgary.*

# Word to Life

*October 21, Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**Cycle C Readings:**

1) Exodus 17:8-13
Psalm 121:1-8
2) 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2
3) Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Each Sunday in parishes across the country a wonderful ministry to young children flourishes. After the opening prayer and before the readings begin, a member of the community invites the children to join them for the children's Liturgy of the Word, which occurs in an adjacent chapel or meeting space.

Girls and boys flock from all corners of the gathered community. Some are smiling, some hesitant, some guiding a younger sibling along. At almost every Mass one or two little stragglers will rush along after the group, trying to catch up. Occasionally one of the very young will wave at the priest or turn around and wave at Mom or Dad, with second thoughts about making this independent trek.

If we have witnessed this delightful exodus of children from the worship space, we may have realized that we were smiling or even chuckling despite ourselves.

Later, when the children return to the gathered community, I sometimes wonder if we realize what we are witnessing as we watch their weekly departure and arrival.

For the adults it all seems so simple and routine, but the children have had an opportunity to hear, read and discuss the most important stories of all time on their own level of understanding. They each have an amazing new truth to share with their parents about Jesus or some other biblical character who may have become more real to them. What we as individual family members or worshiping community are really witnessing is one aspect of our responsibility to teach the word of God to each generation and to know it ourselves.

In today's second reading from St. Paul to Timothy, we can hear the passion in the writer's words. He writes with great fervor about the power that lies in the knowledge and understanding of "sacred Scripture" and the importance of the place it occupies in all aspects of daily life from cradle to the grave and beyond. Wisdom, faith and salvation all directly relate to the inspired word of God.

The writer does not mince words when he says, "Proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient."

Jesus asks us in today's Gospel, "But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

**QUESTIONS:**

*Have you considered whether your gifts equip you to serve in children's catechesis? Is now the time?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Oct. 14 - 20**

**Sunday,** 2 Kings 5:14-17, 2 Timothy 2:8-13, Luke 17:11-19; **Monday (St. Teresa of Avila),** Romans 1:1-7, Luke 11:29-32; **Tuesday (Sts. Hedwig and Margaret Mary Alacoque),** Romans 1:16-25, Luke 11:37-41; **Wednesday (St. Ignatius of Antioch), Romans 2:1-11,** Luke 11:42-46; **Thursday (St. Luke),** 2 Timothy 4:9-17, Luke 10:1-9; **Friday (North American Martyrs),** Romans 4:1-8, Luke 12:1-7; **Saturday (St. Paul of the Cross),** Romans 4:13, 16-18, Luke 12:8-12

**Scripture for the week of Oct. 21 - 27**

**Sunday,** Exodus 17:8-13, 2 Timothy 3:14—4:2, Luke 18:1-8; **Monday,** Romans 4:20-25, Luke 12:13-21; **Tuesday (St. John of Capistrano),** Romans 5:12, 15, 17-19, 20-21, Luke 12:35-38; **Wednesday (St. Anthony Claret),** Romans 6:12-18, Luke 12:39-48; **Thursday,** Romans 6:19-23, Luke 12:49-53; **Friday,** Romans 7:18-25, Luke 12:54-59; **Saturday,** Romans 8:1-11, Luke 13:1-9


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# Movie Capsules

By Catholic News Service

*NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are capsule reviews of new movies reviewed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

**"Bandits" (MGM)**

Ill-conceived crime comedy in which two bank robbers (Billy Bob Thornton and Bruce Willis) both fall for the disillusioned housewife (Cate Blanchett) they've kidnapped, who joins them in their lawless exploits. In director Barry Levinson's inconsistent, meandering narrative, not only does crime pay, the selfish trio carry on a three-way relationship that disregards morality. Flippant treatment of fidelity, some violence, implied sexual encounters and brief crass language and profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

**"Dinner Rush" (Access Motion Picture Group)**

Ensemble piece set over the course of one night at a posh restaurant tells the intertwined stories of the owner (Danny Aiello), whose best friend was gunned down by relentless loan sharks, his gourmet-chef son (Edoardo Ballerini) and several of the colorful clientele. Although it bites off more than it can chew, director Bob Giraldi's comic melodrama serves up an absorbing tale; however, the remorseless, vengeful conclusion is morally unacceptable. Rationalization of murder, a sexual encounter, some violence and much rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Joy Ride" (20th Century Fox)**

Ugly thriller in which two brothers (Steve Zahn and Paul Walker) driving cross country use a CB radio to play a prank on a lonely trucker who turns out to be a psychotic killer intent on getting even with the siblings. Though the territory is familiar, John Dahl's direction produces briskly paced suspense and a few goose bumps, but the narrative's mean-spirited tone is as disturbing as the actual terror. Some violence with a few gory images, brief nudity and much rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Max Keeble's Big Move" (Disney)**

Disappointing children's comedy about a junior high student (Alex D. Linz) who gets the courage to avenge the school's bullies when he finds out he is moving, but then must face the consequences when his parents abruptly decide to stay put. With laughs falling flat and a theme of revenge that is only weakly rectified at the end, director Tim Hill's tired tale has little to recommend it. Bullying behavior and a few crude jokes. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

**"Serendipity" (Miramax)**

Leaden romantic comedy in which two strangers (John Cusack and Kate Beckinsale) meet by chance and have an instant connection, but tempt fate by separating, only to search each other out years later when they are both about to marry someone else. Poorly directed by Peter Chelsom, the contrived plot is stretched beyond its feeble limits to produce a lethargic film accompanied by mostly flat performances. Live-in relationships, a discreet fleeting bedroom scene and some crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

**"Va Savoir" (Sony Classics)**

Airy French romantic comedy set during the run of a play in Paris where six self-absorbed characters flirt with new or former romantic partners before reviving their current relationships. Though overlong and casual in its treatment of love affairs, director Jacques Rivette takes a gently rueful look at ambivalent couples and the comic aspects of the mysteries of sexual attraction. Subtitles. Implied affairs and brief nudity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



CNS photo from Miramax

**Scene from movie 'Serendipity'**

**Kate Beckinsale and John Cusack star in the romantic comedy "Serendipity." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**


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## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Pope says God's love will rescue humanity from every threat

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God will rescue humanity from every threat because his love is real, Pope John Paul II said.

The future of peace and joy that God has promised his children since the beginning of time, "even if delayed, will come despite all the failures of men and women," he said Oct. 10 at his weekly general audience.

In his greetings to English- and Dutch-speaking pilgrims, the pope asked for special prayers for peace and justice in the world, but he did not specifically mention the ongoing U.S.-led bombing of terrorist targets in Afghanistan.

"I invite you all to pray for peace and to be committed to building a world without violence, founded on respect for the dignity of every human being," Pope John Paul said in English.

To Dutch speakers he said, "Pray for those who suffer, beg for peace and justice in the certainty that God in Jesus Christ has defeated evil, sin and death."

In his main audience talk, Pope John Paul focused on a canticle in the Old Testament Book of Jeremiah calling God's people to joy even though they were living under foreign occupation.

The canticle promises a future in which the scattered people will be reunited, singing and dancing for joy, he said. Not only will they have their temple again, but they will have grain, oil and sheep.

God's promises are not abstract nor simply metaphorical for interior well-being, he said.

"God wants to make the whole person happy," he said.

As in the time of Jeremiah, he said, the call to joy today is not motivated only by a promise of future happiness but by the knowledge that God loves each and every person at this moment.

"This love is the golden thread uniting the whole history of Israel, in its joys and sadness, in its successes and failures," he said. "God's love never lessens, and even his punishments are an expression of it because they teach and save."

The fullness of happiness, the pope said, will come at the end of time with the return of Christ, who already has triumphed over evil and death.

"Now, in the midst of all our sorrows and uncertainties, we look confidently to the time when the victory of Easter will be complete," he said.

## Coming of Age



AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

**Parents Who Program and Parents Who Love**

I was in a department store, waiting for the clerk to finish with my purchases. Next to me, being waited on by a different clerk, was a woman with a small child.

The little girl looked to be about 4. The mother was tall, thin, perfectly coiffed and impeccably dressed. The clerk was complimenting her on her daughter, saying how cute she was and (this is when my nerves started to fray) what a real "little girl" she was.

Now, you know what the implication of that is, don't you?

If you don't, I'll lay it out for you. The clerk meant that the child seemed to be really interested in her own appearance.

If you don't believe me, listen to what the mother said, obviously thrilled that the clerk had picked up on her daughter's personality.

"Oh yes," she cooed, "she loves all that stuff already: clothes, having her hair done, makeup!"

I could write a column — or five — just about that, but I won't. Just be assured, young women, if you're not particularly fascinated by those externals, you're no less female than a girl who is.

No, what really set me back was the mother's next statement. "And I'm so happy about it! I have really, really been working hard to program her to be that way ever since she was born."

Wow!

There's a lot of room for comment in that little story, but what I want to focus on is this: Sometimes, as kids struggle to figure out who they are, they may feel as if their parents are, indeed, trying to "program" them to be a certain type of person.

Be assured that most parents aren't doing that at all. But also be assured that most parents aren't totally prepared for the uniqueness that is you either.

Even if you're basically buying into your parents' values and what they've tried to teach you, you're probably going to come up against some conflict in this area. You're going to feel a passion and drive to spend time on some activities they really don't see the point of.

Even if they've not "programmed" you, there's a chance that some things that interest you aren't what interest them at all, and they might have some words to say about that.

What do you do?

Be patient, that's what. Be loving. Be understanding.

Be patient with your parents as they slowly but surely let you fly on your own. Sure, it seems to you as if it has been a very long time since you were a baby, but to parents it's like the blink of an eye.

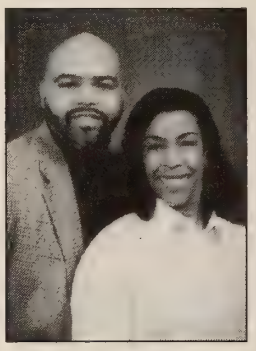
Be loving as you've been loved. Your parents have given years and years to your care. If you find yourself uninterested in going on the path they seem to want for you, react to their questions and concerns with love. They deserve it.

Finally, be understanding. Understand that your parents want you to be yourself, but they've also been where you are. They've made the mistakes that every young person makes in following what they think are their dreams, and they don't want you to make them too.

Understand that you're not infallible. Older people, especially your parents, might have something to say that's worth hearing in helping you clarify which of your hopes are grounded in reality and which ones are really just fantasy.

God made you to be someone unique, but he also gave you parents to help that unique person bud, grow and flourish.

That's not programming. That's love.



## Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

**Decisions, decisions. . . .**

How does one get through life with so many important decisions to make? How can we know to make the best decisions? Sometimes we can carefully discern and arrive at the best possible decision about some things. However, for many very important decisions, we may find ourselves stuck with too many options. Moving forward may be a matter of faith.

Especially when it comes to family decisions, remaining stuck is not an option. For example, when we married 26 years ago, we were resolved to make our marriage work. But can we say that we were 100 percent sure that this was the best possible decision? No, we weren't. Though we were resolute, we were not absolutely sure about our choice being the best. Life held too many other possibilities for such surety. Today we both believe that our choices could have been other and life could still be sweet and full of joy for both of us. What we were sure about then was not that it was the best, but that our decision to marry was a good one.

Another, more recent example is Andrew's decision not to continue theological study. Competing passions for higher learning, ministry, work, marriage, family, and friendship demanded more than he had to give. It would not be fair to any of those passions to weigh and compare them according to their depth. Each has its own very special place of importance. It would be wonderful to have it all. Yet, the limitations of time, energy, attention and financial resources dealt the reality that something had to give. The difficulty was that in each of those areas Andrew found his heart. No demons to exorcise, no clear-cut loser. But a decision had to be made.

Very often, making life choices is not opting for good over bad or even good over lesser good. Sometimes it is choosing between two or more loves and living with that choice. Sometimes we have to just buckle down and make a good decision the best decision over time. It is about sacrifice and offering. It is the work of our humanity to make those life choices the best over time.

However, to live fully with such decisions, we have to put the not-chosen to rest. Sometimes we have to bury old dreams so that new dreams may sprout. This can be painful. But, what is sacrifice without pain?

We ask God to enter into our discernment; we offer to God the not-chosen good as a sacrifice. We then dedicate ourselves to making the chosen the best choice through fidelity, faith and loving care. Through the loving work of our human hands, God blesses it and makes it holy. That's how one gets through life with so many important decisions.

**Questions for Reflection:**
*What life-choices have you made the best over time?*
*What dreams did you have to bury?*
*How has this fed your faith?*



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

### More Than You Know

I'm in my office and a young woman comes in to talk. She's about twenty-four years old and badly shaken by the recent death of her father. We speak about the meaning of life and death. She particularly wants to know about the afterlife. What, she asks, is heaven really all about? How can we know that it exists? How can a person enjoy a happy life beyond this life? What kinds of sin would keep a person from experiencing God's goodness and mercy in the life-to-come? Now that someone she loves has died, Marianne needs to know. And she wants, more than ever, to be a person of faith. She wants to believe in the transcendent. She wants to believe in a life greater than our earthly existence. But sometimes hope fails her. Sometimes she's paralyzed by doubt. Sometimes it's too hard to believe in a reality you can't taste or see or feel.

Toward the end of our encounter Marianne looks sad. Her words revealed her struggle. "Father Jim, I wish I could be more like you. I wish I could believe that my father is more alive now than he was before. Believe me, no wants to trust that there's a heaven more than me. But I just can't. My faith is so weak." Marianne is not alone. Many people I know and love are unsure of their faith. In a world that celebrates the provable, the verifiable and the scientific, belief in that which we cannot confirm seems too hard by half.

Maybe we're being too hard on ourselves. Maybe we're more given to faith than we know. Maybe we do, in fact, trust the unknown more fully than we realize. An example: after generations of talk about the supremacy of science over belief in God, polls tell us differently. One survey, published recently in "Parade" magazine, has over 90 per cent of the American people saying they believe in God.

Perhaps more convincingly, are the signs of faith all around us. Think of them. You drive your car and stop for a traffic light. You trust that when it's green for you, it's simultaneously red for those in the cross traffic. You have no way of knowing if that's true, but you trust nonetheless.

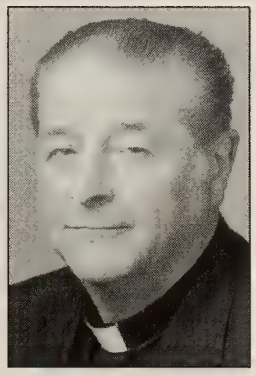
You travel to see relatives in another state. You board an airliner. You sit in a seat and allow someone you don't know and never met to left you and others around you to a height of thirty-five thousand feet. You put your very life in the hands of a stranger who, you believe, will get you there in one piece.

You go to a doctor and essentially place your body in his or her hands. You trust them to know their business. You don't know if the day they operate is a good or bad day for them. You rarely know the statistics on their rates of success. But they're doctors and you tend to believe they can make it all right.

Or how about love? You date a person for a while. You think you've come to know them. Together you decide to build a life together. The marriage takes place at which you promise before God to love, honor and respect each other always and forever. You don't know what the future holds. You don't know how well or how poorly the two of you will handle the inevitable disappointments and challenges of life. In so many ways, every act of love and commitment, every marriage is a leap into the unknown. But you take the chance. You accept the challenge. You dare to make a leap of faith.

In each case, you accept risk. You decide that some things that cannot be seen or proven must be left to faith. I think most of us believe far more than we know. We recognize at some powerful inner level that life is without meaning unless it's lived with hope and trust.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

### The Words of the Eucharistic Minister

*Q. We believe that during the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass, the bread and wine each become the body and blood of Christ. Why then do eucharistic ministers say "the body of Christ" when ministering the host, and "the blood of Christ" when ministering the cup?*

*Why not just the body and blood of Christ? The present practice can lead people to believe that the bread is the body only and the wine is the blood only. I'd wager that the majority of people believe this.*

A. I believe by far most Catholics are sufficiently well-founded in their eucharistic faith not to be confused by the words of the Communion ministers. The way they readily accept the host and the cup, separately or together, as the body and blood of the Lord is proof enough of that.

You do raise a significant point, however, in understanding our Lord's intention and graciousness in giving the Eucharist as the food and drink which forms us into his body, the body of Christ on earth.

The meaning begins to become more clear when we realize that for at least the first 12 centuries of Christianity, people regularly received Communion under both kinds, bread and wine. It was assumed that this is the fullest response to our Lord's command to eat his flesh and drink his blood (Jn 6:53).

For reasons too complex to discuss here, by the 13th and 14th centuries Communion with bread alone became increasingly common. The sacrament was received less and less often, until even many men and women religious considered once a year more than sufficient.

This later prompted some leaders of the Reformation to contend that Communion under the form of bread alone was invalid since Jesus said we must eat his body and drink his blood. In reaction, Catholic authorities discouraged, even forbade, Communion with both forms, to emphasize that Christ is wholly present under each species, bread and wine.

This custom continued until Vatican Council II, when the bishops of the world restored the practice of Communion under two species and recommended instruction explaining, among other things, how Communion with both bread and wine better reflect Catholic eucharistic theology and spirituality. The "one bread and one cup" we share make us into, and declare that we are, the body of Christ.

St. Augustine, in an Easter homily about the year 410, spoke movingly of this function of the Eucharist in Christian life. "This bread," he said, "is the body of Christ, to which the apostle (Paul) refers when he addresses the church: 'You are the body of Christ, and his members.' That which you receive, you yourselves are by the grace of the redemption, as you acknowledge when you respond Amen."

The American bishops' Committee on the Liturgy explains this as the reason ministers of the Eucharist do not say "This is the body of Christ" or "This is the blood of Christ," but simply "the body of Christ" and "the blood of Christ."

It seems perhaps a trivial difference, but it expresses a remarkable reality of our faith. As Augustine, we believe that what we receive in Communion, we ourselves already are, the body of Christ, a truth we proclaim when we respond with our Amen ("The Body of Christ," Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, 1977, pages 22-23).

While, therefore, the eucharistic bread and wine are each the entire living Christ, together they recall more explicitly and symbolically the words of Jesus: This is my body given for you, and my blood shed for you. The words of the eucharistic ministers before Communion reflect that truth.

# The Bottom Line



ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

### Finding God in a Prison Cell

Getting a Christmas card in late September was a bit of a surprise until I took a closer look at it. It had been sent to me by Sister Camille D'Arienza, a Sister of Mercy well known to me for her decades of work against the death penalty, a belief and mission paralleling my own.

The card is lovely, the Bethlehem event, with a difference. Here, the earthy scene of animals, straw, barn and manger is painted boldly. But the central figures — Jesus, Mary and Joseph — are done in a different way. They express a presence, yet a transparency, evoking the sense that they are not set in place, but rather, belong to everyone, everywhere.

Somehow I was not surprised to learn that this image had come from the soul and brush of a prisoner on death row. Calling Sister Camille, I found out about David Paul Hammer, No. 24507-077 at the U.S. Penitentiary in Terre Haute, Ind. I wanted to know why he had painted this scene and why she had used it for a Christmas card.

Their story began in Advent, 1998. Hammer, scheduled to be executed the following month, saw an Associated Press story about the Cherish Life Circle. This group was founded by Sister Camille and others seeking a change in the hearts of American people who support the death penalty. Hammer wrote to the Cherish Life Circle asking for their prayers, and asking if someone could offer him spiritual guidance.

That has been a question from many inmates that Sister Camille has never ignored. On Dec. 30, she and Ed Doherty from the Cherish Life Circle went to the prison to meet David Paul Hammer. It was clear to her, Sister Camille said, that he had "undergone some kind of conversion, an 'enlightement,' as he called it."

Now 40, Hammer, who began life in a "dysfunctional, transient family dominated by an abusive, incestuous father," had lived nearly half his life behind bars. He was on death row because he had killed his cell mate Andrew Marti, a vicious act that made no sense, even to Hammer.

When he saw the pain in Marti's family in the courtroom, Hammer was overcome with remorse. From then on he was determined to spend what time he had left making amends in some way for the evil he had done.

A stay of execution came through, and after meeting Sister Camille, Hammer asked to take instructions in the Catholic faith. He chose her to be his godmother and spiritual adviser at his baptism.

Now, awaiting a new execution date, he wants to devote his remaining time to helping abused children and those working with them. When Sister Camille discovered he was an artist, she proposed producing a Christmas card, with all funds received going to help abused children in Hammer's name.

God bless Sister Camille for her caring. I think it is important to reach out to prisoners who are trying to do good work from their prison cells, and there are many.

For the past five years, all the cards and note paper and bookmarks I have used have beautiful artwork done by Dennis Lennon, a prisoner at Angola, La. His work has come to light, thanks to Stephen Mickey, a poet, who heard of Lennon and gave him the opportunity to have his artwork presented in his Poetic Expressions business.

**Westminster Cathedral Choir to kick off tour in Charlotte**

CHARLOTTE — The choir of Westminster Cathedral, a Catholic cathedral in England, begins its upcoming tour of the United States with a concert in Charlotte.

The choir will perform the evening of Oct. 19 at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1000 E. Morehead St. in Charlotte. Reserved sections seating is available for a charge, and general admission seating is free. Seating begins at 7 p.m.

The choir was established in the original vision of the cathedral's founder, Catholic Cardinal Herbert Vaughan of Westminster.

In April 2001, a recording was released of the choir's performance of a Mass written by James MacMillan for the Great Jubilee.

The Charlotte stop on the choir's tour is sponsored by the Charlotte chapter of the American Guild of Organists and by Covenant Presbyterian Church. For more information, call (704) 333-9071.

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# Ministry of priest measured by love for Jesus, bishop says at retreat

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

MAGGIE VALLEY — The ministry of a priest cannot be measured merely by the material signs of his life's work, but rather by how his ministry brings people closer to God, Bishop William G. Curlin told his brother priests on retreat in Maggie Valley.

Bishop Curlin presided at a Mass in St. Margaret Church Oct. 3 during the annual retreat for diocesan and religious priests serving in the Charlotte Diocese. Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, a diocesan institution staffed by Augustinian clergy, hosted the retreat.

At the liturgy, the priests recognized those celebrating anniversaries of ordination and those entering retirement from active ministry this year.

"My brothers, whose ministry we celebrate today, have given their lives to Christ through the years," Bishop Curlin said in his homily. "We thank you, my brothers, for being what you are. You are good shepherds.

"We see in you what it means to be a priest — to have a Christ-like, loving heart in serving God's people."

Celebrating 45 years of priesthood in 2001 are Father Joseph Waters, who also retired this year, and Msgr. Richard Allen, who's engaged in missionary work in the Archdiocese of Anchorage, Alaska.

Celebrating 40 years are Father Aloysius D'Silva, pastor of St. Lucien Church in Spruce Pine and St. Bernadette Church in Linville; Father James Cahill, pastor of St. Mary Church in Sylva; Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father Thomas Fitzpatrick, pastor of Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville; and Father Joseph Ayathupadam, pastor of Holy Spirit Church in Denver.

Celebrating 35 years are Capuchin Father John Aurilia, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, and Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father Albert Gondek, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington.

Father John Hoover, director of New Creation Monastery in Boonville, celebrates 25 years this year.

In addition to Father Waters, Msgr. William Pharr and Father Gabriel Meehan were recognized as they retired from active ministry this summer.

Bishop Curlin said the jubilarians and retirees are models of the priestly life every priest can imitate.

He said priests assume an awesome responsibility of taking God's love from the celebration of Mass into the world. Theirs is a ministry that must be lived full time, he added.

"The greatest moment for us is this moment," he said, motioning to the hosts and chalices. "We take bread and wine, and we call on the Holy Spirit, sinners that we are, knowing that Christ comes down from Heaven to feed his people."

In a world stricken with so much hatred, fear and cynicism, priests are privileged to serve as beacons of love and hope, Bishop Curlin said.

"The world is saying, 'Dear God, don't leave us alone,'" he said. "We, too, must pray that prayer. Pray that the Lord helps us to know him with all our hearts and that he helps us make him the center of our days and our nights.

"Pray that we measure everything by our love for Jesus and know he will be with us always."

*Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org*



Photo by Jimmy Rostar

**Bishop Curlin and the priests serving in the Charlotte Diocese honored this year's jubilarians and retirees. Pictured from left: Father John Hoover, Father Joseph Ayathupadam, Father Albert Gondek, Bishop Curlin, Msgr. William Pharr, Father Joseph Waters, Father James Cahill and Father Thomas Fitzpatrick. Not pictured: Msgr. Richard Allen and Fathers John Aurilia, Aloysius D'Silva and Gabriel Meehan.**

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# Deacon, wife provide mutual support with faith, ministry

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Rev. Mr. Carl Macero saved his future wife on the dance floor. Barbara was dancing with someone else at a party and motioned across the room to Macero to "rescue" her. He obliged, and they two-stepped their way through a high school and college courtship. He had seen her for the first time during lunch at their New Hyde Park, N.Y., school and had said to himself, "There she is."

Macero had attended Catholic elementary school and had made the transition to public school easily with friends and his sweetheart at his side. They would gather for parties and get-togethers at each other's homes, and the tradition continued at St. John's University where they attended college. They were married after Barbara graduated in 1966, and Macero, a history major, began working in insurance in Boston while pursuing his master's degree in business at Boston College.

After moving back home a couple of times during the '60s after his father was in an accident and subsequently passed away, the Maceros and their two children moved to the sunny skies and flatlands of Dallas in 1980. This corporate move was instrumental in placing Macero's faith at the center of his life.

"I was a cradle Catholic, so Catholicism was always going to be where I was going to be, but I had been here and there with my faith," said Rev. Mr. Macero. "Barb led the way while I trailed behind (in our faith lives), which I think is the case in many families where 'Mom' is the spiritual head."

Mrs. Macero converted to Catholicism during her college years and became very active after they were married. "I was exposed to it as a child, and there was always something that was drawing it to me," she said.

Their Texas parish family was a source of support for the Maceros as they adjusted to life in the South, and Macero found himself involved in various capacities in his church. Bible study, music ministry, reading Scripture at Mass, eucharistic ministry, prayer group and RCIA became staples in their lives as they explored aspects of their faith and grew stronger in their spiritual lives.

"Our spirituality and spiritual awareness really started to blossom then, and the strong calling to love and follow Jesus became a reality in our lives," said Rev. Mr. Macero. "I formed my faith in a far more serious way than even when I was in parochial school."

The permanent diaconate introduced itself to the Maceros through the influence of friends. One of his closest friends had been in his diocese's previous diaconate class, and his ministry ignited a spark in Macero that could not be quenched.

"I had started to wonder if the Lord was calling me to it (the diaconate)," he said. "I think it was a natural progression because I felt called to that ministry of service. It really seemed to be the right thing for me."



Rev. Mr. Carl Macero

Much to his wife's surprise, he told her that he wanted to be a permanent deacon, and with her support, he applied and was accepted into the five-year program. He dove headfirst into the rigorous program and studied about 15 hours a week.

"In most diaconate programs, for the first couple of years, you have to start knocking away some of the myths you have developed during childhood (about Catholicism). I tried to be open-minded especially when we began," remembered Rev. Mr. Macero, who said that his Bible study work and undergraduate history degree helped with his formation classes.

"It was exciting and new for us and was a way to mature in our faith and the understanding of it. We had a wonderful time with community and relationship building," he said.

Ordination in 1992 led to ministerial work with diaconate candidates and other parish work. While his spiritual life was blossoming so too was his professional life. He had taken a job as underwriting manager in 1993, and the company decided to relocate him to Charlotte as vice president and chief underwriter for TransAmerica Reinsurance in 1996.

Even though he was not happy about the move, a series of events made it impossible to doubt his life's path. His boss in Charlotte had made inquiries about the diaconate in the Diocese of Charlotte even before he had asked Rev. Mr. Macero to move. Rev. Mr. Macero found out that St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte had never had a deacon and that Capuchin Father Ignatius Zampino, the pastor, had been asking for one. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte area was familiar to him, so it was a perfect fit.

The grandfather of three is now working with aspirants in diaconate formation and is working at his parish. He says that the diaconate has strengthened his marriage and has helped to keep things in perspective. "Our faith has always kept us together. Our spirituality is a strong part of our lives and is the core of a successful marriage."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*


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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
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October 19, 2001
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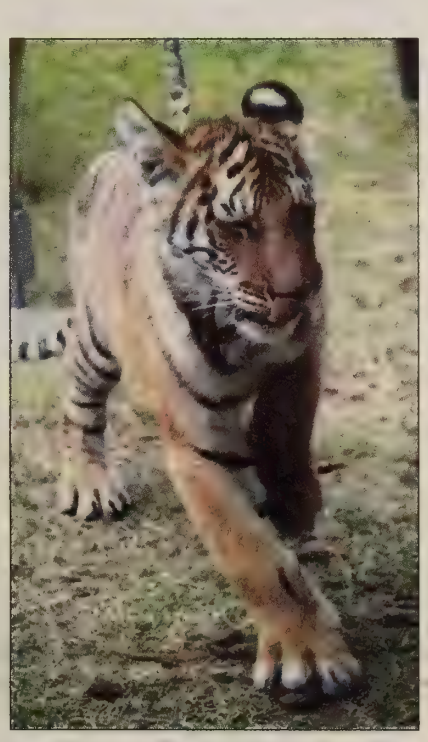
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"... everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

— Luke 18: 14

# All Saints School becomes 'Wild Kingdom'








Jim Fowler, executive director of Mutual of Omaha's Wildlife Heritage Center and host of "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom," and Leno, a four-month-old Bengal tiger, were among special guests at All Saints School in Charlotte Oct. 12 for an educational presentation on wild animals. Fowler, a naturalist, zoologist and geologist who has made numerous television and movie appearances, is also seen regularly on "Animal Encounters with Jim Fowler" on the Animal Planet cable channel and on NBC's "Today Show," where he and his animal friends appear every two weeks. Above, All Saints Principal Betsy DesNoyer and first-grader Anna Dettmer present Fowler with an All Saints shirt.

# Death penalty opponents take journey of hope

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MAGGIE VALLEY — Robert "Renny" Cushing Jr. stood before the small group assembled in St. Margaret Church Oct. 6 and talked about hope, but not the kind of hope someone had tried to give him in 1988.

Cushing told the group that, "A man came to me after my father was murdered and said, 'I hope they fry those people. I hope they fry them so you and your family can get some peace.' I know that man meant to comfort me, but it was the most horrible thing he could possibly have said."

The hope that Cushing, executive director of Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation, advocates is the hope that the death penalty will be abolished. About 20 members of the group are speaking throughout North Carolina Oct. 6-23 in a program called "Journey of Hope," which is sponsored by North Carolina People of Faith Against the Death Penalty. Other Journey of Hope events within the Diocese of Charlotte were scheduled for Asheville, Charlotte and the Triad.

Cushing might well be expected to strongly advocate the death penalty.

"I came to speak to you because in 1988 Robert and Marie Cushing planted a garden," he said. "They were celebrating the birth of their new grandchild — my daughter. That evening as my mother sat on the couch watching the Boston Celtics playoff game, the doorbell rang. My father opened the door and was greeted by two shotgun blasts that turned his chest into hamburger and killed him in front of my mother's eyes."

Robert McLaughlin Sr., the man who killed Cushing's father, was a police officer. He took a sawed-off shotgun from

SEE JOURNEY, PAGE 14

### Four cardinals give measured support to retaliatory attacks

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Four U.S. cardinals, in separate statements, gave measured support for the retaliatory strikes launched Oct. 7 by American and British forces against military targets and suspected terrorist camps in Afghanistan. Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington called the military campaign a "necessary response" but one he prayed would not take innocent life and would be guided by "principles of morality and human dignity." Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston said it was "understandable, given the threat to the common good posed by terrorists and their supporters." Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia said he is confident the goal is justice, not vengeance. And, according to Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit, "a military necessity now presents itself to the people of the free world."

### Pope beatifies seven, including founder of Sisters of Providence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a liturgy that celebrated saintliness around the world, Pope John Paul II beatified seven people, including the Canadian founder of a religious order dedicated to serving the sick and the poor. Others beatified during the Oct. 7 Mass included two martyrs: an Armenian archbishop killed by Turks in the early 1900s and a German journalist executed by the Nazis in 1945. Declared "blessed" for her life of holiness and sacrifice was Sister Emilie Tavernier Gamelin, who ministered to the needy in 19th-century Montreal before dying during a cholera epidemic in 1851. Her order, the Sisters of Providence, today carries on her work on four continents.

### Pakistani bishops express concern for safety of Christians

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (CNS) — Bishops in Pakistan expressed grave concern for the safety of the country's minority Christian population in the wake of U.S.-British air strikes against the Taliban government in Afghanistan. Several bishops who spoke to Catholic News Service voiced concern that the air strikes, coupled with a potential ground war, could make Christians a target for violence by Islamic fundamentalists. Archbishop Lawrence J. Saldanha of Lahore, chairman of the bishops' justice and peace commission, said he saw the Oct. 7 air strikes "as a necessary means to an end." He said, "We had hoped that a solution could have been worked out in a more peaceful way. Now we hope that it will be a short and quick operation, and from this some good will come."



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**New York workers pause for one-month memorial**
**One month after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, workers pause to watch a memorial service from a damaged pedestrian bridge overlooking the site of the fallen buildings in New York Oct. 11. A short service at ground zero marked the tragic event.**

### World Mission Sunday aids church in developing world

NEW YORK (CNS) — These are times of great growth and great need in the churches in the developing world, Father John E. Kozar, national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, said in a statement released for World Mission Sunday Oct. 21. "On the one hand we are witnessing a time of great growth for the church in the missions," said the priest, who heads the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Society of St. Peter the Apostle and the Pontifical Missionary Union. "Yet more and more often," he added, "we see great suffering among the poor, and we find missionaries serving in those areas, often at great risk to their own lives, so that the poor may come to know the saving love of Jesus Christ."

### Lawyers concerned for public good urged to heed social teaching

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal Avery Dulles said in a lecture Oct. 9 that the church's social teaching was a resource "that no publicly-minded lawyer can afford to ignore." Speaking at the Fordham Law School in New York, he said that law "cannot be adequately taught without reference to the purposes of society and the nature of justice." The Catholic Church has developed an unmatched body of social teaching, and the development reflects centuries of in-depth study of "the role of law and its place in a well-ordered society," he said. With the lecture, Cardinal Dulles, who is McGinley professor of religion and society at Fordham University, inaugurated a Catholic Lawyers Program, part of Fordham Law School's Institute on Religion, Law & Lawyer's Work.

### Archbishop John Myers installed in Newark, N.J.

NEWARK, N.J. (CNS) — Archbishop John J. Myers was installed as fifth archbishop of Newark Oct. 9 at an afternoon Mass in the archdiocese's Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. At the start of the ceremonies, he noted that the joy of the occasion, attended by more than 60 cardinals and bishops, was tempered by the "great national sorrow" for those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Among the dead and missing at the World Trade Center, which was just across the river from the Newark Archdiocese, were about 2,000 people from New Jersey. The new archbishop asked prayers for the dead and pledged that the archdiocese would "stand with the bereaved."

### Pope prays for victims, for peace a month after terrorist attacks

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II commemorated the deadly terrorist attacks in the United States with prayers for the victims and for world peace. "We implore tenacity and perseverance for all men of good will in pursuing paths of justice and peace," he said Oct. 11 during a morning prayer with hundreds of bishops attending a monthlong synod. "May the Lord uproot from the heart of man every trace of rancor, enmity and hate and make him open to reconciliation, solidarity and peace," the pope said. As in his previous public statements since the start of a U.S. bombing campaign on suspected terrorist targets in Afghanistan, the pope did not support or condemn the military action.

### Ecumenical delegates tell bishops to learn from other churches

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — All churches have concerns about power-sharing and organization, and they can learn from one another as they share possible solutions, said ecumenical delegates at the Synod of Bishops. Delegates from the Orthodox, Lutheran, Anglican and Armenian Apostolic churches addressed the synod Oct. 11, echoing many of the concerns shared with the gathering by the participating Catholic bishops. In discussing the essential role of the bishop in the sacramental structure of the church, "it is encouraging to hear bishops speaking along the same lines" as Orthodox bishops have been doing, said Orthodox Metropolitan Ambrosius of Oulu, Finland. "We share the same problems and concerns," he said.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**October 21 — 11:30 a.m.**
Mass, dedication and celebration
St. Paul the Apostle, Greensboro

**October 22-24**
Provincial assembly of bishops and priests, Asheville

**October 26**
Aquinas-Lutheran Banquet
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

**October 28 — 2 p.m.**
25th/50th anniversary Mass and celebration
St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte

## Diocesan planner

**October**

**25** CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., welcomes everyone to a healing Mass celebrated by Josephite Father Robert DeGrandis tonight at 7:30 p.m. Father DeGrandis has written over 40 books on healing and has spoken to groups around the country. For details, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

**26** HOT SPRINGS — The Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy 25/70, is hosting a Reiki weekend with Karen Purcott, a master Reiki practitioner in the Usai system of healing. Participants will have the opportunity to receive a laying-on of hands treatment and reflect upon the gifts of the Holy Spirit. For more information, call the center at (828) 622-7366.

**27** CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Singles of Charlotte invite all single men and women to their Halloween party this evening at the Mereview Clubhouse. Guests are asked to wear costumes and to bring non-perishable items to be donated to the local food bank. For time, location, directions and more information about their 25th anniversary party with former and current members on Dec. 1, call Frances Wiggins at (704) 367-0464 or e-mail cathsinglesclt@aol.com.

**27** CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., is hosting its 2nd Annual Kennedy Lecture Series featuring Megan McKenna. The session entitled "Parables: Visiting the Kingdom" will include stories and tales about the parables in the Bible and will be held from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in Biss Hall. For details, call the church office at (704) 332-5342.

**28** HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

### Vatican's U.N. nuncio to give peace award to Knights of Columbus

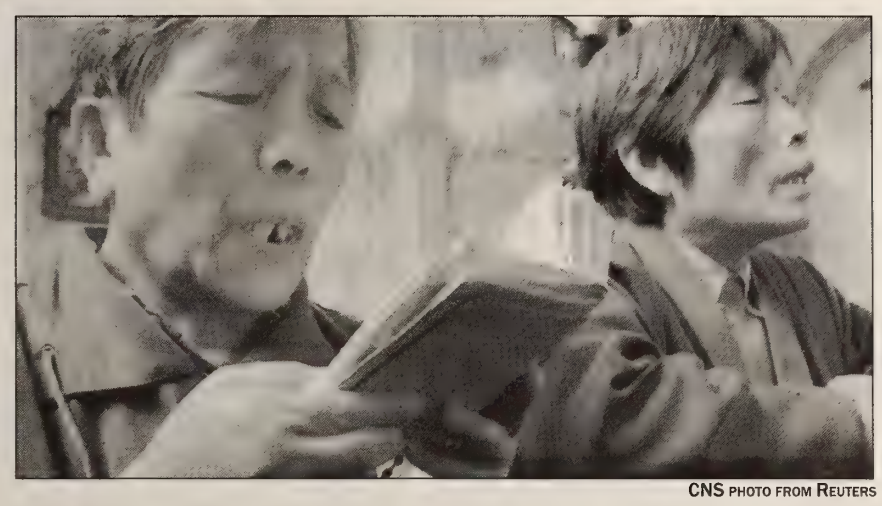
NEW YORK (CNS) — Archbishop Renato R. Martino, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, has announced that the Champion of Peace Award given by the Path to Peace Foundation would go this year to the Knights of Columbus. The foundation, an agency founded and led by the archbishop to carry out projects related to the work of the Vatican's U.N. mission, initiated the Champion of Peace Award last year with a presentation to the Knights of Malta. Announcing this year's award Oct. 10, Archbishop Martino said the Knights of Columbus were "consistently devoted to supporting the Holy Father and the Holy See on countless initiatives for spreading the Gospel of Christ throughout the world, particularly in their uncompromising defense of the sanctity of human life and the family."

### Cardinal urges solution to Hispanic vocations crisis

ATLANTA (CNS) — The priestly vocations crisis affects the entire U.S. church but is sharper among Hispanics because they are increasing much faster, said Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington. "If we don't find solutions, the problem will be bigger in the future," he said. Cardinal McCarrick spoke in Atlanta during the Oct. 1-4 annual meeting of the National Association of Hispanic Priests on ways to solve the scarcity of Hispanic priests. "The church has no doubt that at least a third of all the Catholics are Hispanic," the cardinal said. "A major problem of this shortage is that there is no awareness that the shortage exists," he added.

### Catholic Charities outlines economic stimulus package for poor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Charities USA has laid out its vision of an economic stimulus and domestic relief initiative for the country following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. "While much has changed since Sept. 11, many things remain the same," Sharon Daly, Catholic Charities USA's vice president for social policy, said Oct. 11 in testimony before the Senate Finance Committee's Subcommittee on Social Security and Family Policy. Among needs she said remain the same and must be addressed, Daly listed the minimum wage, child-care assistance, affordable housing and health care for the uninsured.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Chinese women pray at Catholic church in Beijing**
**Elderly Chinese women pray at a Catholic church in Beijing Oct. 14, observed as the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Catholic priest in Beijing. Italian Jesuit Father Matteo Ricci first arrived in Macau in 1582. He moved to Beijing in 1601 and died there nine years later. An academic symposium was meeting in China's capital for four days to review the writings and work of the missionary.**

### Pope says Nobel Peace Prize crowns Annan's dedicated work

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II congratulated Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kofi Annan, U.N. secretary-general, telling him the award "crowns a lifetime dedicated to serving peace and justice and the well-being of the world's peoples." The pope said, "I warmly congratulate you on this well-deserved recognition of your efforts to build up the U.N. system." The pope's comments were made in a telegram after Annan and the United Nations were named the winners of the 100th annual peace prize Oct. 12 in Oslo, Norway. The winners were picked from a field of 136 nominees, including Pope John Paul.

### Archbishop: Salvadoran quake victims still need permanent housing

WASHINGTON (CNS) — El Salvador still faces the problem of rebuilding permanent housing after a series of earthquakes earlier this year, said Archbishop Fernando Saenz Lacalle of San Salvador. About 250,000 permanent housing units are needed before the rainy season starts in May, he said, adding that this will be difficult to do and will require foreign funds. "Normally, the country builds about 20,000 housing units per year," he said. Archbishop Saenz was interviewed while in Washington Oct. 11-13 for visits with officials of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

### Priest calls Mexican migration to U.S. an evangelizing pilgrimage

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The clandestine migration of Mexicans across the U.S. border can become an evangelizing pilgrimage, said Holy Cross Father Daniel Groody, assistant theology professor at the University of Notre Dame. It has spiritual dimensions which need to be tapped, he said in an Oct. 10 telephone interview. "What are the wounds and struggles of immigrants? What is the revelation they experience? What is their encounter with God?" he said. Father Groody has written a book, "Border of Death, Valley of Life: A Mexican Immigrant Spirituality," examining the evangelizing dimension of Mexican migration into the United States. The book is scheduled to be published next spring by Rowman & Littlefield.

### Liturgy directors discuss renewal of Sunday as Lord's day

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — More than 200 U.S. diocesan liturgy officials gathered in Philadelphia Oct. 2-6 to discuss renewal of Sunday as the Lord's day. "Sunday: Day of Days" was the main theme of the meeting. The four main speakers addressed various aspects of Pope John Paul II's 1998 apostolic letter, "Dies Domini" ("The Day of the Lord"), on Sunday as a day of rest, worship and celebration. Norbertine Father Andrew D. Ciferni, rector of Daylesforth Abbey Church in Paoli, Pa., and a former professor of homiletics and liturgy, discussed the challenges for a Catholic approach to Sunday that are posed by contemporary American culture. One challenge, he said, is simply "that we need to be there" with the assembly at worship.

### World Food Day shows enormity of world hunger, says coordinator

WASHINGTON (CNS) — World Food Day, observed Oct. 16 this year, is an annual effort to raise people's consciousness about just how many people in the world go hungry, but the effort doesn't stop with just one day, says its coordinator. "Our main purpose is getting people to use World Food Day effectively; that means gathering resources and getting information out to people," Patricia Young, national coordinator of the U.S. National Committee for World Food Day, said in an interview. "The World Food Day effort never stops." Numerous Catholic institutions are among the sponsoring organizations of the committee. World Food Day, started in 1981, is now observed in more than 150 nations.

**November**

**1** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Ladies' Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

**2** CHARLOTTE — Marriage Encounter Weekends are designed for couples to get away from jobs, kids, chores and phones for 44 hours and focus only on each other. The next Marriage Encounter will be taking place today through Nov. 4 at the Charlotte Airport Holiday Inn. Registration closes Oct. 30, and the weekends fill up quickly. For further details and to register, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

**4** CHARLOTTE — In honor of the yearlong 150th anniversary of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Ellouise Schoettler, professional artist and storyteller, will illustrate the early history of the church and tell the stories of those who contributed to the parish's development. All are invited to Biss Hall at 12:15 p.m. today. For details, call the church office at (704) 332-5342.

**4** CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of Secular Franciscans will be meeting today from 2-4 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. All visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 573-4299.

**4** CHARLOTTE — The Christian Mothers' Group of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., will host a special Mass for parents and grandparents of a deceased child or children today at 3 p.m. with a reception following the Mass. All are invited to arrive at 2:30 p.m. to light a candle or place pictures of loved ones in the sanctuary. A Mass for widows and widowers will be celebrated on Nov. 11 at 3 p.m. followed by a reception. For details, call B.J. Dengler at (704) 364-5431, Ext. 212

**4** SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**5** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**5** CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight with Father Anthony Marcaccio at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will not be given this month but will be offered next month, and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on Dec. 3. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

**10** LAKE JUNALUSKA — Oct. 26 is the deadline for registering for Fire in the Mountains 2001 - "Living on the Edge: The Challenge of Spirituality" featuring Father Louis Cameli, director of ongoing formation of priests in the Archdiocese of Chicago, with a special message from Bishop William G. Curlin. The event will be held at Harrell Hall. For more information, call Rosemary Kingsley at (828) 274-0318 or e-mail johnann77@msn.com.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# Campus ministry house dedicated at UNC-Asheville

By WENDY E. MURRAY
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — About 35 students, faculty, ministers and other guests gathered at the new Cooperative Campus Ministry house at UNC-Asheville to dedicate and bless the new space for all seeking spiritual guidance and renewal.

As friends gathered on the backyard lawn, Father Frank Cancro of St. Eugene Catholic Church began the blessing rite.

"It is important to remind ourselves that everything we do and the things we use to do it with are dedicated to God," he said. "We are doing holy things."

Twenty-five Catholic students gather weekly in the house to hold meetings, plan service projects and interfaith events, and attend Mass on Sunday evenings. Among other student groups using the house are from the Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Episcopal ministries.

Baptist students already have an off-campus house of their own where they gather to hold their activities.

The Hillel student group, the Jewish campus organization, is considering joining in on some events at the Cooperative Campus Ministry house.

After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the Northeast, UNC-A held an interfaith worship service for the university community. From this event, an interfaith team was formed to meet monthly at the house to exchange ideas and plan special events and educational workshops. Their goal will be to provide students several opportunities to express their individual faith perspectives.

"Students have been active in ministry for years, meeting where they could in study halls or centers," said Rev. Amy Rio-Anderson, the United Methodist campus minister. "Now we have a central location where all may use this house to work, study and pray."

Chancellor James Mullen, a parishioner at St. Eugene, praised the Cooperative Campus Ministry for supporting students of all denominations and faiths.

"We take the notion of community seriously at UNC-A, and many people seek community through their faith," he said. "In times like this, the campus ministries provide a wonderful grounding for students."

Future plans include a yard sale to benefit the house, a Thanksgiving progressive dinner for all the student groups and Advent services.

Anyone wishing to contact the campus house may call (828) 250-3841.

*A correspondent for The Catholic News & Herald in the Asheville Vicariate, Wendy Murray was recently appointed as the new Catholic campus minister for the University of North Carolina at Asheville. "This is an exciting time to be in campus ministry," she said. "Our new home is a safe haven where all may enter to feel a sense of oneness. We feel that we are building an ecumenical foundation that professes 'all are welcome' here."*

# Healing Mass to be celebrated at South Charlotte parish

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — A priest who serves the worldwide Catholic community will celebrate a healing Mass here later this month.

Society of St. Joseph Father Robert DeGrandis will celebrate the Mass Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway in Charlotte.

Since 1979, Father DeGrandis has served in full-time ministry to the Catholic community worldwide, particularly in the charismatic movement. He has brought the message of God's love and the healing power of forgiveness to small gatherings in countryside churches and overflow crowds in national stadiums, said organizers who are sponsoring his visit.

"We're so looking forward to having him here," said Barbara Gardner, a member of the Diocese of Charlotte's Renewal Service Team. "His discussion of healing strongly deals with the aspect of forgiveness. Especially during these times when there is so much fear and unrest, what I'm hoping for is that people will experience an inner healing."

"Certainly, a physical healing is wonderful," she added. "But an inner healing in which people come to know peace, to know that God is in control, is very powerful, too."

Gardner said Father DeGrandis' discussion of the liturgy profoundly "touches on an awareness" of how fundamentally the Mass affects the lives of the faithful.

Now based in Washington, D.C., Father DeGrandis has contributed to the growth of the renewal movement through teaching, leadership training and healing services across the United States and in more than 35 countries. He has ministered in the United States, England, Ireland, Italy and in a host of other countries as well.

A retreat leader, he has been invited to gatherings in Canada, Australia, Spain, Indonesia, the Philippines, Taiwan, Korea, Colombia and countries in Central and South America.

Father DeGrandis has penned more than 40 books, including a collection of testimonies of Catholic priests touched and renewed by the Holy Spirit and an examination of the Mass as a healing service. Many of his books have been translated into more than a dozen languages and are circulated worldwide.

Father DeGrandis' visit is sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte's Renewal Service Team and by Good News Ministries, the latter of whom sponsored the Southeast FIRE Rally in 1999 and the Youth Power Rally earlier this year.

A collection will be taken at the Mass for Father DeGrandis' ministries.

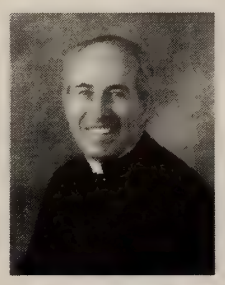
For further information, call Barbara Gardner at (704) 846-8133 or St. Matthew Church at (704) 543-7677.




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October 25th, Thursday
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St. Matthew Church
8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Charlotte 28277


Fr. Robert DeGrandis, SSJ

*Father Robert DeGrandis, a member of the Society of St. Joseph, serves the worldwide Catholic community by spreading the message of God's love and the healing power of forgiveness. Thousands have been deeply touched for more than 22 years through his radio and television messages, books, tapes, and personal ministry.*

Call 704-846-8133 or 704-543-7677

Renewal Service Team
Diocese of Charlotte
Good News Ministries

# St. Joseph statue finds final resting place in Mount Holly

By KRIS JORDAN
Special to The Catholic News & Herald

ASHEVILLE — On Sept. 18, 2001, after 75 years in service as the figurehead for St. Joseph's Hospital, the statue of St. Joseph that graced the hospital since 1924 was "retired" and moved away to allow for expansion of the parking deck.

Once the administration of Mission St. Joseph Health System mandated the move of the statue, the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina set out to locate a new home for the 1,650-pound marble St. Joseph and — as it turns out — an appropriate resting place was located in the churchyard cemetery of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Mt. Holly.

To make this move even more appropriate, family members of Sister Mary Robert Williams and of the late Sister Mary Evangelist Nixon number among the "frontier" Catholics buried there whose resting places will now be overseen by the St. Joseph statue.

The statue's new home is located about 15 miles from the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina motherhouse. St. Joseph Church, built in 1843, is the oldest standing Catholic Church in North Carolina. In 1976, the church was restored through the efforts of Bishop Michael J. Begley and a dedicated group of local Catholics from several parishes, some of whom have ancestors buried in the cemetery. The exterior, altar and pews are just as they were during the first Mass at the church, which in 1979 was designated as a national historical site by the State of North Carolina and the Department of the Interior.

The structure was actually the fourth Catholic Church built in the Carolinas, which at the time reached further west than Knoxville, Tenn. Today, only one other of the four churches remains standing, St. Paul's in New Bern.

Although St. Joseph's was not the first Catholic Church built in North Carolina, it was the first Catholic Church dedicated here and the first Catholic Church built west of the Catawba River.

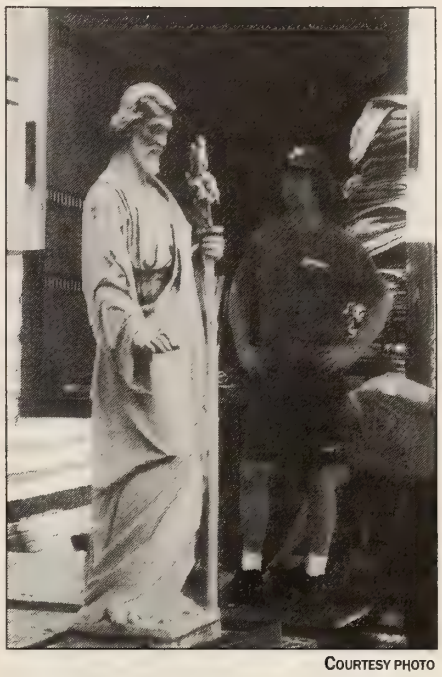
Until the time of its dedication, Catholic families primarily of Irish heritage worshiped in the chapel of their employer, the French-Italian gold mine owner, Chevalier Riva de Finola. The chapel was in use whenever itinerant missionaries from the Diocese of Charleston would travel through the area. Once the mines no longer produced, de Finola returned to Europe and subsequently the chapel was no longer available. The Irish immigrants who decided to remain realized that they needed a church of their own.

As luck would have it the needs of the local Catholics were recognized and seed monies for a church were procured. The bishop, Bishop I.A. Reynolds, later assigned Father T.J. Cronin to the Mt. Holly area. Beginning with a six-acre parcel of land donated by William Lonergan as the construction site, the task of raising funds and building the church began in earnest. Money was collected across the diocese and two years later the church was completed, debt free and ready for dedication. Unfortunately, on a trip to Salisbury in 1842, Father Cronin contracted yellow fever and died before he could see the building of St. Joseph's completed. He would return to the area, however, about a year later when his body was disinterred from its Salisbury resting place and moved to the churchyard cemetery.

Although for years Mass had been said at a wide variety of locations, once construction on the church was begun its congregation was adamant — and somewhat stubborn — about not celebrating Mass in the building until the altar was completed. Upon completion a Latin inscription, "Habemus Altare," or "We have an altar," was placed above the altar.

Upon completion of the building, Father John Gifford, who later became Bishop of Chicago, was assigned to the parish and scheduled to perform the first Mass. Due to inclement weather he was unable to cross the Catawba River at the appointed hour. Instead a missionary priest, Father J.J. O'Connell, who had been traveling the area arrived on horseback via another route and happily said the first Mass for the congregation following its dedication in 1843. Three other priests would serve the congregation composed of families with names like Duffy, Cahill, Lonergan, Cox, Miller and Hawkins. From 1847 through 1870, Fathers Barry, L.P. O'Connell, Father J.J. O'Connell's younger brother, and A.L. McNeil, guided the flock before Father O'Connell retired from the mission fields and took over as pastor of St. Joseph Church.

Like many other aspects of American life, the Civil War changed the complexion of the congregation completely. Only one of the Catholic males survived the war and consequently attendance at the church declined. In 1870, Father O'Connell began looking for a place to retire and found the old Caldwell Plantation, a 536-acre estate which he purchased for $4,182.98. Later, on his required annual visit to meet with the bishop of Charleston, he informed the bishop of his intentions to retire soon, since his congregation was dwindling. The



Courtesy photo

See STATUE, page 7



### Chicago-based Bernardin Center has new director

CHICAGO (CNS) — Sheila McLaughlin, former director of the Office for Divine Worship of the Chicago Archdiocese, is the new director of the Bernardin Center for Theology and Ministry at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. McLaughlin was named to the post in September by Passionist Father Donald Senior, president of the Catholic Theological Union, to replace Al Spilly, who resigned in June for health reasons. Father Senior called McLaughlin "a superb administrator and a natural leader." He noted that in 1994 she was hand-picked by Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago to serve as director of his archdiocesan Office for Divine Worship, the largest liturgy office in the United States.

### Human rights activist, 91, to receive 2001 Lumen Christi Award

CHICAGO (CNS) — A 91-year-old human rights activist who has spent a lifetime speaking out against hate and been involved in numerous charitable causes is the recipient of the 2001 Lumen Christi Award. Marie Wilkinson of Aurora, Ill., will receive the award, presented annually by Chicago-based Catholic Extension. It is the Catholic Church's highest honor for missionary work in America. Wilkinson has worked with more than 60 charitable organizations. She has launched college funds for poor children, rescued migrant workers from living in boxcars and advocated for preschools, fair housing laws, drug addiction treatment and aid to the poor and hungry.

### 'Catholic moment' is still here, priest says

DETROIT (CNS) — The Catholic Church still has a historic opportunity to provide direction to a confused modern world, Father Richard John Neuhaus said Oct. 5 at a Call to Holiness conference. Father Neuhaus, a New York archdiocesan priest, is the editor of First Things magazine. In a book titled "The Catholic Moment" — written 13 years ago, when he was still a Lutheran minister — he argued that the Catholic Church was in a unique position to exercise a profound influence on the culture of the United States and the world and should rise to the challenge. He told the 1,200 people attending the conference in the Detroit suburb of Sterling Heights that the book's thesis still applies 13 years later.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Nobel Peace Prize winner Kofi Annan**
**United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan speaks during a press conference at the United Nations Oct. 12 after it was announced that he and the United Nations had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.**

### Pope to issue document but not travel to Oceania to close synod

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will issue his final document on the Synod for Oceania in November, but has decided against making a personal trip to the continent for the occasion, Vatican sources said. The pope decided a few months ago that a trip from Rome to the Far East would be too taxing for him, one source said. It marks the first time the much-traveled pope has stayed home while issuing a regional synod document. Sources said the apostolic exhortation on the church in Oceania will be published at the Vatican in late November. It was written by the pope on the basis of thematic statements adopted at the end of the synod, which took place at the Vatican in late 1998.

### Kazak interpreter says she converted after papal visit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican officials often say the positive results of Pope John Paul II's foreign trips take years to develop, and their pastoral success is not always easy to measure. But a week after the pope returned from Kazakstan in late September, an unusual letter of conversion was published by the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano. Sveta Barbassova, a 22-year-old woman who worked as an interpreter during the papal visit, wrote that after being personally touched by the pope's message, she had decided to be baptized into the Catholic Church. The young interpreter said she followed almost every papal event in the Kazak capital of Astana and was amazed at the pope's personality, "so weak physically, but so strong in spirit."

### Mike Mansfield, elder statesman, dead at 98

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Mike Mansfield, a son of Irish Catholic immigrants whose political and diplomatic career spanned almost half a century, died of congestive heart failure Oct. 5 at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington. He was 98. Mansfield, a Montana Democrat, spent 34 years in Congress and was Senate majority leader a record 16 years, 1961-77. Upon his retirement from the Senate he was made U.S. ambassador to Japan, a post he held from 1977 to 1988. An expert in Asian history and foreign affairs, he was one of the earliest opponents of the U.S. escalation of the Vietnam War and played a key role in the opening of U.S.-China relations in the 1970s.

### Bishop tells judges, lawyers to use their positions for service

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Fort Wayne-South Bend told lawyers, judges and law professors and students at a Red Mass that their positions are ones of privilege and should be used for service. In a tradition dating from the 13th century, members of the legal profession gather at the beginning of the judicial term for a Mass celebrated by priests in red vestments to ask the Holy Spirit to guide members of the bench and bar. "The whole purpose of today's Scripture reading is to offer each one of us some timely warnings," Bishop Jenky said in his homily at the Sept. 30 Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the University of Notre Dame's campus.

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# Mountain parish stands test of time

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

SWANNANOA — Nestled in a valley among the mountainous terrain of Western North Carolina lies a small parish with a long history. The spirit of the "Grey Eagle," the name given to the area by the Cherokee nation long ago, still spreads its wings over the people of St. Margaret Mary Church. Two days before the feast day of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, the parishioners gathered to celebrate 65 years of worship and fellowship on Oct. 14.

One of the parishioners in attendance, Mary "Dot" Sobol, remembers the parish in its early days. She is one of the senior surviving parishioners having received the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and matrimony in the early 1940s. She and two other women, Opal LeMieux and Mildred Vaillancourt, helped to blaze the trail for the parish by serving on several committees and helping to expand the church's ministries.

"The ladies took charge, and we wore several hats. We have all been a good family together, and we have enjoyed it," said Sobol. "The growth has been so gradual that we have just accepted things as they have come with God's blessings and our faith."

The originally scheduled outdoor Mass was moved into the church because of stormy skies that morning, and people overflowed into the outer areas of the parish. The day's events included Mass, a remembrance of history, a time capsule burial, an anniversary meal and presentation.

Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor, presided at the morning Mass, and Father Andy Latsko, pastor, and Capuchin Father John Aurilia, vicar of the Asheville Vicariate and pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, concelebrated. During the homily, Father Aurilia said that through love of God and one another, the parish has been able to grow and develop.

"There is a passage in the Bible which tells us what we are celebrating today. 'This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad,'" said Father Aurilia during his homily. "After 65 years of blessings, successes and ups and downs, we are the ones who must rejoice and be glad. Today we have a right to say thank you and 'I love you' to God for his many blessings."

The rain subsided after the Mass in time for a symbolic event. The parishioners with flowers in hand stood around the burial site of a parish time capsule filled with items representing the various groups of the church and the over half of a century that the church has been in existence. All of the members brought in tokens symbolic of their association with the church also to be placed inside the capsule. The priests in attendance blessed the ground and the capsule and threw dirt onto the capsule while the parishioners took turns throwing dirt and flowers before the burial.

Connie Blalock threw her flower into the ground and silently stared at the memorial plaque commemorating the event. She and her family came to Western North Carolina from the Philippines in the 1960s and commented on the expansion of the parish since her arrival in this country.

"When I first came here, there were only 37 families. It has grown so much, and I feel proud to be a part of this parish," said Blalock.

"I have seen the church grow even more since I came here in 1995 which shows that they are doing something right," said Luvenia Jones, who remarked that the family atmosphere is what attracted her to the small parish.

"I came from a larger parish in Florida, and I loved it. But, it was difficult to be a part of an intimate group. When I arrived at the parish, the people were friendly, and it has been a wonderful experience to be with people who know your name and whose names you know."

Father Latsko expressed his pride in his parish and in the people who have kept it going for many years. "The people make the church, and we have parishioners here at St. Margaret Mary who are community-minded, helpful and friendly. Our growth has been steady over these last six years that I have been with the parish. Being a pastor in this area of North Carolina has been a learning experience and has afforded me the opportunity to meet many faith-filled and faithful people."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*




Photos by Alesha M. Price

**The plaque rests on the burial site of the St. Margaret Mary Church time capsule during the 65th anniversary celebration on Oct. 14 in Swannanoa.**



**Pictured left: Father Andy Latsko, pastor, reads the Gospel during the anniversary Mass.**

## Statue, from page 5

bishop at the time was hosting monks from St. Vincent's Abbey, Latrobe, Penn., who were considering building an abbey either in the Carolinas or in Nebraska. A deal was struck with Father O'Connell whereby he would sell them the plantation lands for cost provided that they would care for him in his retirement and make sure his burial was on holy ground. So, in a roundabout way, the pastor of St. Joseph's became instrumental in the establishment of Belmont Abbey in 1876. The Benedictines kept St. Joseph's from being abandoned, even though by the late 1880s and 1890s most of St. Joseph's parishioners attended Mass at the Abbey.

A special Mass is celebrated at the church annually, whenever possible, on March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, and the church is officially a mission of Queen of the Apostles Catholic Church, Belmont. Today, the reclamation project that began in 1976 is kept alive and well in the personage of Carl Heil, caretaker for St. Joseph's Church. Since 1993, he has lovingly and respectfully maintained records for the church and the graveyard; he holds copies of every article or document that he's been able to locate that is associated to the property; he painstakingly pieces together any facts that might come his way and tries to verify them before he sets them down in his notes as fact; he cuts back tree branches, maintains the interior and exterior and he hosts guided tours occasionally peoplewhen give at least three days' notice.

"It used to be a place where all kinds of mischief took place since the area was so overgrown," he said.

What does Carl think of the new addition to the St. Joseph grounds?

"We are so thrilled to get that statue. I understand that it's been there [in Asheville] since the early 1920s. One of the moving men said when he was a little boy on his way to elementary school he used to wave up at the statue and to him it appeared as if it was waving back at him."

"I encourage folks to come sit, to pray and think in the churchyard or at our grotto. If you have a problem, and you sit there praying, quietly thinking about it long enough, before you know it you'll have your answer," he said.

Originally a Catholic entity founded by the Sisters of Mercy, St. Joseph Hospital in Asheville was sold by the sisters in 1998.

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# Diocesan Association of Permanent Deacons gathers for annual meeting

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — On Oct. 12, permanent deacons serving in the Diocese of Charlotte convened at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory for their annual meeting.

It was a time for renewing old acquaintances and building new friendships. For many, this is one of the few times to meet up with classmates. For some, it is the time of new beginnings in that they have recently been ordained into the permanent diaconate, while still others have recently moved into the diocese because of job-related transfers.

The word diaconate has its roots in the Greek word "diakonia," which means service. And while all Christians are called into the service of Christ by virtue of their baptism, those who are ordained into the diaconate become living "sacraments of service" for the church.

The institution of the diaconate is found in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles (6:1-6) in response to the needs of a mushrooming community in the early church. The diaconate flourished during the second and third centuries in a variety of ministries dealing with charity, liturgy and proclamation of the Word. In effect, the deacon became the bishop's right-hand man.

The decline of the diaconate (in the Western church) began during the end of the third and throughout the fourth centuries because of several factors. First there was a tension between the presbyteriate and the diaconate because many bishops were taken from the ranks of the diaconate. Then, as the role of the priest, who presided at the Eucharist, grew in stature, coupled with the advent of monasticism in which many of the charitable activities of the diaconate were taken over by the monastic centers, the role of the deacon became much less prevalent.

All of this, along with the emphasis on celibacy and the general lack of support for permanent deacons, contributed to the diaconate being relegated to the transitional role leading to ordination to the priesthood by the seventh century.

Although the Council of Trent (1545-63) reaffirmed the place of the deacon in the church, nothing was done to implement the restoration of the permanent diaconate until Vatican Council II (1962-63).

Deacons, then, are not lay people doing charitable acts, but ordained members of the Catholic Church, who with their wives live the life of Christ in their own lives as they visibly serve the people of God in both the church and in the workplace.

In this capacity, each deacon utilizes his own unique talents for the building up of the parish community to which he belongs. His duties include proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through liturgies and activities within the church and overt acts of charity to the people of God outside the confines of the parish in the workplace.

The purpose of the Diocesan Association of Permanent Deacons is to serve the community of deacons and their wives in whatever capacity needed.

Rev. Mr. Bernard W. Wenning Jr., the diocesan coordinator for the permanent diaconate, said there are 78 deacons assigned to the Charlotte Diocese. The average age of these deacons is 64 years, with eight deacons over the retirement age of 75 years. Deacon Wenning also introduced nine newly ordained deacons to the group. He added that the new group of candidates for the diaconate was progressing well.

Bishop William G. Curlin presented framed Certificates of Ordination to the newly ordained. They are: Rev. Mr. Scott D. Gilfillan, Rev. Mr. Pierre M. K'Briuh, Rev. Mr. David E. King, Rev. Mr. R. Alexander Lyerly, Rev. Mr. James Mazur, Rev. Mr. Mark D. Nash, Rev. Mr. Michael J. Zboyovski, Rev. Mr. Wayne Adams and Rev. Mr. Gerard P. LaPointe.

Bishop Curlin also bestowed the papal blessing upon Rev. Mr. Vincent Shaw Jr. and his wife, Catherine, for their long and faithful service to the diaconate.

At the meeting was the election of a new slate of officers who will also serve on the Diaconate Board of Directors. These officers are: Rev. Mr. Vincent H. Shaw Jr., president, who serves the parish of St. Mary in Greensboro; Rev. Mr. Thomas J. Kak, vice president, serving Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, High Point; Rev. Mr. Scott D. Gilfillan, treasurer, serving St. Joseph Church in Conover; and Rev. Mr. James Mazur, secretary, from Sacred Heart Parish in Salisbury.

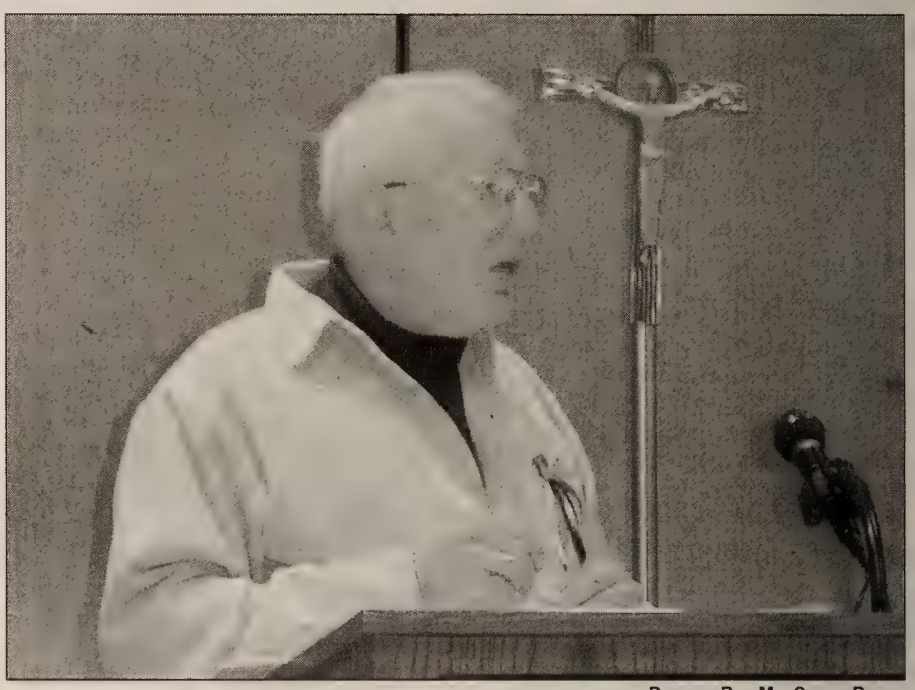


PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**Rev. Mr. Thomas Kak addresses his brother deacons and their spouses during the annual retreat in Hickory.**

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# Bishop Curlin addresses deacons: "You cannot lose, if you love Jesus"



PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**Bishop William G. Curlin directed the annual retreat for permanent deacons and their wives in Hickory. Here, the bishop is assisted at Mass by Rev. Mr. David King and Rev. Mr. Joseph Schumacher.**

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — During the weekend of Oct. 12-14, permanent deacons and their wives from around the diocese gathered for prayer and meditation at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory. Although a requirement for all deacons to attend at least one retreat per year, this particular annual retreat is not only a time for needed spiritual renewal but, for many, it is a gathering of friends from the past who encourage and support one another.

Bishop William G. Curlin directed the retreat.

"Our heart and the heart of Jesus must be one," he told the deacons. "Deacons — in fact, all Christians — must recommit our lives to Jesus each day."

The deacon's morning prayer should be, "My life is your life.... Everything I do is for you," Bishop Curlin said. The deacon's evening prayer should be, "Lord, don't let me open my eyes tomorrow if I don't intend to live completely in you," he said.

"Can people see God's actions in our actions?" queried Bishop Curlin. "Can we say, 'I was nothing but your servant?'"

At the completion of morning prayer at the retreat, Bishop Curlin challenged all to "practice what you say."

"Work at being charitable," he said. "The Twelve Apostles had faults. Therefore, in spite of limited talents and hereditary faults, all must be bridges to unite all peoples. Private lives cannot be separated from public lives."

In his dialog about Jesus, Bishop Curlin demonstrated how Jesus embraced the world; that nails didn't keep Christ on the cross, only love did.

The bishop's prayer is that the deacons and their wives "incardinate Jesus into your life," he said. "Never use the ministry to hurt with that unkindness that destroys. Keep in mind that you are an expression of ... Christ's love.

"You cannot lose, if you love people," said Bishop Curlin.

All at the retreat were provided the privilege of going to confession. The celebrants of this sacrament were Bishop Curlin, Msgr. Anthony Kovacic and Father Kenneth L. Whittington of St. Charles Borromeo, Morganton.

Saturday's Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Curlin, assisted by Rev. Mr. Art Kingsley and Rev. Mr. James Crosby. The lector was Janet Zboyovski, the wife of Rev. Mr. Michael Zboyovski. Music was supplied by Rev. Mr. Andrew Cilone and Rev. Mr. Zboyovski.

Bishop Curlin told the deacons: "You are called by God himself. Therefore, follow the example of St. Paul who embraced the world. He gloried in his weakness. Christ was his strength. Therefore, let Jesus be your strength."

"Make Jesus your rule of life," he said.

"Deacons prove their love for Christ by the way in which they deal with their wives, with their families," he continued. "Marriage is the greatest act of faith on earth." The heart of a marriage is found in the joys, sorrows and sufferings, he said, adding that the same is true of ministry.

Bishop Curlin then asked: "If we are so terrified that Satan can take over our lives, why are we not filled with wonder that God can take us over?"

As evening fell, the deacons and their wives congregated for snacks and camaraderie in the lounge and in the conference hall for reminiscing and bilingual singing. The guitarists for this extravaganza were Rev. Mr. Edwin Rodriguez and Rev. Mr. Michael Zboyovski. Afterwards they brought their music to all present by strumming and singing throughout the hallways.

"Prayer, sacrifice and a humble, patient love is the only road to heaven," Bishop Curlin said during one session.

The retreat culminated with the Eucharistic celebration with Bishop Curlin as the presider and Rev. Mr. David King and Rev. Mr. Joseph Schumacher assisting.

"For 'the been-there, done-that generation,' the bishop surely brought us back to the reality of life," said Rev. Mr. James R. Johnson.

"The bishop has been wonderful," said Martha, wife of Rev. Mr. Carlos Medina. "He has helped me to rediscover myself and has redirected my goals for both myself, my family and my community."

Deacon Medina added, "This retreat was great because it has helped me to think more seriously about my own ministry. Now I must give thought to my own strengths and weaknesses. It is truly a time for us to wake up."


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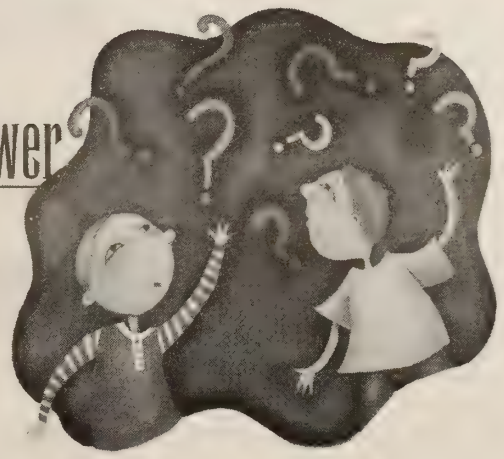
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**Book Review**

# Books contribute to continuing conversation on today's marriage

REVIEWED BY BRIAN M. KANE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

For the past 30 years or so, American culture has been slowly transformed by shifting attitudes about marriage and divorce. We have become more accepting of the breakup of marriage, cohabitation, one-parent households and latchkey children.

American Catholicism also has been buffeted by these changes. While theologically we continue to believe in the qualities of permanency, procreation and sacramentality, on a pastoral level we struggle with the experiences of those who belong to the church and who find these qualities difficult to achieve. These three books are the latest contributions to this continuing conversation.

***BREAKING APART: A MEMOIR OF DIVORCE*, by Wendy Swallow. Theia/Hyperion (New York, 2001). 352 pp., $23.95.**

***THE CASE FOR MARRIAGE: WHY MARRIED PEOPLE ARE HAPPIER, HEALTHIER AND BETTER OFF FINANCIALLY*, by Linda Waite and Maggie Gallagher. Doubleday (New York, 2000). 260 pp., $24.95.**

***THE UNEXPECTED LEGACY OF DIVORCE: A 25-YEAR LANDMARK STUDY* by Judith S. Wallerstein, Julia Lewis and Sandra Blakeslee. Hyperion (New York, 2000). 352 pp. $24.95.**

"Breaking Apart: A Memoir of Divorce" is significant because it fills a void in the volume of books about the nature of divorce. The author, Wendy Swallow, a professor at American University in Washington, leads the reader on an intimate journey through the breakup of her marriage.

Swallow offers the reader an inside view of divorce which is not found in any other book which is presently published. The reader travels with Swallow as she tries to understand the chain of events which caused her to marry, to choose to have children even in the midst of marital troubles, and then to divorce.

By the end of the book, one is left with sadness and frustration and an intimate understanding of what the author means when she writes: "There are those who believe that it is simple selfishness that leads people to divorce. For those of us who have lived it, it's hard to see why anyone would rip out their veins for some immature or narcissistic desire to get what they want, because that's what it feels like." To her credit, she succeeds.

Another perspective on divorce is found in "The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce: A 25-Year Landmark Study." The lead author, Judith S. Wallerstein, is widely acknowledged as the leading national authority on the effects of divorce on children. This book, an update on her study which began in 1971, offers new evidence for her conclusion that the personal experience of divorce affects children throughout their lives.

To fully understand divorce, one must know that the spouses and the children experience different divorces. For the spouses, it is about separating from each other, and for the children, it is about separating from their parents.

This volume examines the way in which these children, who are now adults, have made sense of their lives. Seven case studies, which most exemplify the patterns that Wallerstein sees, are presented. While the authors may be faulted for this approach to the subject, since they appear to only show the models which most fit their conclusions, the effect is entirely convincing.

Neither a purely academic nor a purely popular book, "The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce" is compelling reading on the subject of how divorce continues to affect children, even when they are adults.

Linda Waite's and Maggie Gallagher's book, "The Case for Marriage: Why Married People are Happier, Healthier and Better Off Financially," is an excellent resource for those who would like some empirical reasons as to why marriage is beneficial.

The authors set out to attack some popular arguments that make marriage seem like a poor second choice in our quest for personal happiness. They examine the perceived benefits of cohabitation and singleness in several different areas. Ultimately, they conclude that marriage leads to some very good results.

Married couples tend to live longer, be more psychologically healthy, have more satisfying sex, and be better off financially than those who choose either to never marry or to divorce. Marriage, they conclude, ought to be treated as the socially preferred choice, rather than just a personal preference.

The book is written for popular audiences, but it also includes a healthy dose of footnotes for those who would like to examine the authors' evidence in a bit more detail.

Together, these three books are required reading for anyone who is personally or professionally interested in understanding the contemporary American discussion about marriage and divorce.

*Kane teaches theology and is director of the Marriage and Family Studies Program at DeSales University in Center Valley, Pa.*

# Word to Life

*October 28, Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**Cycle C Readings:**
1) Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18
Psalm 34:2-3, 17-19, 23
2) 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
3) Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

BY BOZENA CLOUTIER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

During his second tour in Vietnam my husband Harold was assigned as senior adviser on an island near Hue. Harold loved the place and its people from the first.

From the outset, however, he was dismayed by the conditions in which the women and children of the Viet Cong were kept on the island. They were interned in a fenced-off and guarded enclosure with minimum shelter and completely inadequate water and hygiene facilities.

His first priority was to improve that situation significantly. He knew well that this action would not earn him brownie points with his superiors, but he went ahead in seeing that buildings were put up, adequate water supplied and latrines installed. Food was increased and improved, and medical care was provided by the U.S. medics. He wrote asking his parents back home to organize a clothing drive, and soon generous amounts of clothes were shipped for the women and their children.

They were the wives, widows, mothers, sisters and children of men who were fighting with "the enemy," the Viet Cong, or who had been killed while serving with them.

There was a most unexpected outcome to Harold's actions.

He had learned that the Viet Cong had put a price on his head, offering a big monetary reward to whoever killed or captured him.

He was disturbed to learn of this, but was quickly reassured by his Vietnamese counterpart: "After what you have done for the women and children of the Viet Cong, there is not one person here on the island who would harm or betray you. You are as safe walking about here as you would be at home."

A motif that runs through both the Hebrew and the Christian Scriptures is addressed by the prophet Sirach in today's first reading. It is the admonition to care for and protect the weakest members of society, here personified by the "widows and orphans," who were truly powerless in the male-ordered culture of ancient Israel.

The Gospel picks up yet another of those persistent motifs: the folly of arrogance and God's clear preference for the humble and lowly.

The Christian's call is always to humble service to the marginalized and to an honest appraisal of oneself in relationship with God.

**QUESTION:**
*Reflect on how you reach out to the disenfranchised: widows, single parents, the mentally retarded, the poor. Which of your own religious practices seduce you into thinking you are somewhat better than others?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Oct. 21 - 27**

**Sunday,** Exodus 17:8-13, 2 Timothy 3:14—4:2, Luke 18:1-8; **Monday,** Romans 4:20-25, Luke 12:13-21; **Tuesday (St. John of Capistrano),** Romans 5:12, 15, 17-19, 20-21, Luke 12:35-38; **Wednesday (St. Anthony Claret),** Romans 6:12-18, Luke 12:39-48; **Thursday,** Romans 6:19-23, Luke 12:49-53; **Friday,** Romans 7:18-25, Luke 12:54-59; **Saturday,** Romans 8:1-11, Luke 13:1-9

**Scripture for the week of Oct. 28 - Nov. 3**

**Sunday,** Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14; **Monday,** Romans 8:12-17, Luke 13:10-17; **Tuesday,** Romans 8:18-25, Luke 13:18-21; **Wednesday,** Romans 8:26-30, Luke 13:22-30; **Thursday (All Saints),** Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, Matthew 5:1-12; **Friday (All Souls),** Daniels 12:1-3, John 6:37-40; **Saturday (St. Martin de Porres),** Romans 11:1-2, 11-12, 25-29, Luke 14:1, 7-11

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# Movie Capsules

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — *Following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

**"Corky Romano" (Touchstone)**

Mindless comedy about the goofy veterinarian son (Chris Kattan) of a Mafia boss (Peter Falk) who poses as an FBI agent to retrieve evidence the feds have on his dad. Director Rob Pritts' tired fish-out-of-water premise garners a few chuckles from the silly circumstances and Kattan's shameless lunacy, but the comedy trudges along, feebly throwing in a lesson about family acceptance at the end. Recurring comically intended violence, some mild sexual humor including homosexual jokes, brief drug content and intermittent crass language with profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

**"Focus" (Paramount Classics)**

In World War II New York, a nondescript Christian (William H. Macy) experiences anti-Semitism firsthand when he is fired for simply looking Jewish and is attacked by neighbors when they wrongly assume he married a Jew (Laura Dern). Adapted from Arthur Miller's first novel, director Neal Slavin's message movie is visually handsome and well-acted but leaden in conveying its outrage at racism. Brief violence, an implied rape and some profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

**"Iron Monkey" (Miramax)**

Snazzy martial arts adventure set in a 19th-century Chinese village where a corrupt politician forces a traveling physician (Donnie Yen) to capture a masked bandit (Rongguang Yu) — who repeatedly robs the rich to give to the poor — by holding the physician's young son in jail. Directed by Yuen Wo Ping, the action is fantastic with several amazing stunts, while the film is sprinkled with humor and slapstick which lend a lighthearted air to the proceedings. Subtitles. Intermittent martial arts violence, fleeting sexual references and a few instances of crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

**"Mulholland Drive" (Universal Focus)**

Surreal story in which a young woman (Laura Elena Harring) struck with amnesia after being in a car accident stumbles into the apartment of an aspiring actress (Naomi Watts) who helps her piece her life together. Director David Lynch's frenzied tale about the perils of Hollywood for the young and innocent maintains a pervasive sense of dread and emotional intensity up to a point, then the intentionally inscrutable conclusion renders the film both depressing and hollow. Graphic lesbian sexual content with nudity, a scene of masturbation, disturbing theme of vengeance and betrayal, intermittent violence and a few instances of rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"The Operator" (Black Wolf)**

Morality tale in which an arrogant, philandering Texas attorney (Michael Laurence) viciously berates a telephone operator (Jacqueline Kim) for giving him the wrong number, but then has his whole world turned inside out when she decides to teach him a lesson. Writer-director Jon Dichter's psychological thriller is mostly slick and intelligent, but the slightly distorted spiritual overtones and the central character's shallow transformation produce mixed results. A couple of sexual encounters, rear nudity and sporadic rough language with brief profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.



CNS PHOTO FROM MIRAMAX FILMS

**Scene from film 'Iron Monkey'**

**Tsang Sze Man, right, stars in a scene from the movie "Iron Monkey." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Pope asks church to launch new initiatives for defense of family

BY JOHN NORTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Warning that the family's central role in society was under attack, Pope John Paul II called on the church to launch new educational and political initiatives in its promotion and defense.

"Above all it is necessary to pass from a consideration of the family as a sector to a vision of the family as the criterion to measure all political action, because all the dimensions of human and social life are correlated to the good of the family," he said.

The pope made his remarks in a message to Cardinal Camillo Ruini, head of the Italian bishops' conference, who was organizing celebrations Oct. 20-21 for the 20th anniversary of "Familiaris Consortio," a papal document dedicated to the family.

Praising the Italian initiative, the pope appealed for more church-sponsored conferences, family events, and cultural, social and political initiatives to underscore the family's centrality.

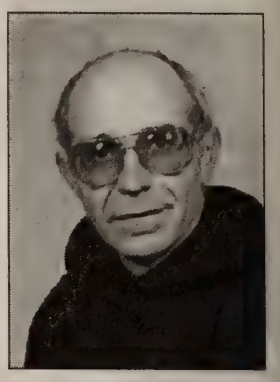
He said consideration of the family should direct all political decisions, including norms for the protection of life, health and the environment; city planning and regulation; school systems, "beginning with the right of the parents to choose" between public and private institutions; and labor and tax laws, "which cannot be based only on a consideration of single subjects, overlooking — or even worse, penalizing — the nuclear family."

"Many ask themselves: Why is the family so important? Why does the church insist so much on the theme of matrimony and the family? The reason is simple, even if not everyone succeeds in understanding it: On the family depends the destiny of man, his happiness, the ability to give meaning to his existence," the pope said.

"Man's destiny depends on that of the family, and that it why I will not tire of affirming that the future of humanity is strictly tied to that of the family," he said.

The 81-year-old pontiff was to meet with Italian families in St. Peter's Square Oct. 20 and celebrate a beatification Mass the following day for Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi, the church's first married couple to be declared blessed.

# Guest Column



FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM CAP
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Is there a just war?

The recent tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, has revived an old ethical and moral question: Is there a just war? Three saints and doctors of the church think that "theoretically, a just war is possible." St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Robert Bellarmine say that four conditions must be simultaneously present to justify a war:

1. Lawful authority
2. Just cause
3. Right intention
4. Right use of means

Historically, no just war ever took place because at least one or two elements were missing. Philosophers and theologians tend to believe today that war is the result of human failure and, unlike natural disasters, war is a wholly human affair, the result of greed, envy, hate, ambition and passion. There are two extreme attitudes regarding the concept of war: the militaristic attitude, which allows war as a normal way of survival and preservation, and the pacifistic attitude, which declares that war is always wrong because it involves violence. Between these two extremes, there is a wide array of solutions, which are not totally right or totally wrong.

If you ask Hitler, he would say that war is necessary. If you ask Gandhi, he would say that war is never justified. If you ask Jesus, he would answer with the law of love (Mt. 5:39-40; 26:52). There are instances in which Jesus challenges us to wage war against sin. The aggressive and defensive wars may clearly appear wrong or right, but when it comes to political reasons, ethics seem to struggle in justifying the four principles mentioned above. By the way, three doctors of the church seem to suggest that a just war may be possible; what do the other 30 doctors of the church think about it? If you ask what people think about the USA's action or reaction to the Sept. 11 tragedy, you get the whole spectrum of the alphabet from A to Z.

Do we take a stand or do we compromise? Here is an example of how to give some reasons without any result. There are comments from a Tennessee legislator answering a constituent's letter about the "whiskey situation:"

"I had not intended to discuss this controversial subject at this particular time," he wrote. "However, I want you to know that I do not shun controversy. On the contrary, I will take a stand on any issue at any time, regardless of how fraught with controversy it may be. You have asked me how I feel about whiskey. Here's how I stand on the question. If, when you say 'whiskey,' you mean: the devil's brew, the poison scourge, the bloody monster that defiles innocence, dethrones reason, destroys the home, creates misery and poverty, yes, literally takes the bread from the mouths of little children; if you mean the drink that topples the Christian man and woman from the pinnacle of righteousness, gracious living into the bottomless pit of degradation, despair, shame, and helplessness, then, certainly, I am against it with all my power. But if, when you say 'whiskey' you mean: the oil of conversation, the philosophic wine, the ale that is consumed when good fellows get together, that puts a song in their hearts, and laughter on their lips, and the warm glow of contentment in their eyes, if you mean Christian cheer; if you mean the stimulating drink that puts the spring in an old gentleman's step on a frosty morning, if you mean the drink, the sale of which pours into our treasury untold millions of dollars which are used to provide tender care for our crippled children, our blind, our deaf, pitiful, aged, and infirm, and to build highways, hospitals, and schools; then certainly I am in favor of it. This is my stand, and I will not compromise."

By all means, do not ask this politician if there is a just war!



# On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS COLUMNIST

### Confirmation Quiz

A recent column on the U.S. confirmation guidelines has provoked much thoughtful comment from readers, including a mild rebuke from a Texas Catholic who wanted me to know I was way out of line in saying young persons could not be confirmed willy-nilly from parish to parish.

"Hey, Mr. Sawdustbrain," she wrote, "we can have our kids confirmed at about any age we want in our diocese. They do it in grade school in one place, middle school in another and high school in others. Get your facts straight."

This made an impact on me, especially when I read it with a Texas accent. That was so much fun that I next tried a French accent, and that was funny too. German was really a kick, especially when I imagined myself wearing a Col. Klink costume. Feel free to try it for yourself.

As you well know, the Vatican recently approved the U.S. bishops' policy for confirmation age — establishing it as somewhere between "the age of discretion and about 16 years of age." Each diocese may establish its own policy, although the risk of being called copycat is high.

To give the bishops a hand, I am including a brief multiple-choice quiz on words and phrases often used in discussion of the sacrament of confirmation. In this way we can compare apples to apples and oranges to oranges, unless we live in a certain diocese in Texas where you can probably compare apples to any darn fruit you feel like.

The quiz follows.

1. Canon 891:

a) The weapon that won the Spanish-American war.

b) A camera used by professional photographers.

c) The entry in canon law that says confirmation "is to be conferred at about the age of discretion unless the conference of bishops has determined another age, or there is danger of death, or in the judgment of the minister a grave cause suggests otherwise."

2. Sacraments of initiation:

a) What follows "pledge week" at many fraternities and sororities.

b) Catching an NFL rookie quarterback in the backfield, and plowing sod with his face mask.

c) A trio of sacraments: baptism, first Communion and confirmation.

3. Age of discretion:

a) A past era of the human race during which discretion formed the better part of valor, except on double-coupon days.

b) The state of life achieved when one lusts for a two-seater convertible but buys a nine-passenger van instead.

c) The age at which a person becomes capable of free acts of will and comprehends moral responsibility, often about age 7.

4. Temporary norm:

a) A newborn's name while the parents decide on one they can agree on.

b) A stand-in actor if Norm was absent from "Cheers."

c) A transitory regulation or guideline until a permanent "national norm" is established; the "temporary norm" for confirmation age until this August was between the age of discretion and "about18."

5. Ecclesiastical province:

a) A place where a certain Old Testament book was written.

b) Something an archbishop says when he wants people to be quiet.

c) A grouping of dioceses, not infrequently contiguous with a state's boundaries.

Hint: The more-correct answers are all "C." However, extra credit is given to those who can read any of them with a German accent and keep a straight face.



# Light One Candle

FATHER JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### At Work for the Master Builder

"How ya doin? How's the job?"

For a growing group of people today the answer is: "I've been laid off." The numbers are not huge yet, and, hopefully, the economy will soon turn around. But that still leaves thousands of people who, a year ago, thought they had steady jobs in growing industries now searching for work to support themselves and their families.

Anyone of a certain age knows we've been down this road before, yet it's still a shock when signing bonuses give way to pink slips. More than that, many people's identities are so tightly bound to what they do for a living that, for better or worse, they see themselves in terms of their job titles, perhaps more than any other aspect of their lives. Let me say flat out that as a priest I really do not know what it's like to be out of work and, considering the vocation shortage, I am never likely to experience it. So if you're thinking, "Easy for you to say!" I can't argue. Still, I have seen again and again through members of my parish the painful sense of loss as well as the host of financial problems that unemployment causes.

Last month, the U.S. Catholic bishops issued a Labor Day statement offering a reminder about the dignity of people who are far more important than things, including jobs. The document goes on to say, "In Genesis, we come to understand that human beings, created in God's image, share in the tasks of the Creator through their work. . . . Work is for the person, not the person for work."

The fact is each and every person has an individual God-given mission in life. This mission certainly includes work, but it goes well beyond that. Whether you are pulling down a six-figure salary or reading the want ads, the task of changing the world for the better in some unique way is still yours and yours alone. You will never fulfill your role in the workplace alone, but in your home and your community as well. Easy for me to say? Yes. It also happens to be the truth.

Twenty-one years ago in El Salvador, Archbishop Oscar Romero was martyred because he stood up for the economic and political rights of his people. A man who took his own mission and that of others very seriously, he had this to say about the real meaning of work: "It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view. The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts; it is beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is the Lord's work. . . .

"We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very, very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

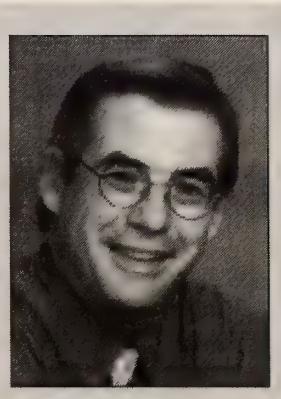
"We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the Master Builder and the worker. We are workers, but not master builders . . . ministers, not messiahs.

"We are prophets of a future that is not our own."

Whatever challenges we face — sickness, family strife, financial setbacks — God still asks us to serve his people, even if we can't always understand the how and why of it all. We are the Master Builder's workers.

*Msgr. Jim Lisante is director of The Christophers.*

# Coming of Age



CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS COLUMNIST

### The Company You Keep

I was talking to a relieved mother in my office. A few weeks before, her son, an 18-year-old senior, was drinking regularly, smoking marijuana with increasing frequency and arguing with her daily.

"I'm 18," he insisted, "and you can't tell me what to do any more." Under our state laws, he was an adult.

His mother considered getting a court order putting him out of her house. If he insisted on being an unreasonable adult, then he might need another place to stay. Her heart had been heavy when she thought through that decision.

Yet here she was, smiling and filled with a new level of hope. Her son was treating her well, had stopped using drugs in her home and was going to school regularly.

"What happened?" I asked.

First, she had stood her ground, making clear that his unreasonable behavior would not be tolerated. "And," she added, "he's got different friends."

All his old friends did was smoke dope and hang out. They did not go to school or have jobs and seemed to live on money stolen from their parents. His new friends were "regular kids." They were going to school, they all seemed serious about graduating.

There's an old saying, "Show me your friends, and I'll tell you what kind of person you are." It used to annoy me when my dad said that. "I'm my own person," I would think, "and I don't act just like my friends."

In fact, a growing body of research demonstrates that if your friends drink, you are much more likely to drink. The same is true for drugs and sexual activity — and for positive behaviors, like getting good grades and staying out of trouble.

People use the term "peer pressure," but I think that misses the point, as if your friends would surround you and chant "Smoke Dope, Smoke Dope, Smoke Dope" till you took a puff. Nobody forces anybody else to take that first drink or to keep drinking after already having had too much.

The pressure is not external, it comes from inside. The powerful motivation is to fit in, to be one of the group. Kids want to be normal, but different groups of friends define "normal" in very different ways.

Some groups think "normal" means taking advanced classes and applying to tough colleges. Others think "normal" means getting pierced eyelids and tattoos on your neck. In both sets, kids are just trying to fit in.

There are times when your friends can push you to succeed and times when they can hold you back. Putting it bluntly, not many kids in the science club will get arrested for stealing cars, and hardly anybody in the gang on the corner will get into the state university.

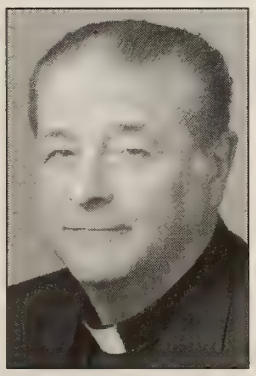
This is one of the most difficult things a teen can do, but sometimes you need to take a look at the friends you hang out with and ask yourself seriously, "Where does this path lead?"

Are they likely to become productive people or are they aimed for trouble? Are they trying to accomplish things or just floating, looking for some amusement to come along?

You are not a robot or a passive victim of peer pressure. Still, a set of friends is like a group of people on a bus: each an individual, but all going in the same direction.

If you don't like the direction your friends are headed in, maybe you need to get on a different bus.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Can Non-Catholic Parent Receive Communion at Catholic Child's First Communion?

*Q. I am Methodist and am happily married to my Catholic husband. Our three children are baptized and raised in the Catholic faith. Because of work obligations, my husband was unable to attend the first Communion of our youngest daughter.*

*I asked the pastor if I could receive Communion with her. He refused because I am not of the same faith.*

*When we were married I was given Communion, no questions asked. Please explain why some priests allow non-Catholics to participate in Communion and others do not. People have told me to take Communion anyway, but to me it would be like going to someone's house for dinner uninvited.*

*Am I or am I not welcome to receive the Eucharist in the Catholic Church?*

A. According to present Catholic ecumenical regulations, there is an explanation for why you might receive conflicting answers to your question.

Four basic conditions are required for administering the Eucharist to a baptized person of another faith. (1) The individual must be unable to approach a minister of his or her own church to receive the sacrament. (2) The person must ask for the sacrament on his or her own initiative. (3) The person must manifest Catholic faith in this sacrament; and (4) must be properly disposed spiritually.

In danger of death, Catholic ministers may administer the sacrament whenever these conditions are present. In other situations (yours for example), the conditions are more complicated.

Diocesan bishops and national conferences of bishops are encouraged to establish general norms for applying the conditions mentioned to specific circumstances of "grave and pressing need," and for verifying the conditions mentioned.

Up to now, however, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has not established such supplementary norms. To my knowledge, only relatively few dioceses have done so. Most have not.

Most Catholics, including many priests it seems, are not aware that in these circumstances Catholic ministers (normally pastors) may themselves judge individual cases, observing the norms mentioned above.

Catholic ministers of the Eucharist are to "judge individual cases and administer these sacraments (Eucharist, penance and anointing of the sick) only in accord with established (national or diocesan) norms, where they exist."

When these norms do not exist, they will judge each case and administer the sacraments only in accord with the above four conditions for eucharistic sharing. (All these regulations are found in the 1993 Vatican Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism, Nos. 130-131.)

Confusing as it may appear, if you read the above carefully you can understand that different judgments are possible in different places, though all judgments should be made within the framework of these ecumenical guidelines.

*A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about ecumenism, intercommunion and other ways of sharing with people of other faiths is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions for this column may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# Journey of Hope, from page 1

the police evidence locker and, with his wife standing lookout, shot Cushing's father to death in the culmination of a convoluted plot to "kill a Cushing" because members of the Cushing family had opposed McLaughlin. The McLaughlins lived two houses away from the Cushings.

Yet Cushing says his father's murder didn't induce him to favor the death penalty, which he had always opposed.

"Murder is about power," he said. "Your world is tossed. Your entire sense of order is challenged. We're conditioned to look to the Deity as the life-taker, but homicide is different. We wrestle with how someone could be that life-taker. For me to change my position on the death penalty would be to give more power to the murderer. It would not only take my father from me, it would take my values. That would just add to the ache and the tragedy."

Cushing said that it is not execution but truth that begins to provide healing and enables the victim's survivors, who are themselves victims, to get on with their lives. Trials of McLaughlin and his wife, who planned the crime, took two years. Both are serving life sentences without parole. Cushing attended the trials to learn about the crimes.

"The first thing we need is truth," he said. "How was our loved one taken from us? We need that so we can move from that horror into the present. To this day it doesn't make any sense to me that my father was murdered. But I know the steps, and I can try to make sure that isn't repeated. We can hold murderers accountable. Our justice system aspires to help survivors learn the facts and to hold the murderers accountable. Healing is a process, not an event."

Apparently, being a victim's survivor is, in one respect at least, like having an illness that doesn't heal: friends often don't know what to say to you. "One of the things that happens when someone is murdered — you get real isolated," Cushing said. "People see you and they go the other way."

Some legislators are among those who speak — for the death penalty, and Cushing is on this tour to make sure that another side is heard. A recent two-term member of the New Hampshire legislature, he sponsored a bill in 1998 to abolish the death penalty at a time when violence in the state was up and lawmakers wanted to expand the death penalty. Although the governor later vetoed the legislation, Cushing made his feelings known to his fellow legislators, and, he said, "At the end of the day there were more votes to abolish [the death penalty] than to retain."

He spoke out, he said, because, "I would see policymakers claim they were speaking for me and that the state should be about the business of killing people."

He wants to counter the idea that murder victims' survivors want the "execution solution": "I care, not because of what the death penalty does to the killers, but because of what it does to me. My father's murder had this tremendous effect on a broad range of the community, and it affected the family of the murderer."

Later, he said, "It's not about whether he deserves to live; it's about whether we deserve to kill him."

Cushing speaks sadly of the son of his father's killer. Ironically, Cushing Sr. and Jr., and McLaughlin Sr. and Jr. were all named Robert. One day in a parking lot, Cushing Jr. met McLaughlin Jr. They walked up to each other, and Cushing held out his hand, saying that they had both lost their fathers. For Cushing, his memories of his father's life are happy, and he sees that life carried on in his five brothers and sisters and in his children.

"I can hear my father's voice in the silence of my children's laughter," Cushing said, "but there's not much for Bobby McLaughlin to talk about. Society tells me I should want Bobby McLaughlin to go to the prison and wait for his father to be taken from his cell and put on a gurney and have a needle put in his arm and claim the body and create another grieving family. I'm told that's what I should want, but that's not what my father's life was about."

There's even the idea that those who don't want their loved ones' murderers put to death are somehow disloyal to those who died, Cushing said: "We are sent a subtle message that if we don't want the death penalty, we're not good victims, we didn't love the person enough. The death penalty brings no honor, no healing to victims of crime."

The emphasis, Cushing believes, should be on helping the victims to heal by meeting their spiritual, emotional and material needs. "There's no statute of limitations on prosecution, but there is a time limit on compensation to victims," he said.

Cushing asked that everyone listening to him support a moratorium on the death penalty, to take a look at how it's used: "It's better in this country to be guilty and rich than to be innocent and poor. It's a lottery. There are no wealthy people on death row."

He is also concerned that innocent people are executed. Indeed, a book, "Not in Our Name: Murder Victims' Families Speak Out Against the Death Penalty," that Cushing had with him on Oct. 6, recounts not only the stories of people whose loved ones were murdered, but also those who served prison terms before they were proven innocent.

One was Sonia "Sunny" Jacobs who, the book says, "spent 17 years in prison in Florida, including five on Death Row, for murders she did not commit. When she was exonerated and released in 1992, it was too late for her common law husband, Jesse Tafero, who was executed for the same crimes in 1990 — before his innocence could be proven."

One person in the audience asked Cushing if the fact that he is Catholic has any bearing on his opposition to the death penalty. Not entirely, he said: "It's faith, but it's how I want to live my life. I don't want to be that killer. It's not because the pope says we shouldn't have the death penalty. I don't want to live in a society that prescribes that. It's a reconciliation inside [of me]. I can't change the past, but I can control the future. I don't want the killer to take over any more of my life."

In addition to speaking in programs such as Journey of Hope, Cushing lobbies for victims, the need for victims' compensation funds, and for ways to reduce crime. "The death penalty is about failure," he said. "We need to address the underlying causes of violence."

Cushing points out that Jesus would not be in favor of capital punishment: "To those who try to follow the teachings of Christ: Would Jesus throw the switch? I just cannot see how Jesus would be an executioner."



PHOTO BY JOANITA NELLENBACH

**Journey of Hope speaker Robert Cushing Jr. talks with Sister Jerome Marie Menard of the Holy Heart of Mary, Kankakee, Ill., after the program. Sister Jerome's order presented her with a sabbatical at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in honor of her 50 years as a nun.**


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**Nanny:** Part-time Christian nanny needed for childcare in our home. We have two children, ages 28 months and 14 months. Hours needed are Monday through Thursday, 12 pm through 6pm, starting as soon as possible. References are required, experience is preferred, and salary is negotiable. Please call Ben or Jamie if interested:(336)712-0654. 8450 Maeve Court, Clemmons, NC 27012.

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# Life Chain links prayers for end to abortion during Respect Life Month

By DENISE KASPER
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — Dozens of people praying for an end to abortion stood together along Hanes Mall Boulevard to form a human Life Chain on Oct. 7.

"If we could just save one baby's life it would be worth all the work (we've) done," said local event organizer Donna Dyer.

The goal of the Life Chain is to continue efforts to raise awareness and intensify the prayerful movement against abortion. Held on the first Sunday of October, it is described as alarmingly simple. People line up, about 10 feet apart, sporting signs urging for women to make other choices, like adoption.

It's a peaceful demonstration, labeled as grassroots Christian ministry aimed at persuading people to change their view of abortion.

Dyer moved to Advance about six years ago and immediately got involved with a Right to Life group and participated in the local Life Chain. Last year, as it stretched along its original location at Peters Creek Parkway, 125 waved signs, as people said the rosary, sang hymns or stood in silent prayer.

When the position of event coordinator for the Triad area became vacant last year and there posed a risk of the local Life Chain being cancelled, Dyer, a parishioner of Holy Family Catholic Church in Clemmons, stepped up and took over the reins.

"I could not accept the fact that a Life Chain would not take place," she said. "I had some previous experience with a Chain in Florida and decided that I would gather the information necessary and just do it."

Yearning for a better location, as she was driving around Winston-Salem earlier this year, she soon found what she thought was the perfect spot for the Life Chain.

"Each year, as I stood there ... I dreamed of finding a better location to enable us to be seen by more people," she said. "I was driving down Hanes Mall Boulevard and saw all the sidewalks on the North side of that area, I know that this was the location that I had long desired. I requested permission from the police department and they were most gracious in granting it to me."

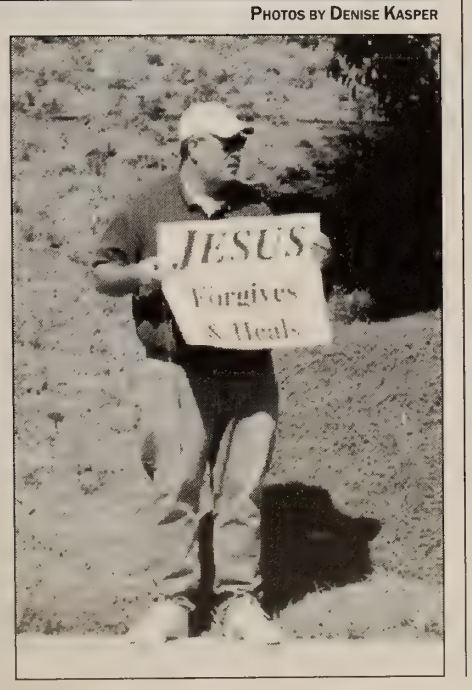
Dyer provided participants with signs emblazoned with anti-abortion sentiment, urging passers-by to pray for the unborn children. As motorists sped past in that area highly populated by retail stores, some waved and honked their car horns, while others just drove quietly past.

The event made a statement of solidarity, with representatives from different denominations and other churches in the area, Dyer said.

A Life Chain was first held in North California in 1988, and now is held around the country and all over North America. Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte have long been links in ecumenical Life Chains linked across the Piedmont and Western North Carolina.



Photos by Denise Kasper




**Along Hanes Mall Boulevard in Winston-Salem and at other locales throughout the Diocese of Charlotte Oct. 7, people gathered in prayerful support for an end to abortion. The annual Life Chain is an ecumenical event drawing people from a variety of faith traditions. A Life Chain was first held in North California in 1988, and now is held around the country and all over North America.**

# Fire In The Mountains to focus on 'challenge' of spirituality

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

LAKE JUNALUSKA — Life is full of challenges, not the least of which is developing an active spiritual life. It's a burning question for many people, so this year Fire in the Mountains guest speaker Father Louis Cameli will talk about "Life on the Edge: The Challenge of Spirituality."

Fire in the Mountains is scheduled for Nov. 10, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at Harrell Hall at Lake Junaluska. Father Cameli is scheduled to speak in the morning, with Bishop William G. Curlin giving a talk in the afternoon. Breakout sessions in the afternoon will offer attendees the opportunity to discuss the morning's material.

Sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, Fire in the Mountains is a one-day annual retreat that seeks to connect people to each other and to God through faith sharing focused on issues critical to the diocesan community and the modern world.

Father Cameli, appointed by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin in 1996 as director of ongoing formation of priests in the Archdiocese of Chicago, has been a writer and speaker about spirituality since the 1970s. It was one of his talks that inspired Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs for the Charlotte Diocese, to recommend him as this year's Fire in the Mountains speaker.

"I came down to White Oak Conference Center, about 50 miles south of Charlotte, during the in-service being performed by the Charleston Diocese for their catechists and DREs [directors of religious education]," Villapando said. "I came just to hear the man. My principle is this: never recommend a person to the "Fire" Executive Committee unless one has actually heard and been inspired by the person's presentation. At that time, Father Cameli struck me as having a handle on the pastoral scene. He was describing the tremendous dichotomy going on between religion and spirituality."

Father Cameli's books include "Ministerial Consciousness" and "Stories of Paradise: The Study of Classical and Modern Autobiographies of Faith;" and "A Sense of Direction: The Basic Elements of the Spiritual Journey," which he co-authored with Robert L. Miller and Gerard P. Weber. He has published monographs in collaboration with the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and served as a retreat director for priests retreats and as presenter at priests' convocations in the United States, Canada and New Zealand.

The Fire in the Mountains registration deadline is Oct. 26. For more information about Fire in the Mountains, call Rosemary Kingsley, (828) 274-0318; or e-mail Ann McKeown at johnann77@msn.com.

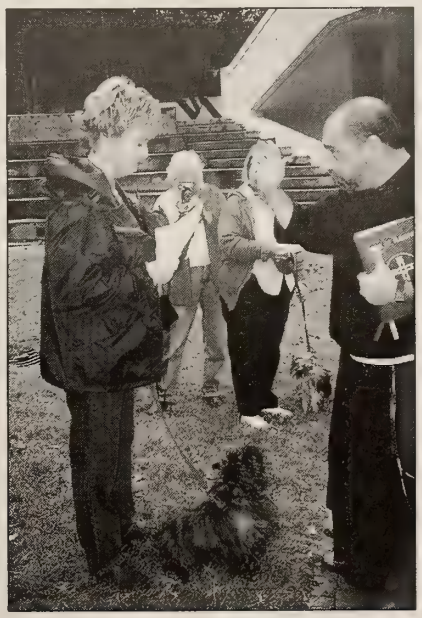
**Directions to Fire in the Mountains:**

From the East: Take I-40 to Exit 27 (19/23/74). Take the second Junaluska exit (Exit 103, Hwy. 19). Go past Junaluska Assembly Residential Area, South Lakeshore. Take next right to enter "Lake Junaluska Assembly."

From the West: I-40 East to Exit 20. Turn left at first traffic light (at Quality Inn). The entrance to Lake Junaluska is about three miles on left.

## ANIMALS BLESSED IN THE SPIRIT OF OLD FRANCISCAN TRADITION





Photos by Josephine Rosaschi

**This scene was enacted under the overcast skies with Conventual Franciscan Fathers Jude DeAngelo and Denis Hackett blessing the owners and the 15 or more dogs and four birds that gathered for the blessing of the animals ceremony on Oct. 6. Sue Borschke, a Secular Franciscan of the St. Clare Fraternity, assisted the two Franciscan friars.**

**The Blessing of the Animals, a Franciscan tradition, refers to the story of St. Francis of Assisi taming the wolf Gubbio by addressing it as "Brother Wolf" and telling it to no longer threaten the people or livestock in the small mountain town in Tuscany.**

# Couple grow in faith through pursuit of racial harmony

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

SYLVA — Rev. Mr. Jerry and Dot Herbers had just retired for the night after assisting a couple with marriage preparation in their home. All was quiet in Memphis when they heard noises outside. They awoke to find their garbage can on fire at the end of their driveway. The couple who had left earlier were of different races, and interracial dating and marriage were not popular concepts in the Tennessee capital over a quarter of a century ago.



Rev. Mr. Jerry Herbers

The Herbers had grown socially and spiritually since their younger days in a Southern city notorious for racial division and discrimination. "We didn't know any better. We just believed what our mamas believed," said Mrs. Herbers.

Rev. Mr. Herbers experienced pain early in his life with the death of his father when Jerry was nine and the death of his brother two years later. He says his mother, a devout Catholic who walked to church every morning, guided him in his faith and took over both parental roles after her husband's death.

He attended his Catholic school and church with little to no personal interaction with African-Americans. "When I was growing up in Memphis, it was a segregated city, and my experience with minorities was limited, not negative, but limited."

Memphis State University was his college of choice where he met his wife-to-be, although, he only saw the back of her head in the beginning. "He sat behind me in English class, and I thought he had the softest, sweetest voice I had ever heard," remembered Mrs. Herbers.

She had grown up Baptist, and her parents were upset when she announced that they were going to be married. "I had lived in it (the Baptist religion)."

Despite their family protests, they were married at the end of World War II in 1945 after Herbers had volunteered in the Army Air Corps for a short stint and had begun working as a loan officer for a mortgage company.

Mrs. Herbers had been thinking of converting to her husband's religion, and after consulting with a priest, she became Catholic shortly before her daughter was born. "My interest in Catholicism lay with Jerry. I was gripped with it, and I don't know how or when. When I began taking instruction, I was ready."

Mrs. Herbers may have been ready, but her husband was still in preparation. He had been a faithful Catholic by his definition and had involved himself in church ministry but did not feel spiritually fulfilled. "I was a committed Catholic. I went to Mass every Sunday (because) that is what you did. You 'paid and prayed,' but I got out of that and got active."

From the pew to the pulpit as a deacon years later, Rev. Mr. Herbers became heavily involved in his parish and the community. He became one of the first lectors in Memphis, made Cursillo and served as a eucharistic minister at Mass. As he developed spiritually, his community interactions also changed. They were attending St. Patrick Church, headed by the Paulist Fathers, who aided them with acceptance of Vatican II reforms and people of different nationalities. "The priests helped us to understand the changes in the church, and when the civil rights movement started, they helped us in our thinking," he said.

As their church became integrated, the rift between the races became wider. Many of the civil rights marches began routes at the corner where their church stood. Mrs. Herbers participated in her first and only march along with the bishop of the Diocese of Memphis, parish priests and other clergy. After a crowd of angry protesters gathered, she did not involve herself at the grassroots level again but did what she could to help with race relations.

At the Catholic school where she taught, she worked to foster relationships with her students and the students at the predominately African-American Catholic school in the city. "We were pioneers for our age group, but my actions weren't taken too kindly," she said. She was also a part of a panel that spoke to various organizations and groups about integration and racism.

While his wife was subject to dirty looks and whispers in her presence, Herbers was called "the liberal" at his place of employment. His work with an all-African-American Boy Scout troop caused quite a stir among friends and co-workers. Two people who had grown up in the city and were active in their communities began to be snubbed, ridiculed and ostracized.

However, the Herbers continued with their quest for racial harmony and spiritual development. When a Catholic nun spoke at their parish about the permanent diaconate, they looked at one another and silently agreed that this would be something they would undertake. After four years of formation, the father of seven was ordained in January 1978.

"We were attracted to it because it sounded like something we could do and wanted to do. The initial attraction was that we had a friend who was a deacon, and from then on, we were curious about it," said Mrs. Herbers. "We thought that it would enhance our spiritual lives, help us to make friends and give us opportunities to serve."

He began working with RCIA, Meals on Wheels, prison ministry and nursing home and shut-in visits, but the most fulfilling aspect of his ministry was witnessing his daughter's marriage and baptizing two of his 16 grandchildren.

Their move to North Carolina was bittersweet. After Mrs. Herbers' extensive heart surgery, they wanted to be closer to their family. In 1995, they moved to Sylva to a house chosen by their children and to St. Mary Church. Although Rev. Mr. Herbers has been retired for several years, he still works four hours a day for the local Department on Aging and works at his parish when needed.

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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# Pope says faithful must show humility, reverence at Mass

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Priests and laity must show attitudes of humility and reverence before the mystery of the Mass, Pope John Paul II said.

In a message to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, the pope said the Roman Missal — or Mass book — issued by Pope Pius V after the Council of Trent contained prayers that beautifully expressed those attitudes.

"The people of God need to see in priests and deacons a comportment full of reverence and dignity, able to help them penetrate invisible things even without many words and explanations," said the Sept. 21 message to congregation members.

The message was given to the members during their late-September plenary meeting; the Vatican provided no explanation of why its publication was delayed until Oct. 17.

"In the Roman Missal, referred to as that of St. Pius V, as in various Eastern liturgies, there are very beautiful prayers with which the priest expresses the deepest sense of humility and of reverence before the sacred mysteries; these reveal the very substance of any liturgy," the pope said.

Every liturgical celebration, he said, must be marked by "a profound sense of the sacred."

The individuals at Mass and the community as a whole should have the experience of being in the presence of the holy, the pope said.

"Consequently, the attitude required cannot help but be permeated by reverence and by the sense of awe which flows from knowing you are in the presence of the majesty of God," he said.

While he mentioned the prayers in the Tridentine Missal, Pope John Paul also praised the congregation's efforts to apply faithfully the liturgical guidelines of the Second Vatican Council.

As the council taught, he said, the Mass cannot be reduced to an aesthetic reality, nor can it be considered simply a tool for teaching the Catholic faith.

"The celebration of the holy mysteries is above all an act of praise to the sovereign majesty of God," an act which recognizes its need to be complemented with efforts to fulfill God's will in every part of life, he said.

"A liturgy which does not have a reflection in life would become empty and certainly not pleasing to God," Pope John Paul II said.

The pope also thanked the congregation for the work it has done since its last plenary session in 1996, including the May publication of norms for translating liturgical texts.

"On this subject, I exhort the bishops and the congregation to take every care so that liturgical translations are faithful to the original" text in Latin, he said. "A translation, in fact, does not represent an exercise in creativity, but a precise commitment to keeping the sense of the original without changes, omissions or additions."

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The Catholic
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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

October 26, 2001
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"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."
— Matthew 5:9

# Seniors called beacons of hope

BY JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

HUNTERSVILLE — Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast thinks the sunflower is the perfect symbol for senior citizens.

Sunflowers always turn toward the light, she says. As they get older, their seeds attract songbirds and provide beauty and nourishment. When they die, the world is left with the remembrance of their beauty, and the flowers' seeds assure life for new generations of sunflowers.

Sister Jeanne Marie, a Sister of Mercy who serves as pastoral associate at St. Matthew Church, offered the analogy at a Diocese of Charlotte Elder Ministry Day of Reflection at St. Mark Church in Huntersville Oct. 11.

"If we continue to turn toward the Son, who provides light and warmth for us, he will keep those fires burning within us that we think die down as we grow older," she said. "It is the light of the Son that will keep us as people who continue to give, to share, to provide music and light and warmth around us. We will be beacons of hope."

Weaving humor, anecdotes, music and prayer through her exploration of the theme "Living with a Full Heart," Sister Jeanne Marie reflected on a recent Harvard University study that pinpointed four suggestions for maintaining a vital, successful approach to aging.

About 130 seniors from 15 parishes in the Charlotte, Gastonia, Greensboro and Salisbury vicariates attended the annual gathering, the first of two sponsored this fall by Elder Ministry, a Catholic Social Services ministry of the diocese.

The Harvard study explored the ability to anticipate and hope; the need for gratitude, forgiveness and optimism; the need for empathy; and the ability to reach out to others as key needs in the lives of people as they age.

For people of faith, those areas are especially important in cherishing the baptismal gifts of faith, hope and love, said Sister Jeanne Marie.

She challenged her audience in a series of questions combining the study's themes with a faith reaction.

"Are we beacons of hope?" she asked. "Are we symbols of health? That doesn't mean we don't have aches and pains and ailments. But are we healthy? Are we whole?

"You can't be healthy unless you're also whole. That's the way God made us: mind, body, spirit, working all together."

She suggested that each day is a gift from God, and people's response to that gift is up to them.

"Do we get up in the morning and say, 'Thank you, God, for this day? Thank you for this gift of life. This is a gift you gave me. What I do with today will be my gift to you.'"

And as people retire for the evening, she said, they can pray another prayer: "I hope my gift to you was good. I tried to be grateful and thank you as I went along through all the wonderful — and all the not-so-wonderful — things that happened."

Sister Jeanne Marie pointed to Jesus as the model of humble gratitude and service, calling to mind the washing of the disciples' feet as told in John's Gospel.

"Can any of us say our life of service is over?" Sister Jeanne Marie asked her audience. "Are we not continuing to be grateful by saying, 'God, as long as you give me breath, I want to give in whatever way I can, and I'm grateful for your giving me the chance to do that?"

"Nothing is ever too small for the Lord," she said. "Every action that we do can be an act of love."

As people age, Sister Jeanne Marie said, they tend to compare their aches and pains with those of others. But the truly Christian response to people's life situations is empathy.

"Empathy is being able to suffer with another person unselfishly," she said. "It's the ability to look at another's world with appreciation for that world they live in. You might look at that world differently, but this is the way that person is viewing it, and that's where the empathy is."

With empathy comes the need to reach out to others — also unselfishly and with the belief that even the seemingly smallest acts are smiled upon by God, she said.

"We should do things *with* people, and

SEE SENIORS, PAGE 14



PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

**Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, pictured right, led the day of reflection.**

## Historic Cathedral in France

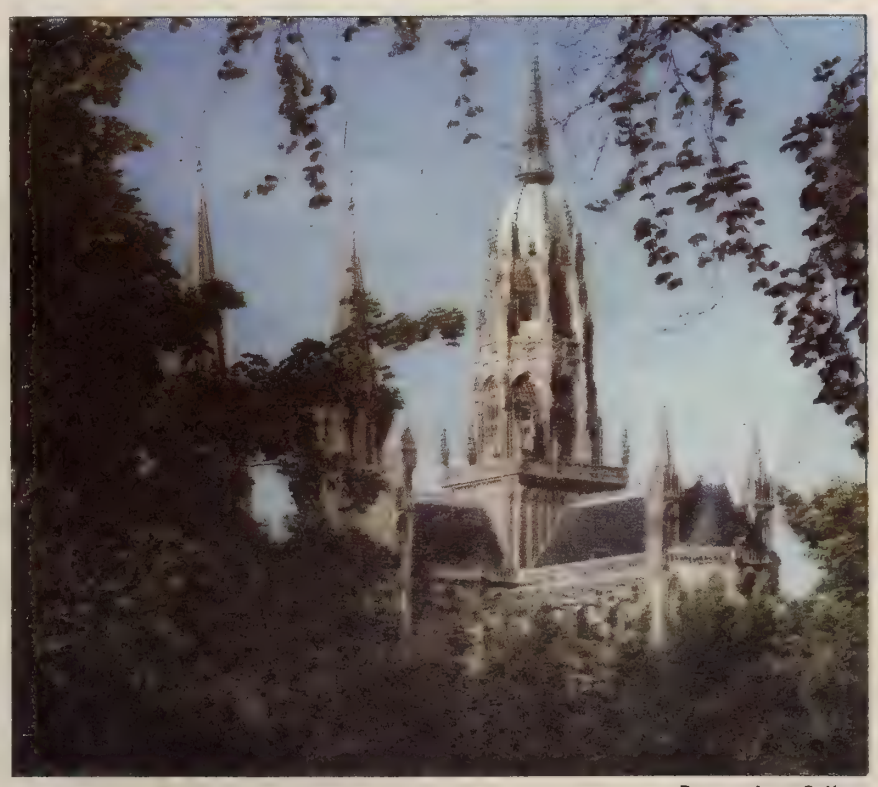


PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

**Cathedral of Notre Dame in Bayeux, a village in the Normandy region of France. Our Lady of Bayeux, as the cathedral is known, dates from the 11th century, and was consecrated in 1077. The medieval Cathedral was seen by pilgrims from the Diocese of Charlotte visiting Shrines of France with Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd and Msgr. William Pharr. Bayeux was the first town liberated [by Canadian troops] during World War II.**

### Witnesses accuse U.N. of role in China's forced abortions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Witnesses testifying before the House International Relations Committee Oct. 17 said the U.N. Population Fund plays an extensive role in China's policies on forced abortions and sterilizations. "The terror of forced abortion is a human rights abuse of the greatest magnitude, and it is carried out against women and children with appalling and sickening efficiency in China," said Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., vice chairman of the House International Relations Committee. Smith said the U.S. government, which has given the U.N. Population Fund $46.5 million since 1998, should re-evaluate this funding in light of the organization's alleged support of China's population control policies.

### Synod stats: Nearly 4,000 years of experience among bishops

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although a few members of the Synod of Bishops suggested the church lower the retirement age of bishops, if bishops retired at 65, almost half of those participating in the October synod would be in retirement. Cardinal Jan Schotte, general secretary of the synod, told the 247 participating bishops that their average age was 64.87, so if 65 were the retirement age, "half of you would not be here." The cardinal, sharing the statistics compiled by his office, said the 247 full members of the synod brought a total of 3,841 years of episcopal service to bear on the theme of the ministry of bishops. The members had an average 16.13 years of ministry as a bishop. .

### Pope says theologians must study, communicate truths

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The work of a theologian is to study Christian truths so that they are better understood and can be communicated more effectively to all men and women, Pope John Paul II said. "Undertake your work with the church, in the church and for the church," the pope told students and professors from church-run universities in Rome. Pope John Paul gave the homily and final blessing Oct. 19 at the annual Mass marking the beginning of the academic year at the universities where students — mostly seminarians and priests — study philosophy, theology and other church-related disciplines.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Nigerians flee fighting, take refuge at church**
**Ethnic Tivs take refuge at a Catholic church center in Makurdi in central Nigeria Oct. 20. More than 60,000 ethnic Tivs fled their homes due to clashes involving the Jukun and Fulani tribes against the Tivs. At least 500 people have been declared dead or missing in the violence.**

### Tenuous quiet shattered after apparent retaliatory killings

BEIT SAHOUR, West Bank (CNS) — Six weeks of tenuous quiet in the Bethlehem area was shattered after the Oct. 18 deaths of three Palestinian militiamen in apparent retaliation for the assassination of Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi in a Jerusalem hotel a day earlier. "The sad part of all this is that we are getting used to all this shooting," said Father Shawki Baterin, a priest at the Beit Sahour Catholic parish. "We are getting used to all the violence and living like this. So it started again, and we are depressed. We are in our houses." He noted that people in his parish stayed indoors, watching the events unfold on television and calling family and friends on the phone to check up on loved ones.

### Community organizers seek Catholic leaders

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An interfaith network of faith-based community organizing groups has announced a series of recruitment drives for Catholics and others interested in a career as community organizers. The network, the Direct Action and Research Training center, said a recent study by Interfaith Funders showed the biggest obstacle to building effective faith-based community organizations is a lack of trained organizers to staff them. It announced drives to recruit community organizer candidates in five areas early next year: in Atlanta Jan. 8-15; Miami Jan. 29-Feb. 9; Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 18-March 2; Tallahassee, Fla., March 11-23; and the Richmond, Va.-Washington, D.C., area April 1-13.

### Communicators urged to go the distance to spread the faith

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Archbishop Patrick F. Flores told a group of Catholic communicators gathered in San Antonio to be like the Franciscans who traveled long distances to spread the faith in the Americas. "They didn't let distance stop them, and neither should we," the San Antonio prelate said in a homily at the opening liturgy for the Unda-USA 2001 general assembly, held Oct. 17-20. Unda-USA is the organization for Catholic radio and television broadcasters and communication directors for dioceses and religious orders.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**October 28 — 2 p.m.**
25th/50th anniversary Mass and celebration
St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte

**November 1 — All Saints' Day**
9 a.m. Mass
Charlotte Catholic High School, Charlotte

7:30 p.m. Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**November 2 — All Souls' Day**
7:30 a.m. Mass, Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick, Charlotte

7:30 p.m. Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**November 3 — 2 p.m.**
Mass and Investiture ceremony of Knights of Holy Sepulcher
Franciscan Monastery, Washington, D.C.

## Diocesan planner

**October**

**29** ASHEVILLE — The Asheville-Buncombe Community Relations Council will sponsor a Hispanic community forum tonight at the Salvation Army Community Center in West Asheville from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The forum's purpose is to provide information and to establish greater contacts within the community and service providers. For further information, call Carol Thomas at (828) 252-4713.

**30** CHARLOTTE — All are invited to Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., tonight from 7-9 p.m. for a diocesan Office of Justice and Peace presentation of Catholic Relief Service's "Africa Rising: Hope to Healing" and Bread for the World's "Africa: Hunger to Harvest." The same session will also be presented at Bishop McGuinness, 1725 N.C. Hwy. 66 South, in Kernersville on Nov. 8. For further information, call Joe Purello at (704) 370-3225 or Terri Jarina at (704) 370-3234.

**November**

**1** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Ladies' Cottage of Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

**3** CHARLOTTE — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., is having a Christmas arts and crafts bazaar today from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be served, and raffles, baked goods and other surprises will also be featured. For more information, call the church office at (704) 545-1224.

**4** CHARLOTTE — In honor of the yearlong 150th anniversary of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Ellouise Schoettler, professional artist and storyteller, will illustrate the early history of the

### U.N. official says rights agenda more critical after Sept. 11

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A few days after the World Conference Against Racism ended in early September, its agenda of battling racial discrimination and xenophobia took on new significance, believes Mary Robinson, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights. When terrorists attacked targets in the United States Sept. 11, investigators focused on Middle Eastern suspects with ties to Islamic extremists. At that point, the problems of refugees, asylum-seekers, immigrants and minorities that had been a focus of the conference became newly important, Robinson said at an Oct. 17 program sponsored by the U.S. Institute of Peace. "This is a very important time for all of us who believe in human rights," said Robinson, who was president of Ireland from 1990 to 1997.

### Statement links immigration, interreligious dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Encouraging Christians today to welcome immigrants with different religious beliefs — especially Muslims — "can seem like aggravating a wound," but Pope John Paul II sees dialogue as the only sure way to peace, a Vatican official said. Archbishop Stephen Fumio Hamao, president of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, said that by focusing on migration as an opportunity for interreligious dialogue, the pope is responding to humanity's desire to live in peace and brotherhood. At an Oct. 18 press conference, the archbishop unveiled Pope John Paul's message for National Migration Week 2002, which is observed in the United States the first week of January.

### Pope hails Baltimore's basilica as symbol of religious freedom

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II called attention to the multimillion dollar restoration of a historic basilica in Baltimore as "a worldwide symbol of religious freedom." During an Oct. 17 audience in St. Peter's Square with 22,000 pilgrims from around the world, the pope said, "I remember well my own visits to the first cathedral of the Catholic Church to be built in the United States," Greeting Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore and a group from the basilica, the pope said in English, "May God bless the efforts you are now making to restore this historic shrine as a worldwide symbol of religious freedom."



CNS PHOTO BY MARTIN LUEDERS

**Refugee girls make dough for bread**

**Afghan girls form dough for bread at the New Shamshatoo refugee camp near Peshawar, Pakistan, Oct. 19. About 60,000 Afghan refugees live in mud shelters or tents at the camp.**

### Missionary kidnapped at gunpoint in southern Philippines

MANILA (CNS) — Three men abducted an Italian missionary at gunpoint in the southern Philippines Oct. 17, two months after his bishop was warned that a foreign priest would be kidnapped. Sacred Heart of Jesus Father Giuseppe Pierantoni, 44, was taken from his residence while preparing supper after celebrating Mass in Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur province, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Bishop Zacharias C. Jimenez of Pagadian said witnesses who were at the Mass said they saw men armed with .45-caliber pistols enter the parish house afterward and force the priest to go with them. The bishop had not received any demands from the kidnappers by early Oct. 18.

### Big elections for bishops: three officers, 22 committee chairs

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will have an unprecedented elections agenda at its general meeting in Washington Nov. 12-15: three conference officers and 22 committee chairmen. The bishops will be asked to choose a new president and vice president, a treasurer-elect, nine committee chairmen and 13 chairmen-elect. Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., vice president for the past three years, is the most likely presidential candidate if the bishops follow their past practice. In 10 elections over the past 30 years, the outgoing vice president has become president eight times; the other two were not presidential candidates in the ensuing election because of age or death. If Bishop Gregory, 53, is elected, he will be the first African-American president of the U.S. bishops in history.

### Pro-life plan, Africa and Asian-Americans on bishops' agenda

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Three major documents face the U.S. Catholic bishops when they meet in Washington this November: A call to solidarity with Africa, an updated pro-life activities plan and a statement on the growing Asian and Pacific presence in the U.S. church. The bishops will elect a new president and vice president for the next three years, as well as a treasurer-elect and 22 new committee chairmen or chairmen-elect. They will vote on a budget, plans and priorities for their national offices and complementary norms applying general church law in the U.S. church in the areas of lay preaching and the discussion of Catholic teaching on radio and television. They plan to discuss the new norms for translation of liturgical texts issued last May in a Vatican instruction.


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church and tell stories of those who contributed to the parish's development. All are invited to Biss Hall at 12:15 p.m. today. For details, call the church office at (704) 332-5342.

**4** CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of Secular Franciscans will be gathering today from 2-4 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. All visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 573-4299.

**4** CHARLOTTE — The Christian Mothers' Group of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., will host a special Mass for parents and grandparents of a deceased child or children today at 3 p.m. with a reception following the Mass. All are invited to arrive at 2:30 p.m. to light a candle or place pictures of loved ones in the sanctuary. A Mass for widows, widowers and their families will be celebrated on Nov. 11 at 3 p.m. followed by a reception. For details, call B.J. Dengler at (704) 364-5431, Ext. 212

**4** SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**5** CHARLOTTE — Christians in Career Transition is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meetings will take place tonight and Nov. 19 from 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

**5** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**5** CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight with Father Anthony Marcaccio at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will not be given this month but will be offered next month, and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on Dec. 3. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

**7** CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will be having a meeting with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information about the monthly meetings and bingo held at 7:30 p.m. every Monday, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**11** CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

**15** GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will hold its annual Mass of remembrance for deceased members, family and friends at the Franciscan Center, 233 N. Greene St., this morning at 11 a.m. with lunch to follow. For further information about how to support the event and council, directions and the Nov. 8 registration deadline, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

**17** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel School Auction 2001 will be held this evening at the Museum of the New South, corner of College and 7th Sts. Merchants and silent and live auctions will be featured to raise money for the school. For tickets, call Teresa Luse at (704) 545-6555, and for questions, call MaryAnn Jerrum at (704) 542-2488.

# Charlotte couple chooses life for 'child of God'

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — John and Elizabeth Buerkert were elated when they found out they were going to be parents again. They looked forward to the day of the ultrasound. The appointment was set, and the excitement mounted as the entire family headed to the doctor's office.

Their two sons, William, 7, and Stephen, 4, were on hand to witness the first glimpse of their sibling. But shortly after the ultrasound began, the doctor came in asking the boys to leave. As Elizabeth cried in anguish and John froze in disbelief, the doctors confirmed that their daughter, for whom they picked the name Clare Catherine and whose due date is this Thanksgiving, has anencephaly, a neural tube defect, which prevents the formation of the forebrain and is fatal.

Suddenly the Buerkerts were ushered into a doctor's office where they were told that Clare could be stillborn or may live up to 48 hours. Questions were bounced back and forth. The recommendation: early induced birth. Isn't that the same as an abortion? Elizabeth asked. According to the law, this must be done very soon, the doctors replied. "Why continue a pregnancy that would end in death?" the doctors asked. "The conversation was so matter of fact," the Buerkerts said. "The doctors assumed this was what we would do."

But the faith and strength of the Buerkerts, who are active members of St. Matthew Catholic Church, prevailed. Devastated and with gut-wrenching pain, they gathered information on the Internet, where they were inspired by others who have made the choice to continue a pregnancy. They turned to Father Matthew Kauth, parochial vicar at St. Matthew, for spiritual counseling. They said, "He always seems to know exactly what to say when we need a little inspiration."

John said, "I recently returned from a missionary trip to Jamaica with members of St. Matthew, and the one thing I learned that kept coming back to me was that every life, every person, regardless of how broken their mind and body is, is infinitely valuable in the eyes of the Lord. I felt that God was entrusting us with this child, and like every other child, there are no guarantees as to how long that child will live. Our baby is infinitely precious in the eyes of the Lord. He is asking us to take care of one of his most needy and vulnerable children."

Elizabeth wondered, "How could I possibly carry her for five more months, then give birth, only to watch her die? But those wonderful words of St. Paul kept echoing in my head, 'He will not let you be tried beyond your strength.' (1 Cor.11:13) I finally realized God was not asking me to feel capable; he was asking me to trust him."

John and Elizabeth made the decision to carry Clare for as long as God sustained her. Once the decision was made, they felt released from torment and at peace. They began to take one day at a time, but were now able to smile, laugh, and enjoy their family. The Buerkerts receive the sacraments more frequently. Elizabeth finds that her hour in eucharistic adoration is a time for her to gain strength. One thing that continues to sustain them is a comment from Father Kauth: "Vision what it will be like to come before the Lord in eternity when he will tell you how pleased he is with how you received Clare."

Through Clare's story, John and Elizabeth have reached out to many people. All across the country people know Clare, pray for her, and love her. Prayer groups at St. Matthew unite with the family keeping her in their intentions. She is remembered daily in the prayers of the Carmelite Sisters.

Recent Cursillo experiences deepened the faith of the Buerkerts. John believes he is now more conscious of leaving room in his life for God to guide him. Elizabeth, who was praying for a miracle, realized that maybe a miracle wasn't God's plan. Maybe, he wants Clare in heaven with him. She said, "Who am I to keep her here? Let God decide what is best. It seems so clear that this is the right path. I have no doubts, am sorrowful at times, but so at peace that this is what God wants us to do."

Elizabeth said, "We want to share our story to offer encouragement to other families who may be struggling with a difficult pregnancy. When we were in despair, the powerful testimonies of other families helped pull us out of the darkness. Since we made our decision, God has shown us how, at our weakest times, he transforms and empowers us."

### Chicken dinner fundraiser to benefit church

GASTONIA — St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael Lane, will host a chicken dinner fundraiser on Nov. 16 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. The dinners may be picked up at the church, and orders of eight or more can be delivered to a home or office for free. Tickets are available through the church office, and the proceeds will benefit the church. For further information, call (704) 867-6212.

### New and used book sale to benefit AIDS ministry

ASHEVILLE — The St. Joan of Arc Church Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry, 919 Haywood Rd., will hold its fall new and used book sale from Nov. 16-18. Other items for sale will include gifts, Christmas ornaments and wreaths. Hot dogs, chili, barbecue and desserts will also be available for the attendants. For further details, call the church office at (828) 252-3151.

### LAOH sponsors Irish history writing contest

CHARLOTTE — The National Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians is conducting an Irish history writing contest for students in grades 6-12. The topics include "Building the Canals and Railroads" for grades 6-8 and "The Industrial Revolution" for grades 9-12. The deadline is Dec. 5, and prizes range from $50-$1,000. For more information, call Lisa Viola at (704) 541-5691.


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# Salisbury woman uses her life as model for new NFP role

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

SALISBURY — After many years working with the American Academy of Natural Family Planning, now called the American Academy of FertilityCare Professionals, Maria Perkins was elected president of the organization this past summer.

Her job is to coordinate board meetings with the other nine board members, national gatherings and other endeavors. The academy was created to educate, serve and lead couples through continued research about natural family planning (NFP), explained Perkins.

Based on literature from the academy, NFP originated about 60 years ago as a method of family planning based on the natural biological and physiological happenings in a woman's body based on her reproductive cycle without the use of any type of artificial means. There exists a 99.5 percent of method effectiveness with a 96.8 percent of use effectiveness.

Perkins says she is honored to be president, and it is a continuation of her years with the organization. She had held several positions with the academy including secretary, first vice president and president elect.

The new position is light years ahead of anything that Perkins had envisioned for herself. She was originally searching for another way of planning for her family and ended up on the ground floor of developments in the NFP field of study.

The New Jersey native moved to North Carolina in 1964 with her husband, Bud, and eventually settled in Salisbury where they became parishioners at Sacred Heart Church. After having her fifth of six children via the rhythm method, she began praying for another way of planning her children.

Two weeks later, she attended a presentation of NFP at her church in 1976, and her pastor asked her to be the liaison for their parish. Attending further educational workshops did not provide Perkins with the knowledge she needed to be able to teach others about NFP. However, her participation in a national symposium at St. John's University in Minnesota changed her life.

She met Dr. Tom Hilgers who had been studying and researching NFP for many years and had developed his own method, the Creighton Model System of NFP. He advised her to sign up for the first class of NFP practitioners, people who specialize in teaching NFP, for one year of supervised training. After graduation from Creighton University in 1976, Hilgers wanted the new practitioners to be recognized as professionals in their field, so the academy was created in the early '80s, explained Perkins.

Perkins and others became certified natural family practitioners through the academy, and she began teaching others about the techniques of NFP. "I saw something I really liked that went along with the Catholic Church. I knew that there had to be more information on a professional level, and I wanted something that would help me be a better teacher.

"I was motivated by the professionalism with what we were learned, and (I realized) I could teach clients better," she said.

She began serving Catholic and non-Catholic clients out of her home while teaching computer classes at Sacred Heart School. Couples have come to her for instruction from as far away as Virginia and South Carolina. The desire to spend more time with her children and five grandchildren caused her to resign from Sacred Heart and begin to work out of her home.

She continues to work with engaged couples by introducing NFP as a way of life and informing them about what it teaches. She reminds the couples about the church's teachings about life, family and marriage.

"We believe that from the time of conception that the joining of an egg and sperm is a human being. We totally believe in that," she said. "This (teaching) fills my heart with such a belief that people can do what God wants them to do. Our church offers a method that our pope also applauds, and this is a method that can be used."

For further information about NFP, call the diocesan Office of Natural Family Planning at (704) 370-3230.

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

## In Brief ...

### Reconciliation retreat offered at Jesuit House of Prayer

HOT SPRINGS — The Jesuit House of Prayer, a retreat center located on 289 NW Hwy. 25/70, will present "Reconciliation: Celebrating Jubilee in This Millennium" Nov. 16-18 with Jesuit Father Frank X. Reese and Mercy Sister Peggy Verstege as facilitators. The retreat, which includes time for group presentation and personal and communal prayer, will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude on Nov. 18 with Mass and lunch. For further details about the Nov. 10 registration and other information, call the center at (828) 622-7366.

### 'Baker's Dozen' to be held in Morganton

MORGANTON — A workshop called the Baker's Dozen will be held Nov. 10 at 10 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 714 W. Union St., for the diocesan Cursillo community. The event will conclude with a Grand Ultreya at 7:30 p.m., and all cursillistas are encouraged to attend. The Ultreya may be attended separately. For questions, call Tommy Barnhart at (336) 766-0377 or e-mail tbarnhart@dixonodom.com.


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### Bishop Wuerl says Catholic universities exist to show truth

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — A Catholic university's "very existence" is "a proclamation that there is such a reality as truth" and that it can be known, Bishop Donald W. Wuerl of Pittsburgh said Oct. 13. The bishop made the comments at a Mass celebrated for the opening of ceremonies inaugurating Charles Dougherty as the new president of Duquesne University. He is only the second lay president in the 123-year history of Duquesne, run by the Congregation of the Holy Ghost. "Catholic education is not just an institutional activity in which Catholics are engaged," Bishop Wuerl said. "It is a response to Christ's mandate that we share with each successive generation his revelation of the mystery of who God is and therefore who we are."

### Church, government leaders honor late Polish cardinal

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Church and government leaders in Poland are celebrating a "Year of Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski" in honor of the Catholic primate who died 20 years ago. A biographer said the cardinal's communist-era role had set an example for defending church rights, as well as "creating conditions" for the election of Pope John Paul II. Cardinal Wyszynski's "opposition to injustices contributed to communism's overthrow throughout Europe," said Catholic historian Andrzej Micewski. The historian spoke amid commemorations of the life of Cardinal Wyszynski, who led Poland's Catholic Church from 1949 until his death from cancer in 1981.

### First layman installed as Georgetown president

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Georgetown University inaugurated John DeGioia Oct. 13 as its 48th president — the first layman so honored. In his address, DeGioia pointed out that Georgetown has been "my home" for 26 years. He received his bachelor's degree at the school in 1979 and has been with the university almost continuously since. He said Georgetown continues in "a tradition animated by the spirit of St. Ignatius," the founder of the Jesuit order. DeGioia noted that "the trajectory of history" changed deeply Sept. 11, when terrorist attacks killed more than 5,000 people. But, he said, "Georgetown has invaluable resources to offer a world struggling with crises both urgent and profound" because the school is "international, diverse, Catholic and Jesuit, situated at the crossroads of democracy."



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Mexican president Fox offers gift to John Paul II**
**Mexico's President Vicente Fox presents a silver icon to Pope John Paul II at a private audience in the pontiff's library Oct. 18. Fox was on an official three-day visit to Italy.**

### Priest takes a turn as a race car driver

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (CNS) — "Are you nervous?" someone asked him. Father Bill Fisher, wearing a driver's suit and holding his (hope-I-don't) crash helmet, turned away from the pit area. "I wasn't five minutes ago," he said with a quick, little smile. In just moments, Father Fisher fulfilled the fantasy of a lifetime: a drive in a snarling, roaring, 650-horsepower monster of a race car around the new 1.5-mile Kansas Speedway track in Kansas City. The priest's dream-come-true laps in a red Monte Carlo, car No. 1, were made possible by The Racing Experience of Fontana, Calif. It's one of a handful of firms, operated by former racers, which offer amateurs the opportunity to drive real race cars on real racetracks.

### Russian Orthodox artist aims to capture synod in pastels, oil

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Even before it ended, the Synod of Bishops produced hundreds of thousands of words and the beginnings of one special picture. Natalia Tsarkova, a petite Russian Orthodox artist, sat in on the October synod armed first with pastels, then with oil paints. Lying flat across the arms of her chair high up in the synod hall was an extra heavy piece of paper, almost a very fancy piece of cardboard, on which she tried to capture the look and the feel of the synod. Tsarkova, whose portrait of Pope John Paul II hangs in the cultural center named after him in Washington, was commissioned to illustrate the bishops' gathering by the general secretariat of the Synod of Bishops.

### Pope asks church to launch new initiatives for defense of family

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Warning that the family's central role in society was under attack, Pope John Paul II called on the church to launch new educational and political initiatives in its promotion and defense. "Above all it is necessary to pass from a consideration of the family as a sector to a vision of the family as the criterion to measure all political action, because all the dimensions of human and social life are correlated to the good of the family," he said. The pope made his remarks in a message to Cardinal Camillo Ruini, head of the Italian bishops' conference, who was organizing celebrations Oct. 20-21 for the 20th anniversary of "Familiaris Consortio," a papal document dedicated to the family.

### Speakers say terror is the most effective part of bioterrorism

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A panel of Georgetown University experts said the threat of biological or chemical attacks, while real, is most effective because it creates a climate of fear rather than because of the potential for harming many people. At an Oct. 15 panel discussion for students, Kenneth L. Dretchen, chairman of the pharmacology department at Georgetown's medical center and a consultant for the Defense Department, said the effects of biological and chemical agents likely to be used by terrorists are fairly easily treated. Speaking on a day when mail containing anthrax was found just across the city in the office of Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., Dretchen pointed out that only a handful of people have been found to have come in contact with anthrax spores and even fewer have shown physical symptoms.


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# Greensboro parish dedicates life center, pro-life memorial

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — On Sunday, Oct. 21, Bishop William G. Curlin came to the parish of St. Paul the Apostle to dedicate to God a new parish life center, as well as a memorial to unborn babies who have been aborted.

Dedications are a solemn blessing of new churches or additions to them performed by the diocesan bishop according to the rite found in the Roman Pontifical, a book of ceremonies performed by the bishop.

This type of blessing is called a sacramental.

The principal celebrant for the dedication Mass was Bishop Curlin. The concelebrants were Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Provincial Joseph Morrissey, Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father James W. O'Neill, pastor, and Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father Anthony Gilborges. They were assisted by Rev. Mr. Gordon Forester and Rev. Mr. William Shaw.

Throughout his homily, Bishop Curlin made reference to recent world events.

Bishop Curlin then presented the Cross as an object of mercy, not of condemnation. The key to accepting the suffering of Christ as our own is through prayer, he said.

"The power of faith is prayer," Bishop Curlin said, prayer that not only consists of communicating with God but the prayer of self-sacrifice that comes with feeding the hungry and caring for the dying.

"That is what life is all about," he added, thus reinforcing his theme that "every day is beautiful, if the Son is shining inside of you. So thank God, most of all, that Jesus is alive in each of us."

This day was also the anniversary of Father O'Neill's ordination to the priesthood. He emphasized that this Parish Life Center is "truly a sign of faith that we have come to such an important event of our parish life."

At the dismissal, all were invited to attend the dedication of the new addition to St. Paul the Apostle, the Parish Life Center.

This new wing consists of a basketball court (an all-purpose room), team coordinators offices, and 10 classrooms which can be opened into larger sizes, if necessary.

After the dedication and blessing of the Parish Life Center, all processed into the all-purpose room for the concluding remarks by members of the parish who were deeply involved in this project.

Father O'Neill commented: "If you can dream it, you can build it. Today, a dream that was 27 years in the making has been brought to reality. As the people of God, we must take time to thank the Lord even as we dedicate this building and our lives to God."

Then, as a special part of the program, Father O'Neill invited Earl Lewis, the custodian for 25 years, to the podium. Then Father O'Neill let Lewis know the parish had named the all-purpose room the Earl Lewis Room.

Father Morrissey said he was happy and proud of the good things being accomplished here. "The Oblates have been here 10 years now and this is one of our jewels. It is one of the places in the Greensboro community that everyone knows about."

Prior to the celebration of Mass, the parishioners, led by Bishop Curlin, were invited to process outside the church to participate in the dedication of the respect life memorial presented to St. Paul the Apostle by Knights of Columbus Council 939.

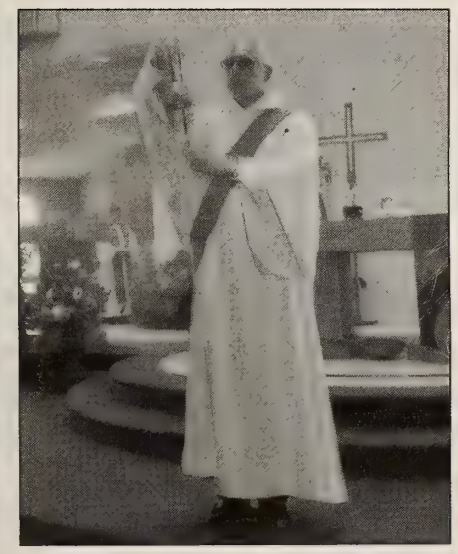
The inscription on this memorial reads: "When God bestows life, He gives it for all eternity." This is a quote from Pope John Paul II.

Brian Cohan, who represented Council 939, said it was appropriate, if not providential, to dedicate this life monument to God.



Photos by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**Father Jim O'Neill, pastor, addresses the congregation as Bishop Curlin, the concelebrants and servers look on during the dedication ceremonies at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro.**



**Rev. Mr. William Shaw incenses the new addition to the parish facilities at St. Paul the Apostle Church. The new family life center is the latest contruction at the site of the Greensboro church, which is currently staffed by the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales.**


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# Following faith draws pilgrims to seek grace, present intentions, deepen spirituality

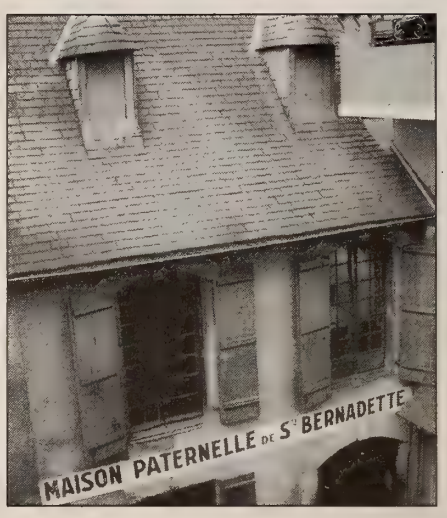
Text and photos by
JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

LOURDES, France — The healing waters of Lourdes pour upon the needs of all who visit. It's physical, spiritual and psychological intentions that bring thousands upon thousands to this small village on the edge of the Pyrenees Mountains.

Nearly 40 pilgrims from the Diocese of Charlotte recently returned from an 11-day pilgrimage to shrines of France. Their travels culminated in Lourdes, the very place where Our Lady appeared to a 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous.

Before reaching Lourdes, the group prayed in Rouen — where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake; Lisieux — home of Saint Therese; Nevers — and the convent where Bernadette Soubirous spent the last 13 years of her life; Ars, to pray in the church of Saint John-Mary Vianney, patron saint of priests; and Lourdes, where the miraculous waters continue to flow, more than 140 years since first unearthed by Bernadette.

Pilgrims spent a few final days in Paris, visiting the famous Cathedral of Notre Dame, Sacre Coeur Basilica, and the Church of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. It was at the Church of the Miraculous Medal that Mary appeared to Catherine Laboure, and the young Sister heard Mary's request to have a medal struck, thus the beginning of the Miraculous Medal.














Photos, top left to right: The home and birthplace of Bernadette Soubirous; the incorrupt body of Bernadette in Nevers; a close-up view of Bernadette, who appears to be sleeping; Personal articles belonging to Saint John Vianney. The living quarters and personal belongings of Saint John Vianney are retained in much the same way they were at the time of his death; In Lourdes, Mass is celebrated with Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Father Ed Sheridan, and Msgr. William Pharr; The Sancta Camisia, or the Holy Veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the Chartre Cathedral, is said to be the veil worn at the time Mary gave birth to Jesus.

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**Book Review**

# Books on Catholic faith aim at answering life's big questions

REVIEWED BY MICHAEL DUBRUIEL
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

We all have questions.

A tower collapsed in Siloam and 18 people were killed and Jesus was asked questions.

His response? "Do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" (Lk 13:4–5).

This passage came to mind after the events of Sept. 11 as I realized the lasting effect it has had on us as a nation. It is not only the grief that we feel for all those who perished that lingers but the big questions that moment raised about our own fate. The disciples went to Jesus with their questions, but where are we to direct our questions in 2001?

It is providential, I think, that at such a time two books would appear that are both aimed at answering the big questions of life. Both books are by bishops and both complement each other.

In "Living the Catholic Faith: Rediscovering the Basics," Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver begins with the story of a boat capsizing at Niagara Falls. A young girl heads perilously toward a certain death as she approaches the thunderous falls. Her death is thwarted when bystanders link themselves together and rescue her. Archbishop Chaput uses this true story to make the point that the young girl's situation that fateful day is precisely the situation that every human being is in, if we do not trust in God to rescue us through the powers of baptism.

***LIVING THE CATHOLIC FAITH: REDISCOVERING THE BASICS*, by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput. Servant Publications (Ann Arbor, Mich., 2001). 159 pp., $10.99.**

***THE CATHOLIC WAY: FAITH FOR LIVING TODAY*, by Bishop Donald W. Wuerl. Image Books (New York, 2001). 366 pp., $14.95.**

Archbishop Chaput's book is aptly titled and written in a manner that addresses all of the objections someone living in America in 2001 might raise to various issues of Catholic belief. His frequent use of anecdotes and illustrations from pop culture — even Cheech and Chong are mentioned! — keeps the reader's interest and presents the Catholic faith and practice in a way that even the casual reader not only will enjoy but benefit from immensely.

He gives solid reasons why the Catholic faith is not an option but a necessity in life, that "God doesn't want anonymous Christians" or "spectators," and that the importance of Christianity is a matter of life and death. It is a book one can easily read in one sitting and provides an excellent introduction to the next work reviewed here.

That work, "The Catholic Way: Faith for Living Today," comes to us from someone who has distinguished himself as the pre-eminent catechist of the Catholic Church since Vatican II. Bishop Donald Wuerl, the bishop of Pittsburgh, has produced a wide variety of catechetical materials over the last 25 years, most notably "The Teaching of Christ," which was published by Our Sunday Visitor in 1976 and still is a very popular title.

In "The Catholic Way" Bishop Wuerl has attempted to present in a popular form the teaching found in "The Catechism of the Catholic Church." He does this admirably in short, easy-to-read chapters (many of which are three to four pages), and with questions at the end of each chapter to help the reader reflect on the truths presented therein.

My only criticism of the book is that it does not have an index, which would have been very useful as it is a book that one would want to come back to time and again for quick reference.

Bishop Wuerl points out, "There is today, as there has always been, a temptation to treat the church as if it were incidental to salvation. The theory places the individual's personal feelings and preferences at the center. Yet Christ founded his church to be the gift to lead us to eternal life. We walk away from that gift at our own peril."

Both authors present the Catholic faith to us as a lifesaver, something we dare not put off to another day. I highly recommend both books.

# Word to Life

*Nov. 4, Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time*
*Cycle C Readings:*
1) Wisdom 11:22-12:2
Psalm 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14
2) 2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2
3) Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Hmmm. It was interesting that three different people on three different occasions last week invited themselves to my home. I let them all come, of course. In fact, I was gratified they wanted to be in my home and was inwardly embarrassed that they'd had to ask. I should have invited them in the first place and was ashamed I hadn't taken the initiative or had the sense of hospitality to do so.

First, it was my friend Diane who came by on a glorious autumn day to take me apple-picking at a nearby orchard. "Could I come in a minute?" she asked as I greeted her at the door. "I love this neighborhood, and I've never been in your house."

Ours is a nice, comfortable home, but it is hardly a paragon of luxury or fine design. But Diane oohed and aahed about little things I forget to appreciate: the hardwood floors, the view of the back yard, the "feel" of the den. "I really like your house," she kept saying.

A few days later, it was my student Maria, a recent refugee from Kurdistan, who asked if she and her daughter could come here for her weekly English lesson instead of my going to her poorly furnished apartment. When I brought them in, my own daughter joined us for coffee.

Maria's laughter and animated semi-English conversation filled the place with — I can't describe it otherwise — joy. The other "visitor" was my younger son who lives at his college an hour away. He and his roommate dropped by one evening on their way to the movies.

I was glad they came and said they could spend the night if they didn't want to drive back late. I hadn't expected them to take the offer, but sure enough they stayed — and then stayed all the next day too. It was my first chance to meet his roommate, and we had a wonderful time being together, even though I hadn't stocked the refrigerator.

Each of these visits brought such happiness. But each also caused me to examine my attitude. I love these people and I love to be with them. Why had I not made an effort to invite them? Self-involvement? Neglect? Misplaced priorities?

Like Zacchaeus, I was thankful that my friends came to my home, and I felt unworthy. But, also like Zacchaeus, in response to the gentle nudge of those who love me, I resolved to change my attitude — to begin looking for occasions to invite others in.

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Oct. 28 - Nov. 3**

**Sunday**, Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14; **Monday**, Romans 8:12-17, Luke 13:10-17; **Tuesday**, Romans 8:18-25, Luke 13:18-21; **Wednesday**, Romans 8:26-30, Luke 13:22-30; **Thursday (All Saints)**, Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, Matthew 5:1-12; **Friday (All Souls)**, Daniels 12:1-3, John 6:37-40; **Saturday (St. Martin de Porres)**, Romans 11:1-2, 11-12, 25-29, Luke 14:1, 7-11

**Scripture for the week of Nov. 4 - 10**

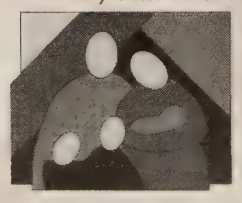
**Sunday**, Wisdom 11:22—12:2, 2 Thessalonians 1:11—2:2, Luke 19:1-10; **Monday**, Romans 11:29-36, Luke 14:12-14; **Tuesday**, Romans 12:5-16, Luke 14:15-24; **Wednesday**, Romans 13:8-10, Luke 14:25-33; **Thursday**, Romans 14:7-12, Luke 15:1-10; **Friday (Dedication of the Lateran Basilica)**, Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12, John 2:13-22; **Saturday (St. Leo the Great)**, Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27, Luke 16:9-15

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K OF C

*Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of November:*

*Rev. Msgr. John P. Manley 1981*
*Rev. John J. Hyland 1975*
*Rev. John S. Regan 1976*
*Rev. Stephen A. Sullivan 1989*

*Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus*

# Hallmark Channel special to focus on CCHD's work

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The work of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development will be the focus of an hourlong special, "Among the People: Facing Poverty in America," to be shown Sunday, Nov. 11, 7-8 a.m. EST on cable TV's Hallmark Channel.

The documentary will look at six CCHD-funded projects:

— St. Joseph's Carpenter Society and Camden Churches Organized for People, two groups in Camden, N.J., that work to solve the city's housing crisis.

— Campo Azul, a migrant farmworker camp in Portland, Ore, where residents demanded social action to escape poverty.

— Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches, which pushed for California's creation of a remedial education program requiring convicts to enroll in a high school equivalency class as a condition for parole.

— Ag Connect in rural Iowa, which brings together aspiring young farmers with older farmers who want to retire.

— The Welfare to Work Initiative in the South Bronx of New York City, in which a home health care firm made its workers partowners of the company.

— The El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization, which, after 18 years of activism, brought running water to 50,000 families in low-income Texas and New Mexico towns along the Rio Grande.

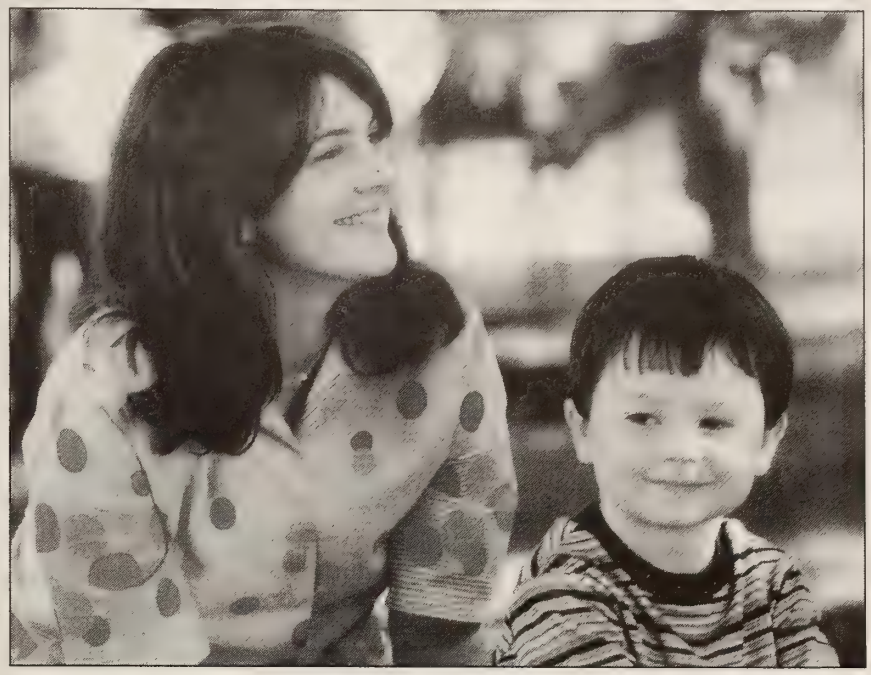
The special also will look at issues surrounding the 31 million Americans still below the poverty line — a group large enough to form America's second most populous state.

Since it was created by the U.S. bishops in 1970, CCHD has supported more than 4,000 programs nationwide to help create jobs, end poverty, and improve communities. Diocesan CCHD agencies have funded even more initiatives.

This year's CCHD national collection is scheduled to be taken up in most U.S. parishes the weekend of Nov. 17-18.

*Educational copies of the video will be available from CCHD after Nov. 11. For more information, visit the Web site www.povertyusa.org or call Barbara Stephenson, CCHD director of communications, at (202) 541-3364.*

*For information on the works of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in the Diocese of Charlotte, call Terri Jarina, (704) 370-3234.*



CNS PHOTO FROM COLUMBIA PICTURES

**Scene from movie 'Riding in Cars with Boys'**

**Drew Barrymore and Cody Arens star in a scene from the film "Riding in Cars With Boys." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

# Time Warner adds EWTN Español to digital lineup

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), America's largest religious cable network, recently announced the addition of its Spanish network to the digital lineup of Time Warner Cable.

Subscribers to Time Warner's digital cable can see EWTN Español 24 hours a day in most areas of Greensboro, Burlington, High Point, Asheboro, Reidsville, Winston-Salem, Lexington and Dobson.

EWTN Español features spiritual-growth programming from a Catholic point of view for the entire family. Its diverse daily programming schedule includes live daily Mass, talk shows, teaching series with noted theologians, children's animated series and devotional programs.

Musical programs, thought-provoking documentaries and live church events are among EWTN's specials.

Mother Angelica, a Poor Clare of Perpetual Adoration sister, founded EWTN in August of 1981.

"We are pleased that many residents in these areas can see EWTN on Time Warner Digital Cable and know our viewers are grateful for the addition of EWTN Español to their cable service," commented Mother Angelica.

"We know EWTN Español provides a positive alternative for family viewing. Our shows offer comfort, inspiration and hope for everyone. We want to make the Bible come alive for people from all walks of life."

Today, EWTN operates from a state-of-the-art complex, reaching more than 64 million homes worldwide. Using all facets of today's technology, EWTN's services include television, shortwave and AM/FM Radio, news, publishing and online services.

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## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Pope pleads 'in name of God' for end to Holy Land violence in wake of deaths

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II pleaded "in the name of God" for an end to violence in the Holy Land, as an Israeli military operation left more than 20 dead in six Palestinian towns.

"It is with deep sadness that I have heard the painful and worrying news from Bethlehem, as well as from cities like Beit Jalla and Beit Sahour," the pope said at a Sunday blessing Oct. 21.

"War and death have even arrived at the square of the Church of the Nativity of our Lord," he said.

The day before, a 19-year-old Palestinian was shot and killed as he stood next to the church, the traditional site of Jesus' birth.

"In the name of God I repeat once again: Violence is for everyone only a path of death and destruction that dishonors the holiness of God and the dignity of the human being," the pope said.

The Israeli incursions came after an Israeli Cabinet minister, Rehavam Zeevi, was gunned down in a Jerusalem hotel. His assassination was claimed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, whose leader was assassinated in an Israeli rocket attack in August.

Beginning Oct. 19, Israeli tanks temporarily re-occupied cities that had been handed back to the Palestinian Authority under previous peace agreements. It was the biggest military operation in more than a year of fighting.

Israeli authorities said they had neutralized "terrorists" in the operation, but Palestinians pointed out that women and children were among those killed.

The pope described the Holy Land fighting as one of several "threatening situations that are keeping all humanity in anxiety."

He expressed his closeness to the families that have been victims of the violence, saying he was with them in prayer, sorrow and hope.

He said the Jewish, Christian and Muslim families of the Holy Land have been given the "gift" of living together and called for a commitment by all people to making the region a land of peace.

### Pope says frustration must not delay Christian unity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Frustration and misunderstanding cannot be allowed to delay the journey toward Christian unity, Pope John Paul II told the Greek Orthodox patriarch of Syria. "We suffer because our progress is sometimes slowed," he told Patriarch Ignatius IV of Antioch during their Oct. 22 meeting at the Vatican. Pope John Paul praised the patriarch for his decades-long commitment to Christian unity, particularly his efforts to reunite the churches that trace their roots to the ancient Patriarchate of Antioch.

## Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

### Paying attention to beauty

Giving our attention to beauty can forever change us. Have you ever been so moved by a piece of music that it opened your ears to new sounds? Have you ever tasted a food for the first time that forever altered you taste buds? Has a poem, song or book touched you in places you didn't even know you had? When we pay attention to beauty (which is God in disguise) we plug into the divine - a direct link to God. And we are transformed.

Our honeymoon in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania is an example. It was the second week of October 1975. The fall colors were in full bloom. Driving through the mountains to the resort was an experience of newness. We had never been in that state or a mountainous region. The rental car was new; our relationship was at a new place. The newness had us paying special attention - to each other and all that was around us.

The fall colors illuminated as never before. Never before had either of us seen such natural beauty. We thought that there was something very special about the Poconos to touch us so deeply.

Arriving back in Chicago a week later we were amazed at how beautiful the fall colors were on the familiar roads of our hometown. Something had happened to us that had changed how we looked at nature. A week of paying attention to beauty had transformed us. The fall season was before merely a prelude to winter. After our honeymoon it became our favorite time of the year. Our eyes haven't been the same since.

A couple of years earlier we got tickets to a concert by the Mahavishnu Orchestra. Unfamiliar with the ensemble, we thought we were attending a classical music concert. To our surprise it was a group lead by rock guitarist John McLaughlin. They played jazz-fusion, a kind of music we hadn't paid any attention to. That evening a whole new genre of music entered our lives. Our ears haven't been the same since.

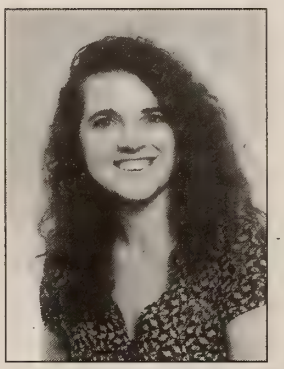
About twenty years ago on a Marriage Encounter weekend retreat we attended Mass. It was a closing liturgy after a profoundly touching marriage enrichment experience. We had paid attention to the moving stories of the presenting couples that weekend. We had paid attention to each other more deeply. More acutely aware of God in us and the couples around us, we paid attention to the Eucharistic Prayer in a way we never had before. And receiving Communion side-by-side each other, two by two, the words, "the body of Christ" resonated as never before. We experienced ourselves as the body and blood of Christ in a new way. Our Communion hasn't been the same since.

***Questions for Reflection:***

*How has paying attention to beauty transformed you?*

*When was the last time you experienced such transformation?*

*How has it changed you?*



## Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

### Do Not Be Afraid: Still Good Advice?

Fear.

Feeling it a bit more than usual these days?

Don't worry. You're not alone. In these strange, sad weeks since Sept. 11, lots of people, no matter what age, are feeling a lot more fearful about daily life than they ever have before.

Sales of gas masks and guns are way up. Pharmacists have run out of Ciprol, the antibiotic used to treat anthrax. People are staying at home, not traveling as much as they used to.

Even celebrities aren't immune. In mid-October, Drew Barrymore canceled the premier of her new movie, to be held in New York, for fear of terrorist attacks.

Perhaps you've felt it too.

Maybe tall buildings and airplanes evoke different feelings than they used to. You've wondered if you really want to go to a football game or concert at a stadium. What's in that big truck that just passed your car on the interstate, anyway? Is the water safe? The mail?

It's not just the terrorist threat, though. It's the war, of course. Everyone from the president on down is telling the country to get ready because this effort might take a long time. How long? Long enough for your dad or mom who's in the reserves to see action? Long enough for you to turn 18 and consider whether to join up or not?

Listen. I'm not going to sit here and tell you that there's nothing to be afraid of. At this point, there is. Our government has worked very hard since Sept. 11 to round up suspected terrorists, so the chances of another attack are less than before, but they are, we have to admit, still there. War is a reality. Those who participated in any way, shape or form in killing 6,000 innocent people on Sept. 11 declared the war.

It's natural to be anxious, worried, nervous or even afraid. We almost can't help feeling that way, considering the news we're seeing and hearing every day.

But here's some more news, and it doesn't come from the networks, and it's not in the newspaper:

"Do not be afraid" (Mt 17:7).

That little verse from Matthew isn't the only place you'll hear Jesus saying those words, you know. He says them over and over, throughout the Gospels, whenever he finds people trembling with fear: Do not be afraid.

Is Jesus being unrealistic? Is he telling his listeners that there's nothing to be afraid of?

Not quite. Jesus doesn't promise freedom from suffering to his followers. In fact, he indicates pretty consistently that the opposite is true and practically guarantees those who follow him that they will suffer.

But he still tells them not to be afraid. Why?

Because, quite simply, fear and faith just don't go together. Mind you, when Jesus tells us not to be afraid, he's not telling us to be foolhardy. He's not saying we shouldn't be cautious or try to protect ourselves and others from potential physical harm.

But he's reminding us that fear crowds out faith. When we live in fear, we're letting external circumstances and other people control our lives — and guide our choices — instead of God.

Do not be afraid.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### No Accidents, No Mistakes

Some people you just remember. It's not just their looks or intelligence. It's something in their presence, their very essence. That was my reaction when I first heard Kay C. James speak. A beautiful, charming, self-possessed, articulate woman, she commands your attention by the sureness of her convictions.

Kay James has held a number of major positions with the government and with charitable organizations. She was an executive with the Washington, D.C.-based One-on-One Foundation, and also served as President George Bush's assistant secretary for public affairs in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

And some folks would suggest that gifted and accomplished person should never have been born.

Let me set the context. Among her many educational efforts, Kay James has also argued for the right of children to be born. As an African-American, she is keenly aware that few are targeted for abortion more frequently than poor black Americans. Following one presentation, Kay James was confronted by a woman who identified herself as a counselor at an abortion center. Her attack on James was deeply personal, suggesting that because Kay James dressed well and enjoyed a privileged lifestyle, she was in no position to advise the poor on their choice for abortion. The critic said: "Mrs. James, you don't know what you're talking about. You are obviously so middle-class that you can't relate to the needs of the poor. You don't understand why a poor woman would need abortion services to improve the quality of her life."

Now, Kay James is no fool. So she responded to the criticism with a question: "Tell me how would you counsel a woman who comes to you in tears and says, 'I'm pregnant and I don't know what I'm going to do. I already have four children. My husband is suffering from alcoholism and he physically abuses the children and me. He can't hold a job, and I don't know how I'm going to put food on the table.'"

The abortion counselor had a ready answer. "The most loving thing that woman could do would be to have an abortion. What loving mother would bring a child into the world under those circumstances? What quality of life could that child be expected to have?"

And then Kay James lowered the boom. "I have a vested interest in how you would counsel that woman, because that woman was my mother. And that fifth child she carried was me. And in case there is any doubt in your mind, the quality of my life is very, very good. My husband Charles and I have three children and have adopted a fourth. I was born into a family struggling against poverty and alcoholism, but I am an example of what the power of Jesus Christ can do in the life of a believer."

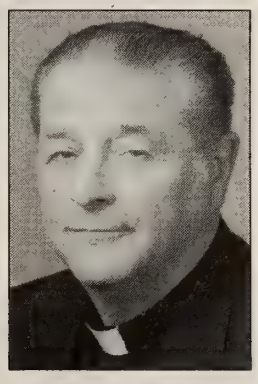
Many people in our society see children as a personal choice, or as an accident of timing, or as a mistake in planning. Kay James thinks differently. She knows that there never has been and never will be a child conceived who is a "mistake" or an "accident" in the mind of God. Others believe that only when conditions are close to "perfect" should we dare to let a child be born. But as Kay James's life indicates, sometimes the most imperfect of situations produce abundant blessings.

When Kay James was only seven weeks old in her burdened mother's womb, she had a unique and distinct set of fingerprints. No one in the world could match them. Because that's how we're made: individual, precious. And each of us has a purpose which is uniquely our own.

Kay James's mother knew that. The world is richer for her choice to give life a chance.

*Msgr. Jim Lisante is director of The Christophers.*

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. I am a practicing Lutheran and was a widow with three children. I met and became engaged to a wonderful Catholic man. We intended to marry in my church after completing all the preparations with his priest.*

*At our first meeting the priest informed us we were required to sign a promise that children from the marriage would be baptized and raised Catholic. We had discussed religion in depth before deciding to marry, and we agreed that all the children would be raised in the same religion.*

*Since we both feel the differences between our two faiths were not extreme, we considered attending Catholic services for a time with the children before deciding.*

*We asked the priest what the consequences would be if we did not sign the paper and were told the marriage would not be recognized, and my husband would not be allowed to receive Communion.*

*After this meeting with the priest and the way the options (or lack of them) were presented, we decided to stay with the Lutheran Church.*

*We have since married and are very happy. My reason for writing is to learn if this is truly the policy of the Catholic Church or just of the parish. The majority of my friends and neighbors, and my husband's family are all Catholic, and they have supported us.*

A. Unfortunately, if you heard the priest correctly, you failed to receive accurate information that might have made your decisions easier and perhaps have moved them in another direction.

First of all, neither partner in a mixed marriage (between a Catholic and a baptized person of another Christian denomination) is required to sign a promise that all children will be baptized and raised Catholic.

The Catholic partner signs two statements. (1) "I reaffirm my faith in Jesus Christ and intend to continue living that faith in the Catholic Church." And, (2) "I promise to do all in my power to share my faith with our children by having them baptized and raised as Catholics" — a significantly different kind of promise than the one you describe.

The non-Catholic partner signs or promises nothing. The priest who is helping the couple prepare for the marriage signs a declaration that the non-Catholic partner is aware of this affirmation and belief of the Catholic.

The couple then need to work together to resolve their religious differences without either of them being asked to compromise their consciences.

Beyond this, Catholic ecumenical directives emphasize that the church's primary concern in such marriages is to uphold the strength and stability of the indissoluble marriage union and the family life that flows from it.

As Pope John Paul II wrote some years ago, mixed marriages contain numerous elements that could contribute much to the marriage, particularly when both parties are faithful to their religious duties ("Familiaris Consortio," No. 78).

Since both partners may feel serious commitments to their respective religious denominations, they are encouraged to "discuss the Catholic baptism and education of the children they will have, and where possible come to a decision on this question before the marriage." (All these norms are found in the Official Catholic Directory on Ecumenism, 1993, Nos. 143-151)

I realize your decisions are now finalized, and of course your age and your own children are considerable factors. From my experience, however, you both might have profited from some of these recommendations as you were weighing your options. At least they may be helpful to other couples presently anticipating a mixed marriage.

# Planned Giving



GINA M. RHODES
GUEST COLUMNIST

### What to Do With "Obsolete" Insurance

Do you have a life insurance policy you purchased years ago to provide financial protection — and no longer need it? If so, it may be a great asset to give your parish, Catholic school, agency, the Diocese, or the Foundation. Consider the benefits when you irrevocably name either your parish, Catholic school, agency, the Diocese or the Foundation as both the owner and beneficiary of the policy:

**1. You receive an income tax deduction.**

When you fill out your itemized tax return, you can claim a charitable deduction for the cost basis of the policy or an amount approximately equal to the cash surrender value. For deduction purposes, the gift is treated as though it were cash.

This means you can deduct the gift up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income. And if you can't use the full deduction in the first year, you can carry forward the unused portion up to five additional years.

**2. You reduce the size of your estate.**

At death, the face value of most life insurance policies is includable in the taxable estate of the deceased. For some estates, this can mean a significant increase in estate taxes. However, transferring the policy during life will remove this "hidden" asset and reduce the size of your estate and any applicable taxes.

**3. You leave your current income undisturbed.**

Many people desire to give more to their parish, Catholic school, agency, the diocese or the Foundation, but are concerned about their own cash flow and any unforeseen emergencies. They are reluctant to reduce investment assets.

We at the Diocese of Charlotte do not want any of our friends to jeopardize their security in making charitable gifts. At the same time, it's quite possible that you have either forgotten about an "obsolete" life insurance policy or consider it an unneeded asset. In any case, the beauty of giving such a policy is that it doesn't affect your current income stream.

Making a gift of life insurance is easier than you might think. Your life insurance professional can help you obtain a transfer form from the insurance company or you can contact the company directly. Or please contact me, Gina Rhodes at (704) 370-3320 or e-mail gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org. I would be happy to answer your questions and send you a free copy of the brochure "Giving Through Life Insurance."

This pamphlet not only covers in more detail the paragraphs above, it explains additional ways you can use life insurance in charitable giving.

# Retired bishop finds a home in RV on the reservation

BY PATRICK JOYCE

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — When Bishop Francis A. Quinn retired as bishop of Sacramento in November 1993, the priests of the northern California diocese gave him a recreational vehicle and he drove off to see the world.

He set out for the Diocese of Tucson, Ariz., at the invitation of Bishop Manuel D. Moreno, who knew Bishop Quinn wanted to work with Native Americans. Today his vehicle is still parked in southern Arizona. He has been living in the RV and working with Indian tribes for more than seven years.

"They are very devout," he said of his new parishioners. "They carried on the faith through centuries when they didn't even have clergy to serve them."

On the reservation, "we try to bring together the Indian religions with the Catholic faith," he told an audience in San Francisco.

"This is not in any way demeaning of the Roman liturgy," Bishop Quinn said. "I think Rome is very much for working with the people with whom you're serving. It brings the people closer."

Bishop Quinn returned to San Francisco recently to participate in the 60th anniversary of St. Gabriel's Parish, where he served as pastor from 1970 to 1978. He also was an auxiliary for the San Francisco Archdiocese for about a year before he was named to head the Sacramento Diocese in December 1979.

In a talk at the United Irish Cultural Center, Bishop Quinn spoke of his memories as a young priest in San Francisco in the 1940s, his 14 years as bishop of Sacramento and his life now as a parish priest on an Indian reservation.

"The reservations in the Southwest are not what one might expect," Bishop Quinn said. "The dwellings of the Native Americans are simply squat, undistinguished structures typical of any poverty-stricken area."

He described a few of the local customs that influence liturgical celebrations on the reservation.

"Before Mass there will be a drum and rattle sound calling the people to God," he explained. "There is a smoke blessing at some Masses instead of a penitential rite. They do a wafting of smoke, first to the East, then to the South, then to the West, then to the North."

He added that Native Americans are "very conscious of directions." He said that turning to the East represents birth; to the South, youth; to the West, middle age; and to the North, old age.

"And then they start around again, back to the East, the direction of the new birth," he said.

"We carry mesquite branches instead of Palm branches on Palm Sunday. From Wednesday to Easter Sunday, the men of the tribe do not sleep," Bishop Quinn said. "They go through dances and rituals that are episodes of Christ's passion and death. They portray the struggle between good and evil, between the Pharisees and Christ in symbolic ways."

His parishioners go to confession at Sunday Mass, often 200 out of a congregation of 250.

"At the time of the homily, they write their sins on little slips of paper and then they come forward, hand them to the priest who reads them, then (he) places them in a bowl on the altar which has kindling wood burning in it," Bishop Quinn said. "Then you give absolution individually to the penitents and they return (to their seats)."

# USCCB mail affected by anthrax shutdown

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the post office that serves much of Washington closed for investigation of the spread of anthrax, the headquarters of the U.S. bishops was among those whose mail service was disrupted.

Msgr. William P. Fay, general secretary to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, sent a fax memo to U.S. bishops Oct. 23 noting that mail service at the conference had been affected by the discovery of anthrax spores at the U.S. Postal Service's Brentwood station in Washington.

Two employees from the station had died and at least two others were sick with the inhaled form of anthrax.

Msgr. Fay's memo noted that, as of the second business day that the station was closed, the USCCB had been unable to send or receive mail through its usual pickup and delivery service. Arrangements had been made to send outbound mail through another post office in Maryland.

# Seniors,

## from page 1

not do things *to* people," Sister Jeanne Marie said with a smile. "For some reason, as we move toward this 'golden age,' we can sometimes get a little tarnished.

"But the wisdom that we have to share, the understanding of what is really trivial and what's important, can add so much beauty to the church and to our world."

Bishop William G. Curlin closed the day of reflection with Mass. In his homily, he sustained the notion that seniors are beacons of hope in a world that needs it so desperately.

"People today are seeking something to hold on to," he said. "It is so marvelous that you have special gifts to give to the world.

"You've been through so much struggle and so many crises, and you never gave up. You know the power of prayer. You are living proof that faith works."

*Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org*

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Associate Editor:** The Catholic News & Herald seeks an Associate Editor with an eye for detail and the ability to prioritize to insure deadlines are met. Successful candidate will handle a variety of assignments, rewrite and edit material, and supervise a network of freelance writers. Candidate will have an understanding of AP style, experience in a PC environment with Adobe Pagemaker and Photoshop proficiency, and will have photography skills - with digital knowledge preferred. Knowledge of Catholicism. Prior experience in the field, journalism degree preferred, appropriate newspaper experience may be substituted for education. Must be available to travel within Western North Carolina. Good benefits package. Send resume, non-returnable clips and photo samples to Associate Editor position, The Catholic News & Herald, PO Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237, or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org. Position available Nov., 2001.

**Director:** Hispanic Center of High Point: Catholic Social Services seeks experienced manager to direct outreach program serving primarily Hispanic clients. Non-profit human services experience preferred. Bilingual fluency in English and Spanish strongly preferred. Good interpersonal, supervisory, administrative, and public relations skills required. Competitive salary and benefits. Send resume to: CSS, PO Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108, before November 7, 2001.

**Director of Music Ministry:** Full-time position, 1500-family parish near Charlotte, NC. Responsible for five weekend liturgies plus holy days, weddings and funerals. Adult choir, contemporary choir, cantors, instrumentalists, and handbell choirs. Rogers electronic organ, Yamaha upright piano, and Clavinova digital pianos, two-octave set of Malmark handbells. Ideal candidate is a practicing Catholic with music degree and experience, music performance skill (organ/piano/voice), choral and cantor skills, knowledge of Catholic liturgical music. Salary commensurate with experience. Full benefits. Send/fax resumes to Fr. Bill Kelley, S.J., Saint Therese Parish, 217 Brawley School Road, Mooresville, NC 28117. Phone: (704) 664-3992; Fax: (704) 660-6321.

**Nanny:** Part-time Christian nanny needed for childcare in our home. We have two children, ages 28 months and 14 months. Hours needed are Monday through Thursday, 12 pm through 6pm, starting as soon as possible. References are required, experience is preferred, and salary is negotiable. Please call Ben or Jamie if interested:(336)712-0654. 8450 Maeve Court, Clemmons, NC 27012.

**Parish Operations Manager:** Holy Infant Catholic Church, Durham, NC seeks a full-time Parish Operations Manager. The Parish Operations Manager is a professional administrator in support of the Pastor and is a steward of the personnel and financial resources of the parish whose contribution helps parish ministries to function effectively. The Parish Operations Manager is responsible for the day-to-day management of parish business (personnel, facilities, information systems, capital and pledge campaigns administration). Must be well-organized, diplomatic, attentive to detail, and an effective communicator (written and oral). Must have excellent interpersonal and supervisory skills and is knowledgeable of personnel issues, including policies, procedures, staffing, benefits, etc. Must have knowledge of the principles of accounting. BA/BS in Business Administration, Finance or equivalent as well as 10 years work experience and 5 years management required. Excellent Diocesan benefits package provided. Submit résumé, salary history and three references by Friday, November 9, 2001 to: POM Search Committee, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713

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# Columbian Squires hold state convention, elect state officers

SWANSBORO — The North Carolina State Circle of the Columbian Squires, the official youth organization of the Knights of Columbus, recently held their annual State Convention at Mitchell 4-H Camp in Swansboro.

The weekend was a mixture of business and fun. The Squires enjoyed swimming, canoeing and fishing. Chief Squire Jared Shutt of Clemmons led the business meeting in which the Squires elected State Officers for the 2001-2002 year.

Elected were State Chief Squire Tim Ku of Clemmons, State Deputy Chief Squire Gus Voncannon of Clemmons, State Notary Paul Bussman of Jacksonville, State Bursar Guy Garguilo of Greensboro, State Marshall Sean Powers of Clemmons, and State Sentry Andrew Joyce of King. Father John Putnam of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Salisbury accepted another term as State Father Prior, or chaplain.

A highlight of the convention was a spiritual retreat conducted by Father Putnam and two Charlotte Diocese seminarians, Matthew Buettner and Patrick Toole. Father Putnam was also the celebrant at the convention Mass attended by Squires, Knights and their families.

At the Saturday evening banquet, several awards were presented. The State Squire of the Year Award was presented to Josh LaRocque of Mother Teresa of Calcutta Circle #4457 in Charlotte. LaRocque served the past year as Chief Squire of his circle, participating and leading most of his local circle's service programs and attending all State Circle events. He recently graduated from high school in Charlotte with a 4.4 weighted GPA and has been awarded several national honors, such as a finalist in the Presidential Scholars Program and finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Dale Powers of Clemmons Circle #3752 (Holy Family Catholic Church) was awarded the State Counsellor of the Year Award. Powers has served as Chief Counsellor of the Clemmons circle for two years and has directed the circle to a record membership growth, increased member participation, and exemplary service to the church and community.

In the announcement of the award, State Chairman John Harrison stated that "Dale's greatest quality is his ability to motivate the members of the circle to become Catholic leaders."

Also announced were the 2001 Squires Scholarship winners.

Receiving $750 scholarships were Josh LaRocque of Charlotte, State Chief Squire Jared Shutt of Clemmons, and Deputy Chief Squire Matthew Borden of Clemmons. Receiving $250 continued support scholarships were Chris Huebner of Clemmons, Joseph Butters of Fayetteville, and Michael Higginbotham of Jacksonville. Each of these students was a former recipient of larger Squires scholarships.

The Squires and Knights of Columbus annually present these scholarships based on academic success and dedication to the Columbian Squires program.

The Columbian Squires is the official youth program of the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic family, fraternal, service organization. The Columbian Squires boast an order-wide membership of 25,000 young men, ages 10-18, dedicated to serving the Catholic Church and the community, and developing Catholic leadership.

There are 16 circles in North Carolina with a membership of nearly 300.

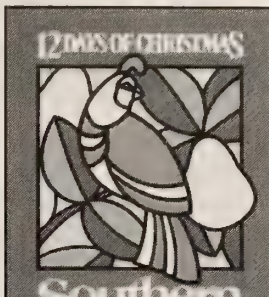
Each circle conducts numerous programs of service, spiritual development, and community involvement. The program is run by the Squires, who elect their own officers and direct their activities. Knights of Columbus members, who serve as counselors, serve as mentors and supervise activities.


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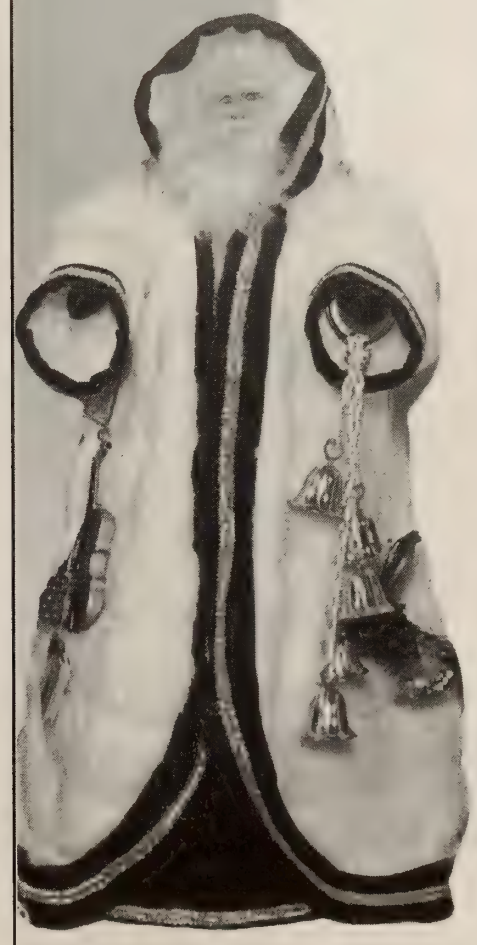
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# Deacon finds joy through life experiences

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Rev. Mr. Stephen Horai Jr. recalls the days when he could travel via bicycle and roller skates in and around his Staten Island neighborhood. It was a time when war was a part of one's daily vocabulary, and novenas were prayed on a routine basis.

Born in 1927, Horai grew up in a Catholic household where his mother was the disciplinarian and his father worked for long hours as a welder. He received his foundation in his faith at an early age and felt the desire to serve God in some capacity even during his childhood years. Like many young men, war was at the forefront of his mind, and before he was finished with high school, he had signed up for the Navy in 1945 and worked in the VA Hospital after being discharged in 1947.



Rev. Mr. Stephen Horai Jr.

"I enjoyed working in the hospital, and I especially enjoyed helping people," he said. "Ever since I was involved with the Navy, I have always been involved with people."

Later in life, he experienced a life-altering occurrence. His faith had never left him throughout his late teen and early young adult years, and he decided to join the Third Order of Secular Franciscans. It is an association that has remained a large part of his life.

"It really turned my heart because this was the first time that I gave myself over to God," said Rev. Mr. Horai. "My relationship with God became stronger."

He met Anna, a young student nurse while working at the hospital, and was smitten. They began dating and were married in 1948. Horai had been discharged in 1947, returned to finish high school and was working odd jobs prior to their wedding.

War appeared on the horizon again after a few years, and Horai was called back to service as a reservist in the Marine Corps in 1951. Although he was never shipped to Korea, he felt the pains of separation as he missed his wife and the birth of the second of six children while stationed at Camp Lejeune in Onslow County, N.C.

After being discharged, he began working at Procter & Gamble Co. as a senior lab analyst, testing soap products and ingredients for the next 33 years. He said that the job, which required him to be on his feet often, was a rewarding one where he received hands-on training.

Retirement came right before the plant was closed — a move that he had predicted and for which he had prepared himself.

He had also been preparing himself for his involvement with the permanent diaconate in an indirect way for years. He had begun working with the Cursillo and the charismatic renewal movements in his parish, and he says that "was the start of it."

"I knew the Lord was calling me for something, and everything started to click."

Horai saw an article about the diaconate in his New Jersey diocesan newspaper and spoke to his pastor about it. "At that time, laypeople didn't know much about it because it was just getting started. I just learned more as time went on."

His wife recalls how the timing was perfect for them. "We didn't know what it (the permanent diaconate) was at the time, but he felt that he was called to do it. I didn't stand in his way, and it came at a good time for us," she said.

After being ordained, the Horais decided to move to North Carolina in 1985 because of the harsh winters in their home state, Rev. Mr. Horai's familiarity with the state and their youngest son's marriage to a woman from Lenoir, N.C. He was assigned to Our Lady of Assumption Church in Charlotte and began working with hospital ministry.

The grandfather of 16 and great-grandfather of five says that his work with people through the diaconate has been the most rewarding. "The permanent diaconate has been an outgrowth of our spirituality, and we have had so many wonderful experiences through the diaconate process through education and rubbing elbows with so many people."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

## In Brief ...

### Cathedral's Respect Life Committee to sponsor reproductive technology program

CHARLOTTE — The St. Patrick Cathedral Respect Life Committee is sponsoring a program called "Choices in Assisted Reproduction: A Guide for Catholic Families," Nov. 15 from 7-9 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center on Providence Road in Charlotte.

The program will present the teachings of the Catholic Church regarding procedures available to infertile couples. Father Matthew Kauth, parochial vicar at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, will be the main speaker. He will be joined by a physician as well as a natural family planning instructor who will answer specific medical questions and provide expertise in natural fertility enhancement.

If you or someone you know is dealing with the challenge of infertility or would like to know more about the church's teachings on reproductive technology, you are invited to attend.

For more information, or if you would like to request that a specific question be addressed, call the Diocese of Charlotte Respect Life Office at (704) 370-3229.

### Greensboro Council of Catholic Women announces new officers

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women recently held the installation of its 2001-2002 officers. They are as follows: Marie Van Kleet, president; Joan Charbonneau, first vice president; Janet Law, second vice president; Mildred Barry, treasurer; Carmen Wood, secretary; Carolyn Kingman, community activities; Maryann Grabasky, social activities; Anne McCarthy, spiritual activities; Margaret Devaney, special projects and Lillian Leonard, past president.

Florence Breathlett, Vi Plante, Doris Kauder, Mary Lou Garlock, Ginny Dunigan, Eva Shea and Rosemary Marsicano will serve as representatives from five area Catholic churches.

For questions about membership and other information, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

### "Celebrating the Church in the African Diaspora"

GREENSBORO — The fourth annual Gospel Mass celebrating Black Catholic History Month will be offered on Nov. 11 at 11:30 a.m. at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., in Greensboro. Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor, will be the celebrant, and St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem will provide the music ministry with its gospel choir. A karamu or community meal will follow the Mass in the Kloster Center.

The celebration is being sponsored by the Catholic campus ministry of North Carolina A&T State University and Bennett College, St. Pius X Church and the Women's Friendship Club of St. Mary Church in Greensboro. For more information, call Alberta Hairston, campus minister, at (336) 272-5868 or e-mail theahouse1@juno.com.







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November 2, 2001
Volume 11 ▾ Number 8

# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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" ... We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith ... "

—2 Thessalonians 1:11

# Couples renew vows at anniversary Mass

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Rolando Martinez met Mirtha in a physics lab class. He was the professor, and she was studying for her electrical engineering degree. Through their academic and social acquaintance, they fell in love and were married 25 years ago. Expressing his dissent with the Cuban government via a letter led to his expulsion from the university and the harassment of his wife. Government officials asked her to divorce her husband, and in response, she proclaimed he was a wonderful husband and father and was proud of what he did.

"Even through those difficult times, our marriage survived because we loved each other," said Mr. Martinez, who fled to Arden with his family and joined St. Barnabas Church.

The Martinezes and more than 200 other couples with family and friends from around the diocese commemorated the sacrament of matrimony and the love that has carried them through years of joys and pains.

The annual Mass celebrating 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries was held at St. Thomas Aquinas Church and was sponsored by the Family Life program of Catholic Social Services Special Ministries. The celebration included time for the couples to renew their vows and recommit themselves to one another. Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant, spoke of the love between a husband and wife.

"Marriage is about love — one that is generous, understanding, forgiving and tolerating," Bishop Curlin said. "(It is) a love that enables you both to say, 'we forgive each other,' and is a love that is so unselfish that you ask your spouse what makes the other happy."

Edward and Alfredia Lewandowski, parishioners at St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte, agreed that consideration of the other person is what has kept them going for 50 years. "We trust in each other," Mrs. Lewandowski said. "You don't think of yourself; you have to think of the other person. He always comes first."

The bishop asked what were the elements that supply the foundation for a happy marriage and said that kindness, generosity, unselfishness, love and love transcended into acts of mercy are the attributes necessary for long-lasting marriages.

"Lots of love, hard work and commitment to family are what make a marriage work," said John and Mary Nelis, celebrating their golden anniversary. The bishop said the level of commitment must be extensive and expansive.

"Your goal is not 50-50; it is 100-100. It is much more than simply a marriage contract. You have to say totally, 'I am yours.' You have come here to celebrate the gift of a heart to a heart."

Paul and Jo Anne Pearson from St. Eugene in Asheville, who are celebrating 25 years of marriage, agreed, "The marriage needs to be all-giving," Mr. Pearson said. "(There should be) no jealousy, and no one can be out for himself or herself. If you give more than you expect to receive, then it will be successful. I think you have to be aware from the beginning that there will be some tough roads, and you have to work through them together, not separately. I can't imagine being with anyone else."

The bishop said that the couples were shining examples of what the sacrament means especially during a time when statistically, more than half of marriages end in divorce.

"You show us the triumph of unselfish, generous love," he said. "You are our heroes because the family is what is most important."

Gerry Carter, director of Special Ministries, said, "We want to celebrate those sterling examples of marital commitment. These couples are a treasure for the church, so we want our appreciation to be visible. We are honoring those couples who have been real symbols of what family life is all about."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*



Photos by Alesha M. Price



**Pictured top, Paul and Jo Anne Pearson from St. Eugene Church in Asheville celebrate their 25th anniversary and renew their vows at the 25th and 50th anniversary Mass at St Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte on Oct. 28. Pictured bottom right, Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant and homilist, takes the bread and wine. He called the couples shining examples of marriage.**

### In naming kids, Catholic parents pick Jennifer over Mary

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Back in 1905, when George M. Cohan wrote his musical paean to "Mary" — "It's a grand old name" — more than one out of every 20 girls born in the United States was being named Mary. Now the Blessed Virgin's name, which easily ranked first among all U.S. girls' names from at least the 1880s through the 1950s, ranks a lowly 47th. In 2000 it was given to only one new baby girl in about 330. Even among Catholics, Jennifer — a variant on the mythical Guenevere of the Camelot legend — has now become the most popular name for baby girls, says the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. The Catholic practice of giving children religious names has declined substantially over the past two generations, two CARA researchers reported in a recent paper.

### Guatemalan who records war tales says he feels like Gospel writer

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Rodolfo Godinez said he feels like a Gospel evangelist as he listens to and records the tales of people who lived through Guatemala's civil war. "It's like 2000 years ago with the Gospel writers," said Godinez, who works for Guatemala's Diocese of San Marcos. "They were also recovering the memory — of the life of Jesus. That's why we know who Jesus is today. Our challenge is to let future generations know the history of San Marcos." Godinez described the work he's been doing for six years with the Recovery of the Historical Memory project, run by the Archbishop's Human Rights Office in Guatemala City. He spoke through an interpreter to Catholic News Service in Washington in mid-October.

### Utah Catholic priests selected to carry Olympic torch

SALT LAKE CITY (CNS) — As the Olympic torch makes its way on a 65-day circuitous route from Atlanta to Salt Lake City though 46 states, two Utah Catholic priests will be among the more than 11,500 torchbearers who will carry the flame for portions of the 13,500-mile journey. Msgr. J. Terrence Fitzgerald, vicar general of the Diocese of Salt Lake City, and Msgr. Robert J. Bussen, pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Park City, are among the 900 Utahns chosen to carry the torch. The names of the torchbearers were announced at special ceremony held on the lawn of the Utah state capitol. The two priests are among such noted Utahns as Steve Young, formerly of the San Francisco 49ers; retired Brigham Young head football coach LaVell Edwards; Roma Downey, star of the CBS-TV series "Touched by an Angel"; and hundreds of others.



CNS PHOTO BY REUTERS

**British soldier stands guard near Belfast school**

**Young students from Holy Cross Primary, a Catholic girls school, watch as British soldiers patrol the Ardoyne Road in Belfast Oct. 24. The British government responded to the IRA's decision to disarm, saying it would tear down four key security installations in Northern Ireland as soon as possible.**

### Terrorism no excuse for return of apartheid laws, say officials

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — South African church officials have expressed concern that proposed anti-terrorism legislation is reminiscent of apartheid-era laws. "Our experiences under apartheid have made us very cautious of bringing back anti-terror laws," said Felicity Harrison, a researcher with the parliamentary liaison office. The Anti-Terrorism Bill, spawned out of urban terror campaigns in Cape Town in the late 1990s, has been criticized for its curbing of civil liberties. "We have to be careful about introducing legislation that curtails civil liberties because, once taken away, they are very difficult to bring back," Harrison said in a mid-October interview.

### Baptist-Catholic conversation ended

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The co-sponsors of the national Southern Baptist-Catholic Conversation have announced the termination of their current round of formal conversations. In a joint statement in October, they said the national conversation was only one of several forms of Catholic-Southern Baptist cooperation. Its ending "should not be seen as a diminished commitment in either community to continued collaboration whenever possible," they said. The Catholic co-sponsor, the bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, said the decision to end the conversations was made by the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, co-sponsor on the Baptist side.

### IRA disarmament called 'significant progress' for peace

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Archbishop Sean Brady of Armagh, Northern Ireland, welcomed the start of decommissioning of weapons by the Irish Republican Army. Speaking from Rome, where he was attending the Synod of Bishops, Archbishop Brady said the disarmament of the IRA "represents very significant progress which augurs well for the future of the peace process." The archbishop said, "I hope and pray that, in the light of this development, all the parties involved will renew their commitment to work for a consolidation of the peace process and a better future for all the people of Northern Ireland." The IRA announced the disarmament plan Oct. 23, saying that it did so "in order to save the peace process."

### Catholic hospital, university damaged in Holy Land violence

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Holy Family Maternity Hospital and its adjacent orphanage were among buildings hit during fighting between Israeli and Palestinian forces in Bethlehem. The Christian Brothers' residence at Bethlehem University was hit by 107 bullets in two days, said Christian Brother Vincent Malham, university rector. He said all university activities were suspended. "We were terrified. The past few days we are living under terror," he said. "Unless something changes there will be extensive loss of life. We are confounded as to the way out of this, but I think if the Israeli tanks would back off, the Palestinian Tanzeen (militia) would also back off. I am very sad and very worried," he said.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**November 8 — 9 a.m.**
Addressing students, guests and faculty
Wingate University, Wingate

**7 p.m.**
Banquet for Room at the Inn
Charlotte Convention Center

**November 10 — 2 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Vincent de Paul, Charlotte

**November 11**
11:30 a.m. Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**November 12-15**
Annual Meeting, National Conference of Catholic Bishops
Washington, D.C.

## Diocesan planner

**November**

**8** BELMONT — The Abbey Players/ Belmont Community Theatre will present Noel Coward's "Hay Fever," a pre-Depression era story about an eccentric family and their friends. The play, which will open tonight at 8 p.m., will run Nov. 9, 10 and 15-17 in the Haid Theatre, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. For tickets and other information, call the theatre at (704) 825-6787.

**10** CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo community will meet tonight and every second Saturday for a school of leaders at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For further information, call Long Nguyen at (704) 455-2563.

**10** CHARLOTTE — The world-renowned Celebrant Singers from California will be performing at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., tonight at 8 p.m. A love offering will be taken during the performance. For further details, contact Carol Milton at (704) 554-0553.

**10** MORGANTON — A workshop called the "Baker's Dozen" will be held this morning at 10 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 714 W. Union St., for the diocesan Cursillo community. The event will conclude with a Grand Ultreya at 7:30 p.m., and all cursillistas are encouraged to attend. The Ultreya may be attended separately. For questions, call Tommy Barnhart at (336) 766-0377 or e-mail tbarnhart@dixonodom.com.

**11** CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

**13** CHARLOTTE — The fibromyalgia program, previously scheduled for Sept. 11, will be held this morning at 10 a.m. in the St. Gabriel Church ministry cen-

### U.N. official praises Vatican support for protocols on children

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Vatican support for a U.N. protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict will "add a whole new momentum" to the campaign against use of child soldiers, a U.N. official said. Olara Otunnu, special representative of the U.N. secretary-general for children and armed conflict, said the Vatican had a special "moral platform" for use in efforts to influence other states. "I look forward to working very closely with the Holy See and the Catholic Church," he said. Otunnu, a former foreign minister of Uganda, spoke Oct. 24 at a press conference with Archbishop Renato R. Martino, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, at U.N. headquarters in New York.

### U.S. prelates note consensus on bishops' conferences

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the October Synod of Bishops wound down, a consensus appeared to emerge on a prominent role for bishops' conferences and decentralization of decision making on certain pastoral issues, two U.S. participants said. Even before the approximately 250 bishops voted on final propositions Oct. 26, it was clear that the profile of bishops' conferences had been raised "quite a bit" by the synod, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in an interview. "There was a lot of agreement that the rights of bishops' conferences should be more recognized," said Bishop Fiorenza, who heads the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore said in an interview that he was heartened by the great number of participants who spoke in favor of bishops' conferences. "This synod is about the role of bishops, and many bishops have found that the conferences are a help to them in their ministry," he said.

### Planned bishops' statement is start of new U.S.-Africa link

WASHINGTON (CNS) — For decades the U.S. Catholic Church has forged strong bonds with the church in Latin America. Since 1990 the bishops have developed special links with the church in Eastern Europe. Now they hope to build a comparable relationship with the church in Africa. The church and people of Africa "confront daunting challenges and persistent obstacles," says a proposed statement the U.S. bishops plan to vote on at their Nov. 12-15 national meeting in Washington. The statement, titled "A Call to Solidarity With Africa," sets a framework for committing U.S. Catholics to a comprehensive program of public advocacy and aid for peace, education, health and economic development in Africa.



CNS PHOTO BY MONTE MACE, THE LEAVEN

**Farmers wary of terrorism against crops, livestock**

**Dale Kueser and his brother Gail check soybeans on their 3,000 acres near Richmond, Kan. They are beginning to consider how farmers can respond to possible terrorist strikes on crops and livestock. The Gilmore Commission, created by Congress to assess the threat of weapons of mass destruction in the United States, concluded that a "concerted biological attack against an agricultural target offers terrorists a virtually risk-free form of assault."**

### Vatican approves eucharistic sharing of Chaldeans, Assyrians

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Recognizing the validity of the eucharistic prayer used most often by the Assyrian Church of the East, the Vatican said Chaldean Catholics and Assyrians can receive Communion at each other's liturgies when a priest of their own church is not available. "The principal issue for the Catholic Church in agreeing to this request related to the question of the validity of the Eucharist celebrated with the Anaphora of Addai and Mari," an ancient eucharistic prayer, said an Oct. 25 Vatican statement. The statement from the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity said the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith undertook "a long and careful study" of the prayer and concluded in January that it "can be considered valid."

### Americans questioning mortality, says counselor

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (CNS) — The sudden violence of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon has forced Americans to think about their own vulnerability and mortality, said an authority on grief counseling. "It could have happened to anyone of us," said Mila Ruiz Tecala, founder and director of the Center for Loss and Grief in Washington. "We have lost our sense of invulnerability. The illusion has been shattered that terrorism can't happen here in the U.S." Tecala, who recently was appointed to the board of Catholic Charities in the Arlington Diocese, was the keynote speaker at a workshop on grief and loss the charity agency sponsored at Blessed Sacrament Church in Alexandria.

### Immigrant advocates wary of some anti-terrorism provisions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — New anti-terrorism legislation includes provisions for longer detention of immigrants without charges, but advocates for immigrants say they were able to help head off some provisions they thought would be excessive. Some aspects of the bill signed by President Bush Oct. 26 still will bear watching, said the director of migration policy for the U.S. bishops and the chief operating officer of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, known as CLINIC. The new law gives broad powers for information-sharing among agencies and new surveillance techniques; it expands the definition of terrorism and imposes new penalties for terrorists and those who help them. It also increases the length of time immigrants can be held without charges and allows the attorney general or immigration commissioner to detain immigrants suspected of terrorist activity.

ter, 3016 Providence Rd., in room D. Arthritis Patient Services will present information about the topic at the parish Arthritis Support and Education Group meeting. All are invited to attend the free meeting. For further information, call Eileen Correll, parish nurse, at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**14** CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Bobbe Conlin at (704) 643-1376 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

**14** WINSTON-SALEM — An "Evening of Taize' Prayer in Word and Song" will be presented at the St. Francis Center of Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, corner of Cherry and 3rd Sts., this evening from 5:30-6:30 p.m. For more information, call Josephine Rosaschi at (336) 723-8241.

**15** GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will hold its annual Mass of remembrance for deceased members, family and friends at the Franciscan Center, 233 N. Greene St., this morning at 11 a.m. with lunch to follow. For further information about how to support the event and council, directions and the Nov. 8 registration deadline, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

**16** ASHEVILLE — The St. Joan of Arc Church Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry, 919 Haywood Rd., will hold its fall new and used book sale today through Nov. 18. Other items for sale will include gifts, Christmas ornaments and wreaths, hot dogs, chili, barbecue and desserts. For further details, call the church office at (828) 252-3151.

**16** GASTONIA — St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael Lane, will host a chicken dinner fundraiser today from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. The dinners may be picked up at the church, and orders of eight or more can be delivered to a home or office for free. Tickets are available through the church office, and the proceeds will benefit the church. For further information, call (704) 867-6212.

**18** CHARLOTTE — A Byzantine Catholic liturgy will be celebrated today at 3:30 p.m. Byzantine Catholics and anyone interested in the Byzantine Catholic rite are welcomed to attend. Contact Olga Kramer at (704) 948-6471 for further details.

**18** CHARLOTTE — The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., will perform a concert in celebration of 21 years of singing at 5 p.m. this evening. Ads in support of the choir and concert will be accepted until Nov. 8 by the choir members. For more information, call the church office at (704) 375-4339.

**Ongoing**

CHARLOTTE — The bereavement support group meets every Monday evening in the family room of St. Gabriel Church's parish center, located at 3016 Providence Rd., from 6-7 p.m. The group discussion will focus on how to survive the holidays for the next two months. For more information, call Ruth Posey, CSS counselor and facilitator, at (704) 370-3238.

CHARLOTTE — The National Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians is conducting an Irish history writing contest for students. Topics include "Building the Canals and Railroads" for grades 6-8 and "The Industrial Revolution" for grades 9-12. The deadline is Dec. 5, and prizes range from $50-$1,000. For more information, call Lisa Viola at (704) 541-5691.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., will be adding a 7:30 a.m. Mass to its regular Sunday schedule starting Dec. 2. For further details, call the church office at (336) 272-4681.

*Please submit items for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.*

# Aquinas, Luther called 'translators of Gospel to language of heart' at conference

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

HICKORY — The Rev. James A. Nestingen called Thomas Aquinas and Martin Luther translators, "bringing home the message of the Gospel to the language of the heart," in his keynote address during "Aquinas and Luther on Proclamation: Preaching and Teaching," the ninth annual Aquinas-Luther Conference, at Lenoir-Rhyne College, Oct. 25-27.

Lenoir-Rhyne College's Center for Theology and the Hickory Lutheran-Roman Catholic Covenant Committee co-sponsored the conference. The committee consists of representatives from St. Aloysius Catholic Church and three Lutheran churches in Hickory: Holy Trinity, Mount Olive and St. Andrew. Nestingen gave his address at the opening worship service, held at St. Aloysius.

A professor of church history at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., Nestingen has edited "Sources and Contexts of the Book of Concord" with Robert Kolb [Fortress Press, 2001] and has written "The Faith We Hold: The Living Witness of Luther and the Augsburg Confession" and "Martin Luther: His Life and Teachings." He spoke of Christianity as a faith of inclusion, adding that "Judaism and Islam seek to enclose" Judaism by birth and Islam by language.

"If you're going to become a Muslim, you must learn the eighth-century Arabic of the Koran," he said. "Language is used to protect the faith from compromise." In contrast, "The goal from the very beginning of the Christian church was to make disciples of every nation. The church, rather than seeking to enclose, started to translate."

He pointed to Pentecost as an example of this, calling it "the breaking of the cornucopia of language. People from all kinds of unpronounceable places ... hear the word in their own language."



Photo by Ellen Neerincx Sigmon

**Presenters at the 9th annual Aquinas-Luther Conference included, from left, Dr. James A. Nestingen, Father Samuel F. Weber, Father Jay Scott Newman, Dr. Michael C. D. McDaniel, Dr. Mark F. Johnson and Dr. Mary Haemig. Dr. J. Larry Yoder (far right) is the director of the Center for Theology at Lenoir-Rhyne.**

Aquinas and Luther did their translating in different ways. Aquinas was faced with a newly developed secular group that challenged the faith. "He rethought the Christian faith, seeking a way to speak to this particular group of people that they would recognize this Catholic faith as their own," Nestingen said. Luther also strove to make the Gospel understandable to the people of his day, but he faced a language barrier, as well-translating the Bible into German.

Other lecturers were Mark F. Johnson, who has a doctorate in philosophy and is a professor of moral theology at Marquette University; the Rev. Michael C. D. McDaniel, former bishop of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and founder of the Center for Theology at Lenoir-Rhyne; Mary Jane Haemig, who holds a doctorate in theology and is an associate professor of church history at Luther Seminary; and Benedictine Father Samuel F. Weber, associate professor of spiritual formation and early Christianity, Divinity School, Wake Forest University. A panel discussion followed each talk.

Father Jay Scott Newman, who holds a doctorate in canon law and is pastor of St. Mary Catholic Church in Greenville, S.C., gave the banquet address on Friday evening.

Lenoir-Rhyne College established the Center for Theology in 1991. The Rev. J. Larry Yoder, a doctor of philosophy, professor of religion at Lenoir-Rhyne and pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Newton, serves as director.

# Religious leaders must further dialogue, cardinal tells Hindus

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Religious leaders must educate their faithful to show respect for other religions, to engage in dialogue with others and to work with them to sow peace, said Cardinal Francis Arinze.

"War and violence waged in the name of religion are contrary to the true spirit of religion and can endanger its very existence," said the cardinal, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

The cardinal's plea for greater education in dialogue was contained in a letter to Hindus preparing for the celebration of the feast of Diwali, which begins Nov. 14 in most Hindu communities.

The celebration, often referred to as the feast of lights, marks the beginning of a new year. The celebration lasts three days and includes special efforts at family reconciliation, especially among brothers and sisters.

Cardinal Arinze said greater knowledge of one's own religion and its teaching is the essential first step in dialogue.

"Dialogue, while respecting the religious traditions of others, requires us to be firmly rooted in our own religious tradition and to acknowledge the objective differences between religions," the cardinal said.

The more Christians and Hindus learn about the emphasis their own faith places on peace and harmony and the more they share those insights with each other, the more they will feel a need to work together to foster peace in the world, Cardinal Arinze said.

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# "Faith Alive" is presented to Catholic Schools teachers

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

KERNERSVILLE — For the first time since opening its doors in August, Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School (BMCHS) held an in-service program for schoolteachers of the Diocese of Charlotte.

The teachers gathered Oct. 26 for inspiration and guidance for the school year, and the diocese introduced its newest educational facility. George Repass is principal of the state-of-the-art facility.

In her keynote address, "Faith Alive," Dr. Elinor Ford stressed where that educational community should be: "You will have to be a contradiction. You cannot live on the surface ... cannot have a shallow religious attitude. Faith alive must be the engine that runs your school. Therefore, everything you do must cohere to holiness. That is what Jesus is asking us to do."

"Elinor always brings the lift you need in order to go back into your ministry," Sister of St. Joseph Emma Yondura, from St. Leo in Winston-Salem, said later. "She has renewed my enthusiasm by emphasizing those values that seemed to have been lost."

As part of the opening ceremonies, Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, diocesan director of religious formation for schools, introduced the Knights of Columbus honor guard, who presented the Colors. Everyone held lighted candles as the lights dimmed, and Dr. Alan Hirsh directed the BMCHS ensemble in "O Merciful Redeemer" and "Shepherds May Safely Graze." A procession and a "Prayer for World Concerns" followed, during which Augustinian Father James Cassidy, Charlotte Catholic High School principal, blessed the assembly.

Loretta Bednar, head of the BMCHS religion department, introduced Ford, who earned her doctorate in education at Columbia University and is a consultant and speaker to catechetical, educational and parish groups throughout the country.

She was the first woman to serve as superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of New York, and she chaired the New York Archdiocesan Council for Religious Education while a full-time professor at Fordham University.

"I love being a teacher," she said, "because people I teach can stand on my shoulders." She recalled the firefighters who were on the scene at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11: Someone — a parent, a priest or religious, or most of all, a teacher — taught them how to stand up for what they believed in. When the dark moment came, they were ready to walk with faith alive.

"Children cannot get through life easily if just their minds and hearts are educated while their souls are left at the door," Ford said, adding that, maybe, with enough sincere prayer, the voucher system will become a reality in the United States so that souls will no longer be left outside.

Catholic educators are "beautiful people," she said. "Never has so much been done for so many by so few. You are not ordinary people. Why did God create you? What is your life's mission? God created you to belong to a particular human family that can't live alone. Who are we as a faculty?

"The schedule cannot be the energy that drives the school. Only when you are compassionate witnesses will faith grow among your students. Therefore, learn to listen to what they say."

That includes listening to stories, which, as therapy, are better than medicine, Ford said, because your personal stories reveal the mystery within you.

They give meaning to life. Most important, she said, "Unless you can walk in faith alive you cannot help these young people walk in the 21st century."

Ford said we need only two things to do the job right: the ability to rise above uncertainty and to never stop learning. This means walking with people who have the same questions, not those who have the same answers.

"Elinor is truly a wonderful speaker," said John Wright from All Saints School in Charlotte. "She has been able to evaluate the present situation to where we are and where we ought to be in relation to the children."

Father Francis Cancro, pastor at St. Eugene Church in Asheville and a former principal of Bishop McGuinness High School, presided at the noontime liturgy and offered the homily.

Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center
The Chancery

2 November 2001

Dear Friends in Christ:

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) funds programs in our diocese that help our people to help themselves out of poverty and powerlessness. The terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001 demonstrated in a horrifying and tragic manner what happens when the sanctity of human life is violated and individuals give themselves over to a "culture of death." As a nation, we share the experience of vulnerability to injustice that already is all too familiar to those living in poverty.

CCHD has made a difference in our diocese through neighborhood organization and empowerment, literacy and job development, and housing and equity building projects. For more than 30 years, CCHD has funded some 4,000 programs across the United States. To break the cycle of poverty in America, CCHD believes that we must identify and fund long-term solutions. That is just what we do by supporting community and economic development programs that are initiated and led by the poor themselves: programs that are effective - not just "stop-gap" measures, programs that offer people living in poverty a vested interest in achieving success.

The collection on the weekend of November 17-18 offers each of us the opportunity to support the difference that CCHD makes in our country and in our diocese.

Let us pray that out of the grief that surrounds us we will commit ourselves more forcefully to the promotion of human dignity, especially among the poor, the vulnerable, and the victims of injustice. Please help empower our brothers and sisters through a generous contribution this month to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

Wishing you and yours God's blessings, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West
Vicar General and Chancellor

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### Beatified couple's children say parents seemed normal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Through the eyes of their children, the church's first beatified couple did not seem so unusual — they suffered through hardships and disease, had some mild arguments, but mostly treated each other with a deep respect and love. On Oct. 21, the pope declared as "blessed" Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi, the first time a married couple has been beatified together in church history. The pope called them models of holiness for all Christian spouses. Their three surviving children agreed, but said they seemed like ordinary parents at the time.

### Liturgical dance illustrates when art becomes prayer

FRANKENMUTH, Mich. (CNS) — Two years ago Christine Cook opened the doors of her heart to God. Well before that, however, she had opened the doors of her Frankenmuth dance studio to people in search of a new way of expressing their faith in God. Today, Cook is a top instructor of liturgical dance. She is convinced that what she is doing is what she was "formed" to do, she says. She knows that the art form she uses to honor the Lord is not accepted in all faiths and is even shunned in some circles of her own Catholic faith. She said she accepts that reality and moves on, welcoming all who come to learn, regardless of their religion.

### Guarding its interests, Salvadoran town monitors U.S. news

INTIPUCA, El Salvador (CNS) — Salvadoran shopkeeper Santiago Navarrete and his neighbors have been following the news from the United States since Sept. 11. "If things get worse in the U.S. and our sons can't get work, or they lose their jobs, then we'll all be affected here for sure," said Navarrete, 80. Four of his six children have lived in the United States for the past 15 years; they fled El Salvador's 12-year civil war and the economic crisis that followed. Because of the money they earned and sent home, Navarrete and his wife have built up their own well-stocked grocery store. "We couldn't have done it without them," Navarrete told Catholic News Service.

### No document compares to U.S. Constitution, says Justice Scalia

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) — In all the world, no document compares to the U.S. Constitution, said U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. It was the Constitution that defines U.S. residents as Americans, Scalia said Oct. 12 during opening ceremonies for the University of St. Thomas School of Law in downtown Minneapolis. The law school opened in August with 120 students. "We have been under one constitution for a century longer" than most countries, he said. "France has gone through five constitutions" while the United States has existed continually under one, he said.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Police check nun's bag in St. Peter's Square**

**An Italian policewoman checks a nun's backpack as she arrives for the pope's general audience in St. Peter's Square Oct. 24.**

### Pope renews plea for China dialogue, apologizes for offenses

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a renewed plea for an official dialogue with the government of mainland China, Pope John Paul II apologized for any actions taken by Catholics that offended China or gave an impression of disrespect for its culture. Over the centuries personal limitations, political pressure and theological disputes sometimes led to tensions and mistrust between China and the Vatican, offsetting the good work accomplished by missionaries in evangelization, education and health care, the pope told scholars. The pope's message was addressed Oct. 24 to an international conference in Rome marking the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Jesuit Father Matteo Ricci in Beijing.

### South African church official welcomes release of AIDS data

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — South African church officials welcomed the release of the country's AIDS figures, which they said were horrifying but needed to be made public. The state-appointed Medical Research Council's report, initially blocked by President Thabo Mbeki's Cabinet, said that without government intervention or a change in sexual behavior, AIDS will account for 66 percent of all deaths in South Africa by 2010. The report predicted the death toll from the disease will rise to up to 7 million people. "The public is entitled to that type of information. It's crazy to sit on it and deny what's happening," said Dominican Sister Alison Munro, who heads the AIDS office of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference in Pretoria.

### Knights of Columbus announces scholarships for seminarians

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — The Knights of Columbus has awarded 52 new $2,500 scholarships to seminarians in the first four years of theology studies and renewed an additional 80 scholarships.

The scholarships, from the Knights' Supreme Council in New Haven, went to theology students who are enrolled in a major seminary and are studying for ordination in a diocese or religious institute in the United States or Canada. To be eligible, seminarians also needed their bishop's approval.

The $2,500 scholarships will go toward tuition and room and board.

Of the 52 new scholarships awarded, 35 were from the Father Michael J. McGivney Vocations Scholarships Fund, founded in 1992 and named for the Knights' founder. The remaining 17 scholarships are from the Bishop Thomas V. Daily Vocations Scholarships Fund, begun in 1997 and named for the Knights' current supreme chaplain and bishop of Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Father McGivney scholarships are given on the basis of financial need, and the Bishop Daily grants are awarded on the basis of merit.

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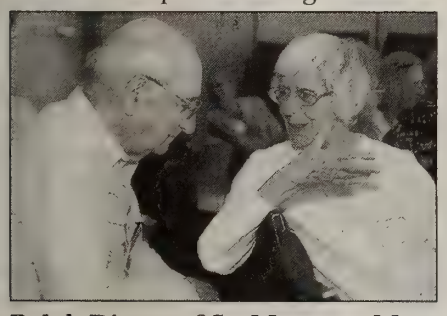
# 'Life is just beginning,' Bishop Curlin tells Elderly Ministry group

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

HICKORY — It's safe to say that faith is alive, well and thriving in the Carolinas. Moreover, within the population of retirees, it is a faith that shines with an aura, an outward glow. For senior Catholics, the glow is their badge of honor for years of faithfully following the teachings of their Catholic faith.

On a crisp, North Carolina fall day, the Catholic Conference Center resonated with faith as the Elder Ministry, Catholic Social Services' outreach to senior members of the Diocese of Charlotte, offered a Fall Day of Reflection. Two weeks prior, the day of reflection took place in Huntersville. On Oct. 24, 136 registered for the day, representing 19 parishes within the Diocese of Charlotte.

"We have something to offer the world," said Bishop William G. Curlin, speaking on the 'Witness to the presence of God.' Bishop Curlin along with Vicar General and Chancellor Father Mauricio West served as co-presenters for the day of reflection.



**Ralph Dimen of St. Margaret Mary parish in Swannanoa chats with Marie Palante of Holy Family parish in Clemmons during the annual Fall Day of Reflection in Hickory.**

"There is a wisdom of experience that we have lived," said Bishop Curlin. Referring to the September tragedies in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, the bishop pointed to the responses of this older generation who have lived through depressions, war and personal tragedies. It is their faith, he said, that keeps them centered on Christ.

"There are many people like you in this world who have lived through hardships," said Bishop Curlin. "Your lives have seen struggles, pain, sorrow and losses, but also have been filled with happy moments and triumph, he said. "In our world, which seems so insecure, you are needed. They need to know there are people who have gone through the worst times and come out winners."

"Our faith has been tested, proven and strengthened by our love for Jesus," said Bishop Curlin. "In a world that sometimes seems to be falling apart, that is frightened with despair and hopelessness, we can proclaim that God holds us in the palm of his hand."

Father West orchestrated the afternoon session, 'The relevance of Christian faith today'as an opportunity for open dialogue. "It's important to spend time with the Lord," said Father West. Equally, it's important to share your faith journey. "How has your faith nourished you on your spiritual journey? What are your hopes and dreams for the diocese?" were the ideas for discussion he posed to the Elderly Ministry participants. Diverse responses were vocalized, but general consensus showed concern for the youth, the next generation of the Catholic Church.



Photos by Joann S. Keane

**Bishop William G. Curlin leans over to greet Sister Josita Shaw. Bishop Curlin presided at the closing Masses at two Elder Ministry Days of Reflection hosted by the Catholic Social Services ministry in recent weeks. "Our faith has been tested, proven and strengthened by our love for Jesus," said Bishop Curlin to the Hickory group.**

Elder Ministry Director Sandra Breakfield, pleased with the turnout, said the Day of Reflection is an excellent opportunity for seniors to come together with individuals from different areas of the diocese, and sharing their continued faith. For Breakfield — *far from senior status* — the day brings much personal satisfaction. "I go away fulfilled. It's incredible, the history they bring, and they are so faithful. It's a challenge for me, and also an encouragement."

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org*

## Franciscan sister with N.C. ties writes book on Father Murphy's legacy to Maggie Valley

WAYNESVILLE — Sister Jane Schmenk, a Tiffin Franciscan with ties to the Diocese of Charlotte, has published a book on a priest whose legacy is still benefitting the faithful in western North Carolina.

"Murphy, Apostle of the Smokies: The Story of a Detroit Businessman Who Became a Priest at 80" is the story of Father William Murphy, a personal friend of Sister Jane's.

Sister Jane, a Tiffin Franciscan who served as director of Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, tells the story through that personal and lengthy association with Father Murphy.

The story tracks Murphy's journey from Michigan to North Carolina. The book includes rich detail, historical insights and warm anecdotes about Murphy's life.

Sister Jane will return to western North Carolina for a book signing. She will be at Sloan's Bookstore Nov. 10 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

On Nov. 11, she will be at Living Waters after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

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## Small Christian communities further the faith, speakers say at meeting

By NANCY SCHWERIN AND JORDAN MCMORROUGH
The New Catholic Miscellany

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (CNS) — What exactly is a small Christian community?

The church's "General Directory of Catechesis" describes them as "groups of Christians that rise because people desire to live in the faith, develop faith with more fervor. ... In community, we are witnesses to one another; by being in community we persuade one another to be good Christians."

In his 1991 encyclical on missionary activity, "Redemptoris Missio," Pope John Paul II said: "We are called to create small communities of faith which will become a means of evangelization of the Gospel and a source of new ministries."

Small Christian communities are groups of about eight to 10 parishioners who use a variety of resources to learn about their faith and apply Gospel values to living out a Christian way of life.

But groups can vary in several ways, according to a speaker at the North American Forum for Small Christian Communities' 15th annual gathering, hosted by the Diocese of Charleston in Myrtle Beach.

Joanne Chafe, director of the National Office of Religious Education for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in Ottawa, said they can differ in their structure, resources and makeup as well as the time members spend together, their openness with one another and among members, and member makeup.

According to Chafe, they can be intergenerational and they can be for men and women, widows, widowers, young adults, moms and dads.

She quoted Bernard Lee, who wrote "Catholic Experience of Small Christian Communities," as saying there are 37,000 small Christian communities in the continental United States with more than 1 million adults and children as members.

Small groups offer Catholics a comfortable forum where they can share their faith, but "they are not counseling groups or self-help groups," said Paul Schroeder, director for the Office of Evangelization, Initiation and Catechesis in the Diocese of Charleston.

"While there is a spirituality component, it's more than self-help, it's a chance to pray, learn, read and reflect — using Scripture or other resources — and ask 'how has this impacted me over the past week,'" he added.

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# Interfaith seminar addresses job loss in the Triad, nation

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — At a time when the unemployment rate has billowed with the ripples of the Sept. 11 assault on America just beginning to be felt, two organizations located in the Triad area, Stephen's Ministry and Professionals in Transition, have come together to put forth an interfaith seminar as a combined response to job loss in the Triad.

The seminar took place on Oct. 23 at Centenary Methodist Church in Winston-Salem.

According to Rev. Bob Nations, one of the pastors at Centenary Methodist Church, the Stephen's Ministry has been in operation for about 30 years.

It is an ecumenical organization whose focus is to prepare the laity to receive the necessary resource skills and to recognize their own particular gifts so that they might be enabled to assist anyone in need of help in times of personal crisis.

Rev. Nations indicated that, even with the eight ministers at work in Centenary Methodist Church, they could not respond those in crisis as well as they wanted to. Therefore, when he first heard about Stephen's Ministry in 1992, he decided to research it.

Liking what he saw and heard, Rev. Nations took the special training course in 1993 to become the first Stephen's Ministry person in the area.

Rev. Scott Venable of the Home Moravian Church, located in Old Salem, adds that Stephen's Ministry is a helping charity which ministers in all crisis situation. About 6,000 people per year are trained to be crisis leaders through the program. The beauty of it, says Rev. Venable, is that this ministry is done on a one-on-one basis.

Scott Noble is part of the team ministry and a staff liaison for the



PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**Damian Birkel**

Stephen's Ministry. As part of his ministry, he shares the needed resources and responds, as needed, to significant losses, including job losses or, as the ministry prefers to call them, job transitions.

Damian Birkel, who presented the seminar, is the founder and director of Professionals In Transition.

The brainchild of Birkel, PIT is one of the oldest nonprofit service organizations in the nation to offer continuous service and weekly support group meetings for the unemployed and underemployed. PIT is open to men and women of all ages and occupational groups in need of support.

To this end, PIT provides emotional support and serves as a safety net for those undergoing "free fall" when job loss occurs. This help is offered through peer coaching, networking leads, job search tools, tips and other techniques.

Birkel, a parishioner at St. Leo's Church in Winston-Salem, describes PIT as an ongoing continuing education program, a support group for the unemployed.

Although there is no charge for the emotional support given, those who are helped are simply asked to remember, after they are gainfully employed, those who are still unemployed. But the main support comes from grants and funding from various local churches.

PIT came into being after Birkel experienced his own job loss. An executive for one of the major companies in the area, he was laid off when new management came into the plant. He goes on to say that "there is no socially acceptable way to lose a job."

Most people think it can only happen to someone else, until it strikes them.

For Birkel, help came in the form of Deacon Dennis O'Madigan of St. Leo's Parish, who opened his heart and listened. Deacon O'Madigan provided the Christian care he needed, telling Birkel to "put it into the hands of the Lord. He will sustain you." Birkel continued, "I'm here because I made a promise to God." "Let me do your will ... and use me as your channel," he added.

Then, walking his audience through the stages of the emotional wave of unemployment, which are the same as the stages of loss through death, Birkel demonstrated how the unemployed go through a transition from shock and denial to fear and panic on up to anger, then bargaining, falling into depression, and then temporary acceptance.

While explaining that 80 percent of the jobs never hit recruiters, the Internet or the newspaper, Birkel advised listeners to "never ask networking contacts for a job." He also stressed that one should "never expect networking contacts to have a job for you."

Of the several who gave witness to job loss, all expressed the same steps of progression along the way. The main point each gave was that they became closer as a family unit and grew stronger in their faith because of the experience.

# Celebrant Singers to appear in concert

CHARLOTTE — Jon Stemkoski's Celebrant Singers, an internationally-known Christian music ministry, will present a community-wide concert on Saturday, Nov. 10 at 8 p.m. at St. Ann's Catholic Church on Park Road in Charlotte. The concert is free of charge, and a free-will offering will be taken.

"Celebrants is not 'just another music group.' Our objective is to share the love of Christ," said founder Jon Stemkoski. "It's a powerful ministry, and it will touch your heart. Bring your family and friends - it's an experience you won't soon forget!"

In their 24-year history, Celebrants have ministered in all 50 states, throughout Canada, and in more than 90 nations around the world. They have sung to more than 6 million people in live concerts and countless others via broadcast media.

During 2001, seven teams of Celebrant Singers will present over 1,400 concerts in some 15 nations, seven Canadian provinces and all the United States.

Jon Stemkoski's Celebrant Singers recently embarked on their 5th ministry tour in Cuba, holding public religious meetings in cities across the country.

Celebrant Singers are ecumenical in nature. Teams are comprised of dedicated and talented young adults representing 38 states, six Canadian provinces and several additional nations.

In 1984, Celebrants ministered in St. Peter's Square before an Easter-week crowd of over 120,000 people. Mr. Stemkoski and Celebrants were also honored by a private audience with Pope John Paul II.


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**November 12th**
Personal Planning: Reading the Signs of the Times

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**November 26th, 7PM St. Peter's Catholic Church, 507 South Tryon Street**

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**Book Review**

# New books bridge film, fiction, faith

REVIEWED BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

We have two books here on film, fiction and faith — one less successful than the other.

Australian Sacred Heart Father Peter Malone and American Sister Rose Pacatte, a Daughter of St. Paul, advance a noble concept in tying film to Scripture. In fact, "Lights, Camera ... Faith! A Movie Lover's Guide to Scripture" is subtitled "A Movie Lectionary — Cycle A."

***LIGHTS, CAMERA ... FAITH! A MOVIE LOVER'S GUIDE TO SCRIPTURE*, by Father Peter Malone with Sister Rose Pacatte. Pauline Books & Media (Boston, 2001). 393 pp., $24.95.**

***NOURISHING FAITH THROUGH FICTION: REFLECTIONS OF THE APOSTLES' CREED IN LITERATURE AND FILM*, by John R. May. Sheed & Ward (Franklin, Wis., 2001). 138 pp., $18.95.**

But its execution falls short on several fronts.

First is the selection of films chosen to illustrate the Scriptures for 72 Sundays, holydays, feasts and solemnities. I've seen about half of those presented in "Lights, Camera ... Faith!" But folks who aren't cinephiles are likely to have even more trouble than I did in making the tenuous connections between film fiction and Scripture presented here.

Each film included has a "Dialogue With the Gospel," but some of them are a real stretch. It would have been better, perhaps, had the authors chosen more films that directly contradicted Gospel values, if only to bring home that "you shouldn't do that." More often — too often — rather than a Gospel value or its opposite being presented, an odd, inverted version of the Gospel value is unspooled instead.

"It would be possible to match the same readings with 72 other movies," Father Malone says in his introduction. While a few films came to mind as I was reading, I was surprised, and unpleasantly so, at how often he and Sister Pacette missed the mark in their film choices.

But you have to admit that Hollywood would have a hard time trumping even the great biblical stories.

"Lights, Camera ... Faith!" could have some limited value for adults looking to energize youth and young-adult groups, or for adult Scripture study groups seeking contemporary applications of Scripture.

But preachers should think long and hard about using this book as a homily helper. So many of these film titles are so obscure that the Mass assembly couldn't possibly follow along.

Father Malone and Sister Pacette plan two sequels to cover Cycles B and C of the Lectionary. But if they can't find enough decent film parallels to the parable-laden Gospel of Matthew in Cycle A, what are we in for next?

On the other hand, John R. May's "Nourishing Faith Through Fiction" succeeds because it has a more limited scope and a more stationary target (the Apostles' Creed), allowing the Louisiana State University professor of English and religious studies to be more expansive.

May divides the Creed into three chapters — Creator, Savior and Lifegiver, in his terminology — and delivers what, for the most part, is a series of cogent essays for each chapter. "Stewardship Hindered by Sin" and "Structures of Sin: Depleting Natural and Human Resources," back to back in the "Stories of the Creator" chapter, are particularly profound.

The author blends both cinematic and literary fiction, especially great Southern Catholic novelists Flannery O'Connor and Walker Percy for the latter. And while I prefer nonfiction, May makes his points crystal clear regardless, even when cautioning the reader that a particular movie or book cannot be considered in its entirety to be synonymous with the Christian life.

*Pattison is media editor at Catholic News Service.*

# Word to Life

***November 11**, Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*
*Cycle C Readings:*
1) 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14
Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15
2) 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5
3) Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Only two days ago, my mother died at the age of 85. I am experiencing grief and concern for my father, who will be alone for the first time in 64 years when my sister leaves to return to her job in Washington, D.C., and I return to my work 50 miles away from my dad's Dallas apartment. As with the events that took place two months before the date of the Sunday these readings are for, life never will be the same again for any of the members of our family.

My mom lived passionately. When she taught school, she loved her kids with a passionate love, a love like the love she had for her husband and her own kids. She was always aware that she taught students first of all and not subjects, that the formation of their character was more important than anything else she taught, as important as those things were.

She was a good mother, a good wife and a good friend. She wasn't one to speak often of her faith, but across the years her expressions of that faith in God and in the resurrection of those who died in Christ were always strong.

She, like my dad, believed whatever she believed with all that was in her. On her rushed way down here from Washington, my sister told a sky cap at the airport the purpose of her trip. He, as it turned out, was the pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church and a man of faith.

"You don't need to have any doubts about where she is," he counseled, as he dealt with her luggage. "You just need to be concerned about where you will be." Three of the four Scriptures for today's readings offer us assurance that those who have been faithful to God will rise again to resurrected life.

As I hurried in to work after midnight to write this piece, I was hoping the readings for this week would deal with that topic. I am both gratified to find that they do, and to find that they offer me comfort as well as encouragement to remain faithful to the call to love of God and others.

**QUESTIONS:**

*Have you lately thought about the assurance God gives to those who persevere in their faith, and in the love that affirms its presence?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Nov. 4 - 10**

**Sunday**, Wisdom 11:22—12:2, 2 Thessalonians 1:11—2:2, Luke 19:1-10; **Monday**, Romans 11:29-36, Luke 14:12-14; **Tuesday**, Romans 12:5-16, Luke 14:15-24; **Wednesday**, Romans 13:8-10, Luke 14:25-33; **Thursday**, Romans 14:7-12, Luke 15:1-10; **Friday (Dedication of the Lateran Basilica)**, Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12, John 2:13-22; **Saturday (St. Leo the Great)**, Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27, Luke 16:9-15

**Scripture for the week of Nov. 11 - 17**

**Sunday**, 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14, 2 Thessalonians 2:16—3:5, Luke 20:27-38; **Monday (St. Josaphat)**, Wisdom 1:1-7, Luke 17:1-6; **Tuesday (St. Frances Cabrini)**, Wisdom 2:23—3:9, Luke 17:7-10; **Wednesday**, Wisdom 6:2-11, Luke 17:11-19; **Thursday (St. Albert the Great)**, Wisdom 7:22—8:1, Luke 17:20-25; **Friday (St. Margaret of Scotland)**, Wisdom 13:1-9, Luke 17:26-37; **Saturday (St. Elizabeth of Hungary)**, Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9, Luke 18:1-8

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# Video Reviews

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — *The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

**"Angel Eyes" (2001)**

Tiresome drama in which a tough Chicago cop (Jennifer Lopez) dealing with an abusive childhood and a mysterious stranger (Jim Caviezel) recovering from a traumatic event fall in love, but must reconcile with their respective pasts to make things work. Director Luis Mandoki unsuccessfully blends thriller and romance genres, as perfunctory performances, artificial sentiments and a mechanical script culminate in a forced ending. A sexual encounter, sporadic sexual references, brief violence and intermittent rough language with fleeting profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Bridget Jones's Diary" (2001)**

Fitfully entertaining comedy about a single, thirtysomething British woman (Renee Zellweger) who obsesses about her weight and her bad habits in her diary as she searches for the perfect man. Witty dialogue and an appealing cast in director Sharon Maguire's film help to overcome one-dimensional characterizations and a predictably structured plot, yet its atmosphere of promiscuity is troublesome. A fleeting sexual encounter and some implied encounters, recurring rough language and some profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Cats & Dogs" (2001)**

Fitfully amusing action comedy in which a young pup (voiced by Toby Maguire) and his canine crew must protect man from a frisky feline (voiced by Sean Hayes) who plans to destroy a new vaccine for dog allergies and dominate the world. Director Larry Guterman makes clever use of the age-old battle between cats and dogs, and the computer-generated effects are exceptional, but the soft narrative disappoints. Some mild action violence. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

**"Chunhyang" (2000)**

Sumptuously filmed Korean fable about a young prince secretly married to a commoner and forced to travel the countryside while his faithful wife rejects the governor who orders her caned and sentences her to death just as her beloved returns. Director Im Kwon Taek employs pansori, the Korean art of musical storytelling, to present a universal tale of honor and fidelity, although some may find the atonal chanting and drumbeats distracting. Subtitles. Brief marital encounters with nudity and occasional violence. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Freddy Got Fingered" (2001)**

Revolting comedy about a lazy 28-year-old (Tom Green) living at home with his parents who aspires to be a cartoonist but does little to actually accomplish this. Co-written and directed by Green, the worthless film is a series of vile scenes held together loosely by a virtually nonexistent plot, where everything from sexual molestation to a stillborn child is played for laughs. Many sick sexual references, constant repulsive sight gags and gross-out humor, brief rear nudity, recurring rough language and some profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Let It Snow" (2001)**

Forgettable romantic comedy in which a young man (Kipp Marcus) gives up a promising career as he mopes for years over his best friend (Alice Dylan), each being too proud to be the first to say "I love you." Director Adam Marcus' low-budget comedy has droll moments and some engaging characters, but the wafer-thin story line cannot support an entire movie without becoming tiresome. Sexual situations and references, frequent rough language, minimal profanity, fleeting nudity and comically intended violence. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

**"Quadrophenia" (1979)**

British musical (whose title comes from the album by The Who that serves as the score) re-creates in gritty, vital fashion the world of the Mods and the Rockers, rival youth gangs of the 1960s who affected different versions of rebellion against the values of their working-class parents. Director Frank Roddam fails to offer any perspective on the characters and environment he has so skillfully evoked, and the movie ends in an anarchistic, morally ambiguous scene. Graphic depiction of drug abuse and sexual promiscuity as well as rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Stardom" (2000)**

Satirical look at the meteoric rise of a Canadian teen (Jessica Pare) to international supermodel status with all its attendant media frenzy, rash romances and her inevitable replacement by a younger face. Director Denys Arcand mocks tabloid journalism and the materialistic values they lavish attention on, but such familiar and obvious targets lessen the satire's impact. Implied promiscuity, fleeting sexual encounter with nudity, brief violence and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.



CNS PHOTO FROM NEW LINE

**Scene from movie "Life As a House"**

**"Life As a House" is a contrived drama about a dying man (Kevin Kline) who sets out to fulfill his dream of building his own house while enlisting the help of his estranged son (Hayden Christensen), hoping to salvage the relationship before it's too late. An attempted suicide, a few sexual encounters, sporadic drug use, implied male prostitution, brief rear nudity and some rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD



# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Pope says Christians must be aware of sin, God's forgiveness

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians must be aware of their sinfulness, but also of God's willingness to forgive at any moment, Pope John Paul II said.

"God does not act only negatively by eliminating sin, but he also recreates sinful humanity through his life-giving Spirit: He places a new and pure heart within man," the pope said Oct. 24 during his weekly general audience.

At the audience, Pope John Paul focused on Psalm 51, King David's prayer of repentance. In the Catholic Church's Liturgy of the Hours, the psalm, also known as the "Miserere," is part of each Friday's morning prayer.

"It is a prayer which for centuries has risen from the hearts of Jews and Christians as they repent of their sins and proclaim their hope in God's mercy," the pope said.

The first part of the psalm, in which David acknowledges his faults, is "an analysis of sin conducted before God," he said.

The psalm reflects the fact that sin is an estrangement from God, involves a deviation from the path of goodness and is a revolt against God's plan for how people should live and find complete happiness in him, the pope said.

But the psalm does not dwell just on the horrors of sin, it affirms the fact that if one confesses his sin, "the saving justice of God is ready to purify him completely."

"The sinner, sincerely repentant, presents himself in all his misery and nakedness before God, begging not to be cast out of his presence," the pope said.

In the end, he said, the psalm celebrates the fact that God "cancels, washes and cleanses the sinner and transforms him into a new creature."

At the end of the audience, Pope John Paul received the Elizabeth Ann Seton Award from the National Catholic Educational Association.

Michael Guerra, president of the U.S. organization, gave the pope the award in recognition of his contributions to Catholic education; it was the first time the Seton award was given to a non-U.S. citizen, the association said.

### Pope sends top humanitarian aid official to Pakistan

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II sent his top humanitarian aid official to Pakistan as a sign of closeness to people suffering from war, especially refugees, the Vatican said. During the Oct. 25-30 visit, Archbishop Paul Josef Cordes, president of the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum," was to meet top government officials and Catholic aid workers, as well as visit a refugee camp at Peshawar. In a letter carried by Archbishop Cordes, the pope said that "the sufferings of countless men, women and children cry out for practical relief."

# Black Catholic History Month



TONI TUPPANCE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Still Black ... Still Catholic

The lyrics of one of my favorite contemporary gospel songs says: "What do you do when you've done all you can and it seems that it's never enough...well you just stand ... child, you just ... STAND."

It has not always been easy to "stand" alone as an African-American Catholic. My community peers have often misunderstood my faith experience while the richness of my culture was often tolerated but not embraced by my Catholic brothers and sisters.

There is a ritual within our community — especially among our grandmas, great-aunts and "mothers" of the community — on meeting a newcomer to the community. They ask: "Baby, where are you from? Who are your people? Where do you go to church?" They want to know, up front, our spirit center ... our essence. Acquaintances that I've met over the years are surprised when they learn that I am Catholic. ("I've never met a black Catholic before!") Non-Catholic friends still wonder ... why? "Wouldn't you rather join a black church?" they say.

So, as we embark on Black Catholic History Month, I'd like to challenge my Catholic — especially black Catholic — brothers and sisters to consider three basic questions:

1. Why are you Catholic?
2. Who are your people in the faith, and
3. Has your being here made a difference?

First why are you Catholic? Ours is a faith that embraces the grace and mercy of God ... renewing, daily, our communion of faith. We are given the blessed opportunity to cleanse our hearts and our spirits as we are privileged to approach the table of sacrifice and receive Christ through the Eucharist. Our eye is kept ever on the prize ... no matter the trial or circumstance ... and black folks know about that. This faith restores us and, even in its mystery gives us hope because we know that a God so mighty that he could offer himself to us as sacrifice each time we seek him in the Eucharist ... can do anything.

Secondly, do you know who your people are in the faith? I start my ancestral tree with Jesus as a baby hiding among our folks in Egypt ... but if that is too much for some ... let's talk about just a few of the ancestors:

**• Three (known) African Popes - St. Victor I (reigned ca. 186 - ca.197), St. Militiades (311 - 14), and St. Gelasius I (492 - 96).**

**• Saints Felicity and Perpetua - young African slaves martyred for their faith in Carthage around 203 a.d.**

**• King Afonso the Good, eldest son of Queen Nzinga who reigned over the Congo (1506 - 1543) and was said to have "wholeheartedly accepted the Catholic faith."**

**• St. Benedict the (Moor) Black (1526 - 1589) - patron saint of black Catholics. Born in Sicily, son of African slaves. Canonized in 1807.**

**• St. Charles Lwanga and his companions - martyred in Uganda 1885 - 1887. Canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1964.**

**• Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange - founder of the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore (around 1823) - their mission was the education of black children.**

**• Fathers James Augustine, Patrick Francis and Alexander Sherwood Healy - three brothers/former slaves who became the first black priests in the United States (1830 - 1910). James Augustine Healy: was ordained the first Black Catholic bishop (Portland, Maine - 1875) in the history of the United States, Patrick Francis Healy: first black president of Georgetown College (University) in 1874.**

**• Daniel Rudd - Ohio newspaper publisher of the American Catholic Tribune one of the first black Catholic weekly newspapers and convener of the first Black Catholic Lay Congress in 1889.**

**• St. Josephine Bakhita (1869 - 1947) - Born in the Sudan, Africa. The first African woman to be canonized by the Church during the last millennium. Canonized by John Paul II on October 1, 2000.**

**• Sister Thea Bowman, F.S.P.A., PhD. (1937 - 1990) - charismatic evangelist, founder of the Institute of Black Catholic Studies, Xavier University. Talk of sainthood surrounds her name.**

Finally, what difference has our being here made ... in the Church ... in the community?

Early in my career I had an "am I my brother's keeper" conversation with my Dad, as I youthfully struggled with my obligation to the people of my community. My father's answer was, "If you are there now ... and you could help but don't, nothing changes ... so why did we work so hard to get you there in the first place?" His answer frames the career choices I've made for many years.

Black martyrs of the faith and early lay leaders, who believed so strongly in our place in the Church, might ask the same question of us today.

The framers of the first Black Catholic Lay Congress organized black Catholics to maximize their positions in the church and to make a difference for the good of the greater community. Would they wonder why 120 years after the first Congress, we seem, after Mass, to close our church doors — and, perhaps, our hearts — to the suffering and the bondage of poverty, drug addiction and hopelessness that still binds many as slavery once bound us all. Would they be so taken with our ceremony and song that they'd miss the fact that black Catholics are declining in the United States?

Would they understand why the numbers of black children being educated in parochial schools, particularly in this region, have drastically declined...either for reasons of cost or comfort? They may ask about our commitment to faith in action ... following the footpaths that they and others like them cleared for us.

The spirits of our ancestors surround us, awaiting our response as we continue to stand ... on their shoulders ... on the promises of Christ! We have much to celebrate. We have more ... much more to do.

*Toni Tuppance serves as chairperson of the board of advisers of the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry.*



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Saints Alive! And Well, Too

If your first encounter with saints came from looking at stained-glass windows in church, you are not alone. I suspect that lots of youngsters whose parents told them to stop fidgeting and pay attention, noticed those colorful images of people in long gowns with their heads surrounded by halos.

Unfortunately, too many of us got the impression that the saints were all long ago and far away. Persons who, if not exactly myths or legends, were not real people. They weren't just holy, they were perfect. And, while we learned differently over the years, some of our original perceptions probably stuck. So, of course, we can't quite believe that there are saints alive and well right now, or that they might be closer to us than we think.

With due deference to the folks canonized by the Catholic Church, all of God's faithful people are called to holiness. No religion has a monopoly. Saints start out simply by being flesh-and-blood people who take the word of God to heart. They generally live ordinary lives in extraordinary ways: They pray, they love and they serve — like all of us they are prone to doubt, discouragement, fear and anger. But because they know, really know deep in their souls that God is with them, they never give up.

Here's one good description I came across of what makes a saint a saint:

They are cheerful when it is difficult to be cheerful.
They are patient when it is difficult to be patient.
They push on when they want to stand still.
They keep silent when they want to talk.
They are agreeable when they want to be disagreeable.

That is all. It is quite simple, and always will be.

Maybe that sounds a little more like people you know. Those open to God's grace strive to promote his justice, peace and mercy. They love and forgive, they pray and act. What they are not — is perfect.

In the introduction to his fine book, "All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets, and Witnesses for Our Time," Robert Ellsberg writes: "No, the saints are not perfect humans. But in their own individual fashion they became authentic human beings, endowed with the capacity to awaken that vocation in others. Dorothy Day . . . did not like to be called a saint: 'When they call you a saint, basically it means you are not to be taken seriously.' This book offers a different argument: that to call someone a saint means that his or her life should be taken with the utmost seriousness. It is proof that the gospel can be lived."

Proof, indeed.

A fellow priest once asked a youngster, "What do you think a saint is?" Remembering the figures in the stained glass windows at church, the child answered, "A saint is someone the light shines through."

On the feast of All Saints, it's worth considering that before God's holy people become stained-glass images, they are men and women who have to get up every morning, face themselves in the mirror and know that they will give life the very best they can — and with God's help, the light will shine through.

*Msgr. Lisante is director of The Christophers.*

# Coming of Age



CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS COLUMNIST

### Extracurricular School Activities and Better Grades

Do you want better grades? How about increasing your chances of graduation and making it much more likely you can get into an good college? What if the same change would also increase your chances of success, even after college?

Sure, you'd like that. But wouldn't it take hundreds of hours of extra studying or maybe even an IQ transplant?

A growing list of studies show that you can have fun, hang out with other kids AND improve your school performance all at the same time.

How? By getting involved in extracurricular activities such as athletic programs, service or government clubs, music, art and drama organizations, and academic or vocational clubs. The results are in, and the evidence is clear. Kids who take part in school-related programs outside of regular classrooms are much more successful in high school and beyond.

This surprises some people. How many parents have told a child that extracurricular activities are out until the grades go back up? Let's take a look at some of the findings.

Kids who participate in school sports drop out of school 40 percent less often than the average nonparticipant. There's a similar but smaller effect for fine arts, with participants in those programs 15 percent less likely to drop out.

Kids on school teams have higher grade-point averages than nonparticipants; the team members' grades were higher during the season than in the months when they were not playing sports.

Similar effects were found in every study I reviewed. When kids participate in school activities, their grades go up.

There were other consistently positive effects. Students participating in after-school activities felt more like part of what was happening at school. They felt better about themselves as students and as people. The following results are for sports participants, but there is good reason to believe that the same is true of students involved in other activities as well.

Ninety-two percent of participants do not use drugs. They have fewer referrals for discipline. They have better school attendance. They are more self-assured. They take more advanced classes. They receive above-average grades and above-average test scores. They are more likely to get into and complete college.

The results of participation continue far beyond high school. One study of high-ranking executives in America's largest companies found that 95 percent had participated in high school sports, 54 percent were involved in student government, 37 percent in music, 35 percent in Scouts and 18 percent in school publications.

The American College Testing Service looked at four factors for predicting success in life after college. The single yardstick that effectively predicted success in life was achievement in high school activities. The other three didn't predict success well at all. The three losing predictors?

High grades in high school, high grades in college and high scores on the ACT test.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### What the Pope Said "Heaven" Means

*Q. My daughter and I recently discussed the Holy Father's statement that heaven "is not a physical place amid the clouds" but a state of being, "a living personal relationship with the Trinity."*

*How does this square with various "ascensions into heaven" mentioned in the Scriptures and in our profession of faith?*

A. These teachings were given by Pope John Paul II in the course of several addresses during his Wednesday audiences in the summer of 1999.

The pope cautioned at the time that heaven — and, somewhat similarly, hell and purgatory — can never be fully or accurately described in human words for the simple reason that there is a chasm between God and humanity that human language and human experience can never cross.

He said, for example, that it is not quite accurate to describe heaven as the dwelling place of God, since God cannot be confined by such a concept or enclosed in such a "heaven."

Most Catholics and other Christians, it seems to me, instinctively understand that human expressions about God are just that, human attempts to say as well as we can something that is beyond our power to grasp or proclaim perfectly.

When we say in the creed that Jesus "is seated at the right hand of the Father," we know that's not literally true. It's just one of the best ways we have to express belief that Jesus holds a place of unique honor and equality with the Father.

Pope John Paul reminds us that this is true any time we speak of realities after death.

We must be very careful when interpreting the biblical descriptions of hell, for example. The "inextinguishable fire" and "fiery furnace" of which the Bible speaks are, he said, attempts to "indicate the complete frustration and emptiness of a life without God."

The same is true when speaking of heaven. We're confined to symbolic language, just as was the Bible itself. The idea of heaven as a place in the sky, according to the pope, resulted from metaphorical biblical language contrasting the dwelling place of humanity with the "dwelling place" of God.

It is within that framework that we need to understand such phrases as "ascended into heaven." We do not believe that Jesus went off to a distant galaxy or planet, but that, in a way beyond our present comprehension, in his ascension he began a new life with the Father and with us.

In fact, the pope used this same word when he said that "through grace, believers can ascend" to the presence of God.

The pope's messages on the subject may challenge us to look anew at some expressions we use to affirm our faith, but he also saw in them something extremely enlightening and hopeful about life in eternity.

The suffering caused by sin in this life is often said to "make life hell," hinting what life without God would be like.

In the same way, "if we are able to enjoy properly the good things that the Lord showers upon us every day of our earthly lives," said the pope, "then we have begun to experience the joy which will be completely ours in the next life."

As one Italian theologian put it well, the pope was hinting that the person who lives in grace already lives in paradise. For today's Christians, attempting to live out these eternal realities in our lives now is more important than trying to describe them.

# Lay Associates foster Maryfield vision of service in Triad

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

HIGH POINT — Members of a community that formed out of faith discovered in the Crimean War serve in North Carolina today.

The Poor Servants of the Mother of God Congregation (SMG) own and operate the Maryfield Nursing Home and Maryfield Acres Retirement Community, but when Francis Margaret Taylor headed off to the Crimea to serve with Florence Nightingale, she could not foresee that the order she would found would have ministries around the world.

Taylor, the daughter of an Anglican clergyman, joined Nightingale's nursing staff in the Crimea in 1854. There she met priests, sisters, and soldiers, whose deep faith moved her to join the Catholic Church.

When she returned to England, she searched for her mission in life. She also met Lady Georgiana Fullerton. Not being able to find a religious order whose lifestyle expressed what she herself believed in, Taylor, with Fullerton's help, started the Poor Servants of the Mother of God in 1868. Taylor became Mother Mary Magdalen Taylor. The community's efforts were directed toward serving the poor who were in the severest need. For Mother Magdalen and her sisters, the poor, the ill, and the aged were Jesus himself. This was the challenge of their faith.

This mission is alive today at Maryfield, where the Poor Servants seek out and nurture the sick and elderly with the dignity of those touched by Christ.

SMG Sister Lucy Hennessey, administrator at Maryfield, says that the main focus of their order is Jesus Christ. To ensure that their mission to serve, rather than be served, will not fail, the Poor Servants have perpetual adoration at Maryfield. Thus, they always have the physical presence of Christ in their midst. Jesus' real presence, she said, is the only reason for Maryfield's success.

The Associates of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, lay men and women who choose to identify with the poor in their times of uncertainty and need, also work at Maryfield. These lay "servants" are as committed to the people they serve as if they were their own sisters and brothers. However, they are without canonical membership or monetary and legal obligations to the order.

Their purpose is to be authentic Christian witnesses to the values of Christ while living according to the order's charism and spirit. The associates participate in the apostolates as their individual circumstances allow, and they celebrate all of the Poor Servants' special feasts.

Candidates for the associate program are men and women 21 years of age or older. The main requirement is that Christ must be alive in their lives; the same spirit of service that draws the religious sisters must draw the associates, too.

In the spirit of ecumenism, the associate program is open to laity of all faiths. These volunteers help at Maryfield wherever and however they can. Even those who cannot actively participate can become a part of the life and ministry of the order by becoming prayer partners.

Bette Steinkamp, a Maryfield associate for more than 13 years and the director of first-year associates, said that the group meets once a month to be "formed in the Catholic faith through Scripture," an Ignatian style of spirituality. During these meetings, the group also prays the Liturgy of the Hours, the church's official daily prayer. Associates are encouraged to recite this prayer at home also.

Steinkamp volunteers her time two to three days a week to help the sisters in the activity room, with parties, by driving residents to doctor appointments, reading to residents or taking them for walks. In all these, associates work hand in hand with the sisters as they go about their daily response to living the call of the Gospel. She also attends perpetual adoration at least once a week.

Rev. Mr. Phil Killian says that he has been going to perpetual adoration at Maryfield once a week for six years. He adds that more than 400 men and women, even those who are not associates, schedule an hour of their time each week to keep this very important aspect of their personal prayer life alive.

Steinkamp, Libby Lennon of St. Paul the Apostle in Greensboro, and Frank Deal of Christ the King in High Point, plan all of the associates' activities, under the direction of SMG Sister Mona Comaskey. These activities include inviting speakers for days of reflection, seeking out and inviting others to join their formation group, and inspirational events that foster the program's life-giving aspects. Eventually, the complete program will be run with little input from the sisters, other than ensuring that everything is going according to the blueprint laid down by Mother Magdalen.

The SMG has its headquarters in Roehampton, England, and ministry locations in Africa, Italy, Ireland, England, Scotland, and North and South America. According to the Web site, the congregation meets a variety of needs, including providing education, hospitals, nursing homes, care of the indigent, care of the physically and learning disabled, pastoral ministries, hostels and women's programs, among others.



Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**Bea Sumner, a resident of Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point, spends an hour in eucharistic adoration in the home's chapel. To ensure that their mission to serve, rather than be served, will not fail, Maryfield's Poor Servants of the Mother of God have perpetual adoration at Maryfield. Thus, they always have the physical presence of Christ in their midst. Jesus' real presence is the only reason for Maryfield's success, said Maryfield's administrator.**

### Holiday Bazaar scheduled

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Road in the University area, hosts its annual holiday bazaar Nov. 17-18.

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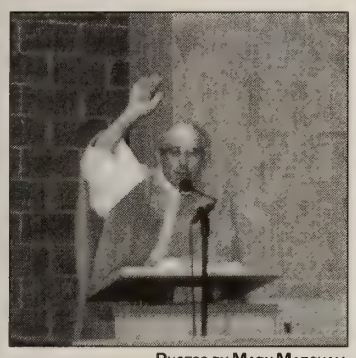
# Healing Mass directs faithful to focus on power of Holy Spirit

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — Society of St. Joseph Father Robert DeGrandis brought the message that each person possesses the gift of healing through the power of the Holy Spirit. He spoke to more than 600 people gathered at St. Matthew Catholic Church to celebrate a Mass of healing on Oct. 25.

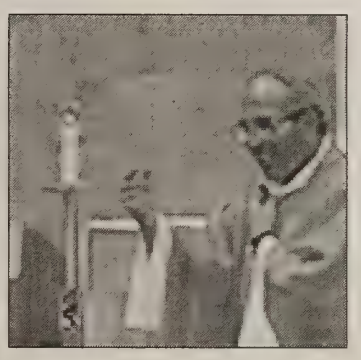
Father DeGrandis is the author of more than 40 books and articles, including, with Linda Schubert, "Healing Through the Mass" [Resurrection Press, 1994]. He has served in full-time ministry to the worldwide Catholic community since 1979. Based in Washington, D.C., he has contributed to the growth of the renewal movement through teaching, leadership, training and healing services throughout the world.

The Mass, which was sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte's Renewal Service Team and Good News Ministries, combined singing, praying, and the laying of hands as the power of healing love. Prior to Mass, Father DeGrandis led the congregation in singing praises — "Holy Mary, be my mother," "Heal me, Jesus," "Send your Spirit" — as he encouraged people to extend their arms around each other. Pews became united as arms extended from loved one to loved one and neighbor to neighbor, letting God guide them in his healing messages of forgiveness.



Photos by Mary Marshall

**Father Robert DeGrandis suggested that his audience open up to the healing power of the Holy Spirit. Healing, he said, involves praise, the Eucharist and forgiveness.**



**"Forgiveness is vital to healing, especially forgiveness of self," said Father DeGrandis, who serves the worldwide Catholic community.**

"Lord Jesus, we ask you to heal our people tonight," he prayed. "Come, Holy Spirit, and touch the hearts of all here. The more you sing the more open you become. One must open up to the Holy Spirit before he can work in you. Healing is the answer to our prayers."

Father DeGrandis explained the five levels of healing: spiritual, emotional, physiological, relational and physical. He emphasized that we have the power of the Trinity within us, which enables us to be healers since each of us believes that Jesus lives in us, that where Jesus is the Father is, and where Jesus is the Holy Spirit resides.

"The gift of healing is found in the sacraments, especially the Mass," Father DeGrandis said. "It is bestowed in the Catholic Church at the time of confirmation, enabling each and every one of us to be healers through the power of the Trinity.

"Holy Mass is a healing service of prayer, Scripture, Eucharist and singing. In the Eucharist, we find the presence of Jesus, who is giving us his body and blood for healing. Healing is life-changing; it comes from praying over each other."

Father DeGrandis pointed out healing messages in the "Our Father," which gives strength to follow the Lord. He encouraged all to let that prayer be their guide as it contains the equation: praise plus the Eucharist plus forgiveness equals healing.

Referring to raising hands as a means of surrender, which was a tradition of the early church, Father DeGrandis said, "We are called to praise God. The more we praise, the more open we become. Heaven is an eternity of praising God."

He continued, "Forgiveness is vital to healing, especially forgiveness of self. To forgive means to consistently pray for another person, to forgive under charity. Picture Jesus with his hands on your head saying, 'I've come to heal you — to set you free.'"

Many people reported spiritual and physical healings. Comments included, "We felt a blanket of peace throughout the night. What a beautiful night — how peaceful it was."

Following the Mass, Father DeGrandis offered the healing ministry through the laying of hands and an anointing service.


The World of Christmas



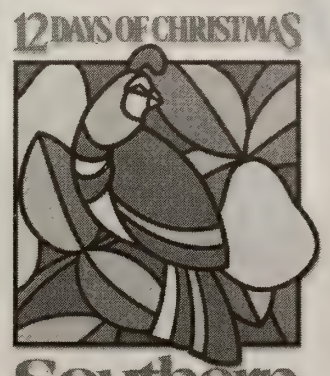
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# Faith remains constant in deacon's life

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CONCORD — Some of Rev. Mr. Dan Carl's fondest memories are from Catholic school.

He had a second family for 12 years and, under the influence of religion, established relationships with his classmates and teachers. He says he received his grounding as a Catholic from his early years of education in Toledo, Ohio, and from his parents and sisters.

"Everything I ever learned was through the eyes of a Catholic family. I still have relationships with many of the kids I graduated with," Rev. Mr. Carl said.

The Sisters of Mercy who staffed his schools had an extensive influence on his life. Their ministerial work supplied the foundation for his future service to the church as a permanent deacon.

"As teachers, they (the sisters) allowed themselves to be a part of our lives," Rev. Mr. Carl said. "I have good memories of them because they were very nurturing to my family through my young years. They continue to be a part of my life even through work today."

High school graduation and joining the Air Force happened several months apart in 1954. His mother was not very pleased about his decision; however, he was able to derive some positivity from his four years in the service: "I loved it because it was a great learning experience from the standpoint of being away from home and being a part of other cultures."

His two years in Japan and time in West Palm Beach, Fla., also served as a source of change in his spiritual life. Perhaps it was the distance from home or the absence of the support system with which he had grown, but Carl experienced a shift in his dedication to faith.

"I think that everyone goes through a time in their lives when they think they know it all. I went through a period of adjustment," he said.

Returning home helped to lead him back to his home parish where there was young-adult church function taking place the night he was discharged. He met Donna, who was engaged to another man; but that did not stop Carl from telling his friends that he had found "the one." They became better acquainted through a church musical program, and Donna broke off her engagement and found herself in a whirlwind courtship with Carl.



**Rev. Mr. Dan and Donna Carl**

The couple married in 1961, and the next year, his career in coffee began to brew. He signed on with Continental Coffee and literally left a trail behind him. "Coffee beans would spill out of his pockets, and he would have coffee dust on his clothing," Mrs. Carl said. "He always smelled like coffee."

The family was transferred to sunny Los Angeles in 1971 where he assumed his position as production manager. It was a great experience for the family, and the fourth of five children was born there. "It had been a dream of mine since I had been a child, and I was really thrilled to be out there," she said.

Carl was transferred back to Ohio as general manager, and the company announced consolidation changes that would send the family to Houston. He declined and started looking for a job elsewhere. His search took him to Concord, N.C., to the S and D Coffee Co., and they moved to the small city in 1978.

"You could shoot a cannon through the town and not hurt anyone at certain times during the week," joked Rev. Mr. Carl. "When we came to Concord and registered at St. James, there were about 125 families, and at the time, about 120 of them were native to Cabarrus County."

They watched their new place of residence and their church grow with the establishment of factories and plants in the area. As his surroundings blossomed, so did Carl's faith. After falling away briefly during his years in the Air Force, he had become active again in the church with the Christian Family Movement, Cursillo and other ministries while in Ohio.

A deacon and his wife from the Diocese of Toledo were also instrumental in Carl's decision to become a permanent deacon. "They were an influence in the further formation of our Catholic faith," he said. "They were a warm, personable couple who extended their invitation to us to be involved in different gatherings."

When he read a newspaper article about the first diaconate class in the Diocese of Charlotte, he felt a light turn on in his heart. He had the support of his wife, who was excited about it and brought supplemental information about it to her husband. He was admitted into the second class and was ordained in 1988.

Retirement from the coffee industry led to his present job as director of a homeless shelter in Cabarrus County. His continues to work with Cursillo, RCIA, baptismal preparation, and hospital ministry. He says that his work as a deacon has changed their lives and their focus as a family.

"It has not been revolutionary but evolutionary," said the grandfather of two. "We've been on a steady course during our years as a family. It has been a gradual thing in connection with the diaconate. We have been more prayerful as husband and wife and more patient and understanding with one another."

# Pope issues call for peace after meeting with ambassador

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, citing Japan's concerns over instability in Asia, particularly in Afghanistan and the Middle East, called for renewed efforts at dialogue.

Meeting Japan's new ambassador to the Vatican Oct. 29, the pope said, "The events of the last several weeks threaten the great equilibrium of the world and keep millions of people in anguish.

"The deep and lively concern for peace which characterizes Japanese society calls all peoples of the earth to do everything in their power — on a personal, communal and institutional level — so that the cause of peace and brotherhood triumphs and so that decisions are made at every level with a view toward the common good of humanity," the pope said.

"In these days when hotbeds of tension persist and develop, I appeal with all my heart for a renewed and even more intense engagement by all people of good will so that through dialogue and collaboration, each people will have a homeland, and everyone can live in peace," he said.

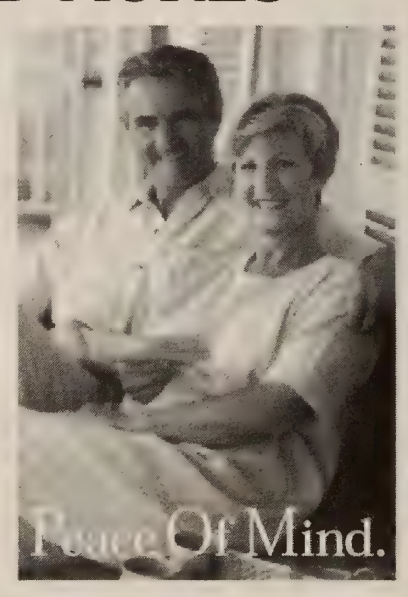
Pope John Paul told Japanese Ambassador Mitsuhiro Nakamura that only increased trust between individuals and nations "can make terrorism retreat forever."

Terrorism, the pope said, "can in no way open the way to the recognition of a group of persons or of an ideology, nor can it lead to a way of governing a country or region."

"The use of violence in any of its forms cannot permit nor regulate conflicts, nor can it establish the basis for a society respectful of all its members," he said.

Respect for creation and for human life, hard work, solidarity and openness to the transcendent are the essential elements for building a culture of peace, the pope said.

Nakamura told the pope that "conflicts tied to religious factors, which until now were not very evident, have been revealed to be one of the great causes that threatens the stability of the international community."

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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

November 9, 2001
Volume 11 ▾ Number 9

# Honoring Veterans



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**Cover Photo:**

The World War II American Cemetery and Memorial in Normandy is positioned cliffside overlooking the English Channel and Omaha Beach. The graves of 9,387 American military are located within this 172-acre memorial in France.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

### Fox's O'Reilly credits Catholic education for his success

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Bill O'Reilly, host of "The O'Reilly Factor" on the Fox network, credits his Catholic education for helping him get where he is today — and to stay there. "Catholic education taught me a number of things I use now to be successful," O'Reilly said at a dinner for Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. "All that focus on tasking which I have to do every day was instilled in me in Catholic schools. I even recommend them to non-Catholics." O'Reilly, a native New Yorker, best-selling author and veteran broadcast journalist, headlined the Annual Archbishop's School Fund Dinner Oct. 26 in Albuquerque. The gala event was a sellout attended by 980 people at $100 per plate.

### OSV publishes pamphlet to help Catholics cope with terrorism

HUNTINGTON, Ind. (CNS) — Our Sunday Visitor Publishing in Huntington has released a pamphlet designed to help Catholics handle the Sept. 11 tragedy and ongoing terrorist threats. Titled "What the Church Teaches: When Evil Strikes," the pamphlet examines the faith issues surrounding the incident and provides tips for families, priests, parish administrators and educators on dealing with the fallout of the Sept. 11 attacks. It is available in English and Spanish, and online at www.whatthechurchteaches.com. For more information visit the Web site, or to order pamphlets call Our Sunday Visitor at (800) 348-2440. The price for a packet of 50 pamphlets is $12.95, which includes shipping and handling.

### Group helps survivors mourn victims of El Salvador massacre

LOS TORILES, El Salvador (CNS) — Twenty years have passed, but the memories are still fresh for Juan Antonio Pereira of the day he looked on helplessly as soldiers murdered his wife, children and other relatives. "The kids cried out, begging not to be killed. But they (the soldiers) just finished them off quicker," said the 62-year-old peasant, holding back the tears. "It's not right what the soldiers did. The people were unarmed and harmless, it wasn't right," he repeated. He stayed hidden as the killings went on, and then fled for safety without being seen. Hours later, with the soldiers gone, he crept back and buried his loved ones in a makeshift grave. In late October he returned to the site, in what was once a small hamlet in the northeastern jungle of El Salvador, as forensic experts dug at the rough graves in search of remains of the victims.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Bethlehem students light candles to honor dead**

**Palestinian students at Bethlehem University light candles on the feast of All Saints Nov. 1 to remember friends who have died. The back-to-back feasts of All Saints and All Souls are a time to particularly recall that both the living and dead are united in communion with Christ and one another.**

### Catholics in Media group honors Hallmark Hall of Fame

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Hallmark Hall of Fame has been named the winner of the Special Achievement Award from Catholics in Media Associates, or CIMA, for Hallmark's 50 years of original television specials. The CBS-TV series "That's Life" and the motion picture "Hearts in Atlantis" also were chosen for recognition by CIMA at the organization's ninth annual awards ceremony planned for Nov. 4. Hallmark Hall of Fame was born on Christmas Eve 1951, when it presented the first opera to be commissioned for television, Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amal and the Night Visitor." The program brought Shakespeare to television for the first time with its 1953 production of "Hamlet."

### U.S., Mexican bishops meet to prepare pastoral on migration

SAN DIEGO (CNS) — A committee of bishops from the United States and Mexico met at the San Diego diocesan pastoral center to discuss border-related issues as part of the preparation process for a joint pastoral statement on U.S.-Mexican migration. The statement will be the first by the bishops of the two countries, and the next step in the process will be a hearing in the Diocese of Mexicali, Mexico, in February. The San Diego meeting consisted of listening sessions during which the bishops heard from migrants, advocates and pastoral care providers.

### Pope, Arafat meet in Vatican, express hope for return to dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Two days after Israeli troops withdrew from Bethlehem, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met with Pope John Paul II to brief him on the most recent wave of Israeli-Palestinian violence. "His Holiness, in expressing his condolences for the numerous victims of the unending spiral of violence, renewed his appeal that everyone abandon their weapons and return to negotiations," Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said after the Oct. 30 meeting. The spokesman said Arafat came to the Vatican to inform the pope "about the worrying situation in the Palestinian territories with particular reference to the recent tragic events in which even Christian holy places were involved."

### Catholic-Jewish dialogue must go on despite tensions, says cardinal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Despite tensions or setbacks, Catholics and Jews continually must work to promote understanding, dialogue and cooperation, said Cardinal Walter Kasper, the Vatican's top ecumenist. Marking the 36th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's declaration on Judaism and other non-Christian religions, Cardinal Kasper said the document's hope for a new age of brotherhood and respect "is stronger than the fears and the errors we have committed and will commit." Cardinal Kasper, president of the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, made his remarks in an Oct. 28 message to a Rome meeting marking the declaration's anniversary.

### Three New York auxiliaries retire; pope names three successors

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignations of three auxiliary bishops of the New York Archdiocese and appointed three New York priests to succeed them. Appointed as auxiliary bishops were: Msgr. Robert Josu Iriondo, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in the Bronx and archdiocesan vicar for Hispanics; Msgr. Dominick J. Lagonegro, pastor at St. Columba Parish in Hopewell Junction; and Msgr. Timothy A. McDonnell, pastor of St. John and St. Mary Parish in Chappaqua. The pope accepted the resignations of Auxiliary Bishops Anthony F. Mestice, who will be 78 on Dec. 6; Francisco Garmendia, who will be 77 on Nov. 6; and William J. McCormack, who will be 78 on Jan. 24.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**November 17 — 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Matthew, Charlotte

**November 18 — 2:30 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Gabriel, Charlotte

**November 24 — 5 p.m.**
Mass and dedication of renovated church and hall
Our Lady of the Rosary, Lexington

**November 27-28**
Visiting seminarians

## Diocesan planner

**November**

**13** CHARLOTTE — A "New Faces" Convocation with Ken Sehested of Baptist Peace Fellowship will take place at First United Methodist Church, 501 N. Tryon St., tonight from 7-9 p.m. The event, sponsored by International Ministries, Programa Esperanza of Catholic Social Services, the Community Relations Committee and Mecklenburg Ministries, will feature cultural presentations from local Asian, Hispanic and African-American faith groups representing Charlotte's growing international/interfaith community. For further information, call (704) 347-2404.

**14** CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Bobbe Conlin at (704) 643-1376 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

**14** WINSTON-SALEM — An "Evening of Taize' Prayer in Word and Song" will be presented at the St. Francis Center of Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, corner of Cherry and 3rd Sts., this evening from 5:30-6:30 p.m. For more information, call Josephine Rosaschi at (336) 723-8241.

**15** CHARLOTTE — There will be an Alzheimer's Information Session for caregivers and family members held at Sardis Presbyterian Church, 6100 Sardis Rd., tonight from 7-9 p.m. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135 for further details.

**16** ASHEVILLE — The St. Joan of Arc Church Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry, 919 Haywood Rd., will hold its fall new and used book sale today through Nov. 18. Other items for sale will include gifts, Christmas ornaments and wreaths, hot dogs, chili, barbecue and desserts. For further details, call the church office at (828) 252-3151.

**16** GASTONIA — St. Michael Church,

### Crisis in Afghanistan provokes warning from pope on hunger

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The chronic problem of hunger in the world and the specific humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan drew words of warning from Pope John Paul II and a papal envoy in Pakistan, Archbishop Paul Josef Cordes. In a message Nov. 3 to a U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization conference in Rome, the pope said that, following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the moral debate over rooting out injustice must not forget the most obvious injustice, global hunger. He pointed out that food shortages affected the lives of millions of individuals, with serious consequences for global peace. His message was delivered to the international conference by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican secretary of state.

### Americans asked to be part of day of remembrance, kindness

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, Ohio (CNS) — The Acts of Kindness Association has called U.S. churches, temples and mosques to participate in a "National Day of Remembrance and Kindness" Nov. 11, two months after the terrorist attacks on the United States. About 10,000 houses of worship have responded to the call from the Ohio-based organization. Leaders of those faith communities plan to give a sermon or talk about the importance of displaying godly kindness to people and loving one's neighbors as oneself. The Nov. 11 celebration is designed to "create both a kinder, gentler America and a permanent, living memorial to those who died so tragically on Sept. 11," according to the Acts of Kindness Association, a nonprofit, nondenominational organization.

### Vatican adopts mail precautions in wake of anthrax scare

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has asked its employees to adopt the security precautions recommended by the International Postal Union. The measures for avoiding possible contact with anthrax spores are only a precaution; no suspicious packages have been received at the Vatican, officials said Oct. 29. "These are normal security measures being taken by governments around the world, including Vatican City State," the Vatican press office said. The press office confirmed the precautions were spelled out by U.S. Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka, governor of Vatican City State, in a letter given to heads of Vatican offices Oct. 27.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Ashcroft attends Red Mass in Boston**

**Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law introduces U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft to Deacon Tony Rizzutto, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, following the Red Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston Nov. 4. Cardinal Law was celebrating his 70th birthday the same day.**

### Interfaith group wants human dignity to guide world trade

WASHINGTON (CNS) — On the eve of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, a coalition of more than 40 U.S. religious groups challenged global traders and investors to make the "dignity of the human person" a central ethical principle guiding their policies and actions. "It is our belief, as members of diverse faith communities, that moral and spiritual principles can provide guidance in the search for practical measures to address the profound ethical issues raised by international trade and investment," they said. The Interfaith Working Group on Trade and Investment released its "Interfaith Statement on International Trade and Investment" Nov. 1 at a conference of religious leaders and journalists in Washington. The WTO was to hold its next ministerial conference Nov. 9-13 in Doha, Qatar.

### Conference looks at women's changing roles

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — During a national conference of diocesan women's commissions in St. Paul, speakers said they felt a sense of hope for women's growing role in the church. "I think ministry areas are more open in the church than they've ever been," said Mary Beckfeld, who chairs the Commission on Women for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. "It's a wonderful time for women, but we're always going to face obstacles," she said, including the fact that many women working in ministry also have a second job raising families. She made the comments in an interview with The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, which hosted the Oct. 26 conference at the College of St. Catherine.

### U.S. visit to Ireland disrupted, but Catholic officials optimistic

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — The U.S. Interchurch Committee on Northern Ireland's visit to Belfast was disrupted by the latest crisis in the Northern Irish peace process. Members of the committee, made up of representatives of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Presbyterian Church USA, were due to meet nationalist and unionist political leaders Nov. 2, but the meetings were cancelled as politicians attempted to save Northern Ireland's political institutions. Despite the setback, Bishop Raymond J. Boland of Kansas City-St Joseph, Mo., and Gerry Powers, director of the U.S. bishops' international justice and peace department, said their visit was going well. "When we started making these annual interchurch committee visits in 1990, even the thought of a cease-fire was unimaginable," Powers said. "There has been huge, huge progress. It's just frustrating that every year when we come here there seems to be another major crisis."

### Anthrax scare at Catholic college turns out to be hoax

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) — An anthrax scare that prompted testing of more than 450 staff members and students at Erie's Mercyhurst College turned out to be a hoax, an FBI agent said Nov. 1. A powdery white substance that spilled from a letter at the admissions office Oct. 30 was not anthrax, according to Bob Rudge, director of the FBI office in Erie. Rudge said the letter and its contents, addressed to "Director" with a postmark of Cairo, Egypt, were tested at a Pennsylvania Department of Health laboratory. He did not divulge what the powdery substance was, saying, "at this point, we're more interested in what it is not than what it is." The letter has since been transported to an FBI lab in Washington, where it was undergoing further analysis, he added.

### Oregon Catholic church hosts summit on irrigation, fishing rights

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Farmers, government regulators and representatives of Oregon's Klamath Tribes gathered at a Catholic church in Klamath Falls near the Oregon-California border to find some common ground in an ongoing struggle between farmers' need for water for crop irrigation and the tribes' fishing rights. "This is not to solve problems right away, but to sit down peaceably and hear each other," Father Frank Buckman, pastor of St. Pius X Parish, said of the Nov. 1 summit.

708 St. Michael Lane, will host a chicken dinner fundraiser today from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. The dinners may be picked up at the church, and orders of eight or more can be delivered to a home or office for free. Tickets are available through the church office, and the proceeds will benefit the church. For further information, call (704) 867-6212.

**16** WINSTON-SALEM — The St. Theresa's Guild of St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., will sponsor an evening of family fun featuring bingo, a raffle for a DVD player, prizes and food tonight from 6-9 p.m. in the parish hall. For more information, call (336) 724-0561 or e-mail Lyn Blackburn@excite.com.

**17** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel School Auction 2001 will be held this evening at the Museum of the New South, corner of College and 7th Sts. Merchants and silent and live auctions will be featured to raise money for the school. For tickets, call Teresa Luse at (704) 545-6555, and for questions, call MaryAnn Jerrum at (704) 542-2488.

**18** CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., will be having its Christian Coffeehouse from 7-8:30 p.m. in the parish center. All are invited to join the parish for fellowship, prayer and music provided by Redeemed with Kathy and David, a Christian contemporary band. If interested in being a sponsor or for more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 614-9100 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

**18** CHARLOTTE — A Byzantine Catholic liturgy will be celebrated today at 3:30 p.m. Byzantine Catholics and anyone interested in the Byzantine Catholic rite are welcomed to attend. Contact Olga Kramer at (704) 948-6471 for further details.

**18** CHARLOTTE — The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., will perform a concert in celebration of 21 years of singing at 5 p.m. this evening. For more information, call the church office at (704) 375-4339.

**19** CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

**25** HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

**26** CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia will be held today from 10-11:30 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information about the support group or the Shining Stars Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday at St. Gabriel from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and every Thursday at Sardis Presbyterian Church from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

**26** NEWTON — The Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group will be meeting at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

**28** CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend the monthly memorial Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, that will be taking place tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they may be remembered during the Mass.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# Cardinal speaks on education, religion and terrorism

By JENNIFER DEL VECHIO
Catholic News Service

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law said if he were to write a motto for a political party, it would be "pro-life, pro-family and pro-poor."

But since no political party seems to fully promote that vision, Cardinal Law said that Catholic schools need to instill youths with the knowledge of the inviolable dignity of every human being, the sanctity of family and the need for solidarity with the poor and suffering of the world.

"Catholic education, if it's doing its job, is forming the lives and hearts" of children to live those three values, the cardinal said at the Celebrating Catholic School Values Dinner in Indianapolis Oct. 30.

"Wherever we are that is the vision that is beheld," he said. "It's what Catholic schools are unabashedly about."

Since Sept. 11, Cardinal Law said he heard the "pundits who say all manner of evils are a result of religion and view religion as divisive and violent." To do this, they cite the conflict in Northern Ireland, the Holy Land and now terrorist Osama bin Laden, who has applauded the attacks on America in the name of Islam.

Cardinal Law said that people can claim "religion is the cause of all the problems in the world." However, he said, "in my perspective, it's the men and women who have deep religious convictions that are the most effective in building the kingdom of justice and peace."

Cardinal Law has been at the forefront of many of the discussions following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The two airliners that crashed into the World Trade Center were hijacked from Boston's Logan International Airport. He also was one of 27 religious leaders who met with President Bush shortly after the attacks.

He said he's witnessed the virtue of patriotism and how tragedy can bring unity. "Never before Sept. 11 have I seen such a diverse group of religious representatives coming together to work and pray," the cardinal said.

# Charlotte woman uses life experiences as motivation

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — As a teen-ager, Virginia Williamson committed a crime every Saturday. She and her friend Ramona would walk to downtown Shelby to the courthouse water fountains — one marked "white," the other tagged "colored." While one friend kept watch for the other, they would take turns drinking from the water fountain that was designated for Caucasians.

"We never could figure out what the difference was," Williamson said. "It seemed so ridiculous because we noted that the water tasted the same. We had thought that maybe the water at the white fountain had sugar in it or something like that."


Virginia Williamson

"Jim Crow" laws and segregation were a way of life for Williamson and other African-Americans in the South. She grew up during the 1930s and '40s in the midst of discrimination and poverty but says that she does not hold any malice in her heart.

"That was the way things were at that time, which doesn't say that it was right, but that was segregation," Williamson said. "To be prejudiced is to be ignorant, because you are not at the same level of thinking as others. I don't have any revenge or anger because the Lord tells me not to feel that way."

Her grounding in faith came from her Baptist upbringing. Dressed in the colorful flour sacks that her father brought home from the mills and her mother, a seamstress, made into dresses, she attended services with her family. "During those years in the Baptist church, we were always in church," she said. "Sunday was the day for church, and we stayed in church all day."

St. Mary Church and some of its parishioners influenced Williamson, who joined the Catholic Church more than 50 years ago. She said that her mother was not upset about her decision because she believed that one's faith tradition was irrelevant to one's character. "I firmly believe, as my mother did, that as long as you are in church and trying to do the right thing that denomination does not matter."

Her faith accompanied her to Virginia's predominantly African-American Hampton Institute, now Hampton University, where she worked her way through school and earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education with a minor in music. Even though she had left her hometown behind, she never forgot from where she came. She would return to visit neighbors, friends and family, who all had a hand in her rearing.

"With my neighbors," she said, "we really helped to coin the phrase, 'it takes a village to raise a child.' The entire neighborhood raised me, and I really miss that nowadays. You can't do it (parenting) by yourself."

Now a mother of one and a grandmother, she added that, "I find myself correcting unruly children especially in church even though I probably shouldn't. But that is what I know."

She graduated in 1952 and married Sam, her childhood sweetheart, in 1953. The couple moved to Charlotte where they began attending Our Lady of Consolation Church (OLC). Involvement with various parish ministries seemed natural to Williamson as she resumed teaching Sunday school, began serving as a lector and busied herself with other ministries. She taught elementary school for many years in a segregated school system, similar to what she knew as a child.

Williamson experienced integration while studying for her master's degree in education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; but as the only African-American in the program, she also experienced some of the same discrimination she had seen in her younger days. However, she persevered, earning her degree in 1965 after attending for six summers.

"I was there for one purpose, and I actually enjoyed the challenge. It was rough, but I had the Lord on my side," she said in a tone filled with pride.

Teaching was her first love. She handled the integration of the public school system through the help of prayer, dedication and determination. Retirement in 1984 freed her for further involvement in the diocese, in her parish and in the community. Over the years, Williamson has served and continues to serve on the Catholic Social Services board, Elder Ministry Task Force, secretary of OLC's Rosary Society, and coordinator of OLC's Golden Wings and other civic organizations.

Her dedication to service and to her faith has led her to become a motivational speaker, a ministry she says is God inspired. Her love of oratorical speaking and lifelong classroom work has prepared her to speak to churches and other groups about a variety of topics including love, respect and cherishing every moment of life. She says that she wants to share what she has learned with others and to spread the love of God to all she meets.

"My motivation comes from the Lord," said Williamson, who researches, studies, networks and practices for her talks before giving them. "At 71, there is no way that I would have gotten involved with this if not for the Lord. I prayed about it (the ministry), and I think that the seed was planted long ago. Everyone has been so supportive, and I am happier now than I have ever been. It is my calling, and I truly want to make a meaningful difference."

*For more information about Virginia Williamson's motivational talks, call (704) 597-9751 or send e-mail to gwson8@bellsouth.net.*

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*




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# Foundation making TRACS in Triad-area schools

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

PIEDMONT-TRIAD — Students in Piedmont-Triad diocesan schools will benefit from the newly created Triad Area Catholic Schools Education Foundation (TRACS). The foundation consists of 25 board members plus four representatives and the principals from each of the Triad's six Catholic schools: St. Pius X and Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro, Immaculate Heart of Mary in High Point, Our Lady of Mercy and St. Leo in Winston-Salem and Bishop McGuinness in Kernersville.

The board began meeting in May to formulate its annual giving campaign and to decide how and where to allocate the funds, said Pam Janowicz Gray, diocesan director of development for Catholic schools.

"The TRACS education foundation is appealing to all parents to support its annual giving campaign," Gray said.

The schools were asked to submit plans for projects that they wanted to implement which would be supported by the campaign. Each school identified at least two areas in which it needed funding. Any additional funds will most likely go toward tuition assistance for families, said Gray.

St. Pius X School identified several areas in which money from the campaign would help the school to implement its long-term plan to benefit students in the elementary school. The school had already started a financial assistance program, and Mark Akerman, principal, hopes that the money will aid more families suffering financial hardships.

"We want to develop an endowment fund for the financial assistance program while working with the TRACS program," said Akerman, who would also like to equip the science lab, supply teachers and students with textbooks and resource materials and acquire resource teachers for special-needs students. "We are making some headway and are really proud to be a part of this annual campaign effort."

The 11,000 registered Catholics in the Triad area will receive information about the annual giving campaign later this month. Donors can choose to receive monthly pledge reminders, Gray said. All parishioners will receive a general "ask" letter, while parents with students enrolled in the schools will receive the "ask" letter with an insert about the particular programs for which the schools would like initial funding.

"I feel strongly that Catholic education fills a need in our society, and it is exciting to be starting something new and doing something so positive for the Triad Catholic schools," Gray said.

"This is an opportunity for all people in the Triad to support Catholic education since many adults went to Catholic schools when they were younger, and this will enable us to reach all people needing tuition assistance," said Jack McAleer, TRACS Education Foundation board president. "As we move forward with the annual giving campaign, we are supporting Catholic education in the Triad, and we are all coming together as one Catholic community."

*To find out more about how to support the TRACS Foundation annual giving campaign, call Pam Janowicz Gray at (704) 370-3303 or e-mail pjgray@charlottediocese.org.*

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

# News & Herald sees staff change

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — This edition of The Catholic News & Herald closes the chapter for one of our longtime associates. Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar leaves this publication with the printing of this edition.

Next week, Rostar joins the staff of The Greenville Daily Reflector as a copy editor.

Rostar joined The Catholic News & Herald in July 1996 as staff writer. During his early years, he received acclaim, securing a Catholic Press Association award for a personality profile of folk-singer Jimmy Landry, a resident of the western part of the Diocese of Charlotte.



Jimmy Rostar

"We are deeply grateful the contributions Jimmy has made as associate editor of The Catholic News & Herald," said Bishop William G. Curlin. The bishop is publisher of the diocesan newspaper.

"He brought a dedication and zeal to his ministry of the Catholic press in insuring The Catholic News & Herald is a worthy instrument of evangelization throughout the Diocese of Charlotte."

In the fall of 1998, Rostar was promoted to the position of associate editor. Rostar continued to write poignant articles, while taking on the added responsibilities of Associate Editor.

For Jimmy, his wife Lynda and their daughter Hannah, returning to Greenville is a homecoming of sorts. Rostar grew up in Greenville, is a graduate of the East Carolina University, and Greenville is the town where his parents still reside.

"My decision to leave The Catholic News wasn't easy," said Rostar. "My time with the diocesan newspaper has been an experience I will always treasure."

This is a time of big change for the Rostar clan. Rostar begins his new position and relocates his family at a time as they anticipate the birth of their second child early in the spring of 2002.

"We will miss his joyful spirit and enthusiasm for his work," said Bishop Curlin. "Jimmy goes with our prayers, and we ask God to bless him and his family with every grace from above."

*Editor's note: Although against the grain of generally accepted journalistic style policies, I take editorial license and offer personal thanks to Jimmy for his years of committed and dedicated service to our diocesan newspaper. Godspeed, Jimmy. Always remember to seek the truth. You are a proud member of professional journalists. We will miss you, but wish you all the best as you enter this new chapter in your life with your young family.*

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org*

### Memorial Mass to be celebrated for Sept. 11 victims

CHARLOTTE — All are invited to St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., for a memorial mass in remembrance of all of the victims of the tragedies of Sept. 11. The Mass begins at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 12, and for further information, call the church office at (704) 332-5342.

### Monthly AOH meeting invites Irish Catholic men

GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location of the Nov. 28 meeting.

### Belmont Abbey, other monasteries to host retreats

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd.; Mepkin Trappist Abbey in Moncks Corner, S.C.; and Gethsemani Abbey in Trappist, Ky., will be offering "Live-in Experience" vocational retreats Nov. 29-Dec. 2, Dec. 5-9 and Jan 2-6. Participants can learn about monastic life firsthand while praying, working and enjoying vocational talks given by the monks. Space is limited, so those interested are advised to make reservations early. Mepkin Abbey dates are available on an individual basis. For more dates and information, call toll-free at (866) 548-3463.


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### Dublin cardinal apologizes for criticizing Protestant bishop

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Cardinal Desmond Connell has apologized for questioning the intellectual capacity of Church of Ireland Archbishop Walton Empey. Cardinal Connell made his remarks in an interview conducted a year ago for the recently published book, "The Irish Soul: In Dialogue." Discussing a 1997 controversy about intercommunion, Cardinal Connell said: "Archbishop Empey wouldn't have much theological competence anyway." The cardinal said, "He wouldn't be regarded as one of their high flyers, but Protestants very often go in for a very positivistic theology." In the interview, Cardinal Connell also criticized Ireland's oldest university, Trinity College Dublin, for slighting him on several occasions. The cardinal apologized to Archbishop Empey and Trinity College after excerpts of the book were published in a national newspaper Oct. 31.

### Brother Glodek named head of Marianists' new national province

CHICAGO (CNS) — Marianist Brother Stephen Glodek has been appointed the first provincial of his order's new Province of the United States of America, effective next June. The appointment was announced by Father David J. Fleming, superior general of the Marianists. Brother Glodek, 53, is a native of Chester, Pa., who is currently completing his second term as head of the order's New York province. He also is immediate past president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men. He worked in secondary schools for 15 years, was a local director of a Marianist community for eight years and has served in provincial administration for 16 years. The new province of the order, also known as the Society of Mary, will be based in Chicago and represents the unification of four U.S. provinces — Cincinnati, New York, Pacific and St. Louis.

### Deacon shares story of tragic loss of daughter in Sept. 11 attack

WISCONSIN DELLS, Wis. (CNS) — "Life must go on," Deacon Ellis Crant said. His words seem as much self-reassurance as wisdom and advice. The deacon's life changed forever when planes struck the towers of the World Trade Center in New York, where his daughter Denise worked for an insurance company on the 93rd floor of the first tower. Deacon Crant shared his story in an interview with The Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Madison Diocese, as well as at an ecumenical service and in a homily at Masses one weekend at St. Cecilia Church in Wisconsin Dells. In the midst of such a tragic loss, he said, he finds strength in his faith. "Without faith, it would be very easy to be vengeful," he said. "Being in church is my comfort zone. There's a feeling of security in spirituality on that altar even in the face of this disaster."

### Postal worker who died of anthrax remembered as man of faith

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Even in elementary school, Joseph P. Curseen Jr., a 47-year-old Washington postal worker who died from inhalation anthrax Oct. 22, was known for his generosity. He shared his lunch with his classmates from Our Lady of Perpetual Help School. He was a straight-A student, competed in every spelling bee and served as an altar boy, recalled Doretha Billings, a classmate from the Catholic grade school in Washington. "He would share his lunch with me and everyone in class," Billings said. "He would never make fun of you." On Oct. 27, Billings and several other former classmates joined Curseen's family and co-workers from the Brentwood postal facility in Washington at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church for his funeral Mass, presided over by Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick.



CNS PHOTO BY JOHN FEENAN, THE BEACON

**Chaplain talks with firefighters at ground zero**

**Port Authority Chaplain Msgr. Mark Giordani talks with Brooklyn firefighters Robert Cristadoro and Jeff Mulligan near the fallen World Trade Center in New York Oct. 18. Msgr. Giordani, rector of St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Paterson, N.J., has been working with those directly affected by the tragedy since Sept. 11.**

### Catholic University honors Cardinal Dulles

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Avery Dulles said the church has entered a new theological phase as he received the James Cardinal Gibbons Medal Oct. 27 at The Catholic University of America's annual Alumni Association banquet. The Jesuit theologian, who was made a cardinal last February, also said Catholic University "is in an excellent position to be a flagship for the renewal of Catholic higher education in the United States." The Gibbons Medal, the highest award of the university's Alumni Association, is given for outstanding contributions to the church or the nation. It is named after Cardinal James Gibbons of Baltimore, chancellor of the university from its founding in 1887 until his death in 1921.

### Haitian-American youth receives national youth leadership award

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jean Souffrant, a young Haitian-American Catholic from the Miami Archdiocese, has been named recipient of the 2001 Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award. The award, which recognizes young Catholics leaders who are fighting against poverty and injustice, is given annually by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the national anti-poverty program of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The award, named for the late Chicago cardinal for his strong support of CCHD, was announced in Washington. It was scheduled to be presented in Washington Nov. 11 before the U.S. bishops' annual fall meeting. Souffrant, 23, is being honored for his volunteering and social justice work in Miami. He is the volunteer youth minister for his Miami parish, Notre Dame d'Haiti, as well as a youth leader for Miami-Dade County's PACT, which stands for People Acting for Community Together. It is a coalition of 25 interdenominational Christian churches that address problems among low-income residents.

### Priest honored for ministry to Los Angeles gangs

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (CNS) — Jesuit Father Greg Boyle says his work with gang members in Los Angeles "can be hard and hilarious and everything in between all in the span of 15 minutes." But "I wouldn't trade my life for anything," he said in a telephone interview with the St. Cloud Visitor, newspaper of the St. Cloud Diocese. "It's pretty engaging." The priest is the 2001 recipient of the Dignitas Humana Award from St. John's School of Theology and Seminary in Collegeville. The award was presented to him in mid-October at the theology school, which is in the St. Cloud Diocese. As founder and director of Jobs for a Future and Homeboy Industries, the priest has been providing a way for youths to leave gangs through job training and job placements, plus offering a wide range of services for at-risk youths.

### Vatican publishes book by last surviving Fatima visionary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has published a book by Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos, the last surviving Fatima visionary, offering her meditations on the appeals contained in the Fatima message. The book, which Sister Lucia completed in 1997, was approved for publication by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in mid-2000 and published early in 2001 in Portuguese. The Vatican printing press released the Italian translation of the book, "The Appeals of the Message of Fatima," in late October. No date has been set for its English-language release. In her introduction to the book, Sister Lucia said she wrote it to respond to the "many questions and requests" she receives in letters each day.

### U.S. visit to Ireland disrupted, but Catholic officials optimistic

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — The U.S. Interchurch Committee on Northern Ireland's visit to Belfast was disrupted by the latest crisis in the Northern Irish peace process. Members of the committee, made up of representatives of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Presbyterian Church USA, were due to meet nationalist and unionist political leaders Nov. 2, but the meetings were cancelled as politicians attempted to save Northern Ireland's political institutions. Despite the setback, Bishop Raymond J. Boland of Kansas City-St Joseph, Mo., and Gerry Powers, director of the U.S. bishops' international justice and peace department, said their visit was going well. "When we started making these annual interchurch committee visits in 1990, even the thought of a cease-fire was unimaginable," Powers said. "There has been huge, huge progress."

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# At WTO meeting, decision-makers, investors challenged to make poor a priority

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the World Trade Organization's ministerial conference beginning in early November, religious leaders offered a challenge to decision-makers and investors to uphold the dignity of the poor.

The Vatican distributed a paper outlining its chief concerns regarding world trade and development, giving the document to the World Trade Organization's leaders, all diplomatic missions accredited to the organization, and every ambassador to the Vatican.

The Vatican said the conference, scheduled for Nov. 9-13 in Qatar, must "mark a clear step on the path to a new and more inclusive vision of world trade in which all can take part effectively on an equal footing."

Flexibility and solidarity must be part of every World Trade Organization agreement, recognizing that "the enhanced development of the poorer countries is a contribution to global economic progress, international security and peace."

The world's poorest countries "have only a marginal and diminishing share in world trade," it said.

One big reason for the imbalance, the statement said, is that the world's wealthiest countries "maintain strong legal protections precisely in those economic areas in which poor countries could be competitive, e.g., agriculture, textiles and other labor-intensive industries."

What is happening in effect is that poorer countries are forced to share the burden of protecting industries in the richer countries, while they are told they must drop all their own protectionist measures, the statement said.

Speaking in London, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Vatican representative to U.N. agencies in Geneva, said the World Trade Organization should reform itself in order to better help the world's poorest countries.

"The world needs a World Trade Organization," Archbishop Martin told a group of British parliamentarians in London Oct. 31.

"We all have an obligation to work to change the WTO. We need to change it precisely because we need it. The poor countries of the world need a WTO," the archbishop said.

While the World Trade Organization has brought some benefits to developing countries, the least-developed countries only have a minimal share in international trade, Archbishop Martin said.

# Bishop McGuinness High School students blazing trail at Maryfield retirement community

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

HIGH POINT — Thanks to a group that includes enterprising youths from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School (BMCHS), Maryfield has a new addition to its retirement and nursing community — a scenic walking path meandering through the woods on the property.

Maryfield is a retirement and nursing home facility resting on 64 scenic acres in High Point. The Poor Servants of the Mother of God (SMG) started the complex 54 years ago, and it has flourished under their guidance ever since.

In addition to the main nursing home facility, Maryfield has 29 independent homes for the elderly.

According to SMG Sister Lucy Hennessey, Maryfield's administrator at for the last 14 years, the "key to the success of our order and, especially for the growth of Maryfield, is the perpetual, real presence of Jesus, both day and night, in our adoration chapel."

Plus, there is continual reflection on the life and service of their founder, Mother Mary Magdalen Taylor. The Poor Servants express Mother Magdalen's example as they give witness to Jesus Christ by putting the Gospel into action in their own lives.

These sisters' lives are ones of total sacrifice for those they care for, especially in the final stages of the elderly's lives.

It is because of this success that "we are looking towards a $50 million expansion in the near future," Sister Lucy said.

But the expansion is not the only new project at work on Maryfield grounds.

Last year, Patrick Leonard Sr., the father of Patrick Leonard Jr., a BMCHS senior, got involved with a much-needed project for the sisters and residents at Maryfield. He heard that those who lived on the grounds would like to have a walking path.

At that, he set out with volunteers from BMCHS and the facility to clear, create and keep up a walking path through the property.

The student volunteers are Emily Adkisson, Sarah Adkisson, Robert Beck, Sean Doherty, Matthew Ostler, Jim Russell and Matthew Wright. In addition to the Poor Servants who occasionally accompany the students, Leonard enlisted the aid of Richard Neuman, the financial officer for the facility.



Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**Thanks to a group that includes enterprising youths from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School (BMCHS), Maryfield has a new addition to its retirement and nursing community — a scenic walking path meandering through the woods on the property. Above, the hard work of blazing the trail begins.**

"These volunteers have proudly taken ownership of the trail and rightly so," Leonard said.

He's accomplishing much of this work with his own tools and machinery, as well as anything he can beg and borrow from friends.

Leonard and his crew left a red-flag trail that core drillers not only followed for future development, but also indicates that they even took time to widen the path at some points to get their machinery in.

Sister Lucy stresses the importance of young people having experience in Maryfield's growth. "These students will have precious memories of the life of development in that they are blazing this trail for the residents," she said.

This trail serves the present population, but once development begins, it will provide a walking tour for prospective future residents as it runs through a beautiful area for independent homes.

"In the future, we will need to open a trail near the High Point Lake area of the property," Sister Lucy said.

"The people here need a place to walk without a problem," said Emily Adkisson. "I'm glad that I can do even the little that I am for them."

"Working with my hands makes me feel productive," her sister Sarah added. "Besides, it's a nice break from the school routine."


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# Military chaplain plays vital role at Air Force

By TOM TRACY
Catholic News Service

TAMPA, Fla. (CNS) — The U.S. military staff at Florida's MacDill Air Force Base, which is playing a key role in the U.S. military campaign in Afghanistan, is in good spirits and confident of the moral rectitude of the mission, according to MacDill's chaplain.

"We are pretty much convinced that this is a just issue, and we understand our military commanders are very conscientious (about) how they process this campaign. It's not a war against civilians," said Father Dennis Hanley, assigned by the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services to MacDill last August.

Father Hanley is the only Catholic priest at MacDill, where the U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command for all the U.S. armed forces are helping coordinate the allied response to the Sept. 11 attack on America.

Nearly every office at MacDill now has staff deployed overseas, according to Father Hanley, and many military reservists have been called up. At the base and in Tampa-area hotels, the presence of military staff from European nations is a further indication of the size and scope of the operation and role being played by MacDill.

From MacDill, the military runs special units trained in intelligence gathering, hostage rescue, counterterrorist and counterproliferation operations reportedly central to the first ground operations begun inside Afghanistan in late October. Two American soldiers died in those maneuvers against the al Qaeda terrorist network and its Taliban supporters.

Father Hanley, 46, who was ordained for the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn., is no stranger to the work of a military chaplain. He has worked with the Air Force for 14 years. He finished a tour in Bosnia-Herzegovina last June, and also has served U.S. military bases in the Persian Gulf and in African hotspots such as Rwanda.

He said that "not since World War II has there been so much clarity and support in eradicating a threat to national security."

"Look at how much it has united so much of the world, and only the justice of it can do that," he said, adding that President Bush's description of the terrorists as pure evil-doers is accurate. "Everyone understands this has to be dealt with and it has gone too far."

A rally of public support for the staff took place recently outside MacDill's main entrance. According to Father Hanley, seeing pro-American rallies at home lets the troops know that people are thinking about them and that whatever sacrifices they make are not going unnoticed or underappreciated.

"Many (of the staff) are young kids putting in long hours with inconveniences," he said, citing loneliness and the financial and personal dilemmas that result from living far from home. But he added that "they rise to the occasion in a manner that would make our American citizenry very proud."



CNS PHOTO COURTESY U.S. AIR FORCE

**Father Dennis P. Hanley, right, talks with U.S. Air Force security personnel at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla. From left are Tampa patrolman Eric Ward, Senior Airman Manuel Feliz, Airman 1st Class Isaac Johnson and Airman 1st Class Amy Whitbeck. Father Hanley was assigned by the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services to MacDill last August. "Wherever there is American military there will always be a chaplain," he said.**

"Despite all the hours they work there is good morale among the troops," he said. "They are committed to what they are doing and looking out for each other."

Given the scale of the Sept. 11 tragedy, many of the military staff are now confronted with their mortality as never before, Father Hanley observed in an interview with The Florida Catholic, a weekly newspaper serving six Florida dioceses. Those who are about to be deployed want to reconcile themselves before God, he said.

"Many problems are solved 'offline': personal, professional or otherwise," the priest said, adding that his job description demands "rock solid, ironclad confidentiality."

"The (military) folks, no matter what their belief, really appreciate the presence of someone who stands for God and what is holy, and for someone who is there to talk and is really on their side," Father Hanley said.

He said a lot of young people in the military appreciate such Catholic practices as traveling with prayer cards or wearing a medal depicting, for example, St. Michael — the patron saint of paratroopers. They also like to hear the chaplain tell them that, in protecting their country while in uniform, through whatever job they are doing, they are contributing to God's work.

The priest seemed to be resigned to the fact that he may not be in Florida for long. His deployment to the Middle East or elsewhere is probably just a question of time, since Catholic chaplains in the military are fewer in number than their Protestant counterparts.

When deployed, the priest could end up celebrating Mass or hearing confessions in a military tent or from the top of a Humvee — as he frequently did in Africa.

"Wherever there is American military there will always be a chaplain," he said.

# Mail service resumes at USCCB building; anthrax precautions taken

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Mail service to and from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was operating as usual, though with new precautions as Washington post offices were inspected for anthrax.

The city's main Brentwood mail processing office remained closed Nov. 1 after inspections found anthrax spores in the building and two mail handlers who worked there died of the disease. Since then, mail sorting has been handled at other facilities in Washington and nearby Maryland.

Deliveries have resumed to all areas, including the USCCB building, that normally receive mail processed at Brentwood. Other post offices in the region also were being tested. Several showed trace amounts of anthrax spores and were briefly closed and decontaminated before reopening.

Upon the advice of the city's public health director, USCCB mailroom employees earlier in the week were encouraged to check in with Washington medical authorities and obtain antibiotics as a precaution. Employees in other departments that receive large quantities of mail were told they could consider doing the same.

Meanwhile, a half dozen USCCB employees were prescribed prophylactic antibiotics because they were in meetings in the Hart Senate building at the time an anthrax-laden letter was opened in Sen. Tom Daschle's office. None of them has reported any symptoms of the illness.

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# Catechemenate conference focuses on initiation concerning the baptized

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

BROWN SUMMIT — Father Phil Seher poured the fragrant oil luxuriantly over his palm, down his arm and onto Carol Hayner's head. Then he took her hands in his and together they smeared the oil into her hair.

Hayner, a parishioner at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Fayetteville, is already Catholic, but this demonstration of the rite of reception into the Catholic Church made her feel as if she was actually being received into the church.

"It didn't seem like role-play," Hayner said later. "I was a little nervous, and Doneata came up and massaged my back, and I realized that I really need to be more attentive to others when they go through this. I felt the weight of (Father) Phil's hands, and it reminded me that being a Christian won't be easy."

Hayner, Doneata Grisdale from St. Peter Church in Charlotte, and some 80 others were attending "Focus on Initiation: Concerning the Baptized," co-sponsored by the North American Forum on the Catechumenate (NAFC) and the Diocese of Charlotte Oct. 25-27. They had come from the dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh, N.C.; Charleston, S.C.; Nashville, Tenn.; Jackson, Miss.; and the U.S. Military Archdiocese to learn about receiving baptized Christians into the church, to understand the underlying reasons for the rites and to know when to use them. The demonstration rite, followed by Mass, concluded the three-day conference.

The Diocesan RCIA Commission spent a year preparing for this conference. Commission members are Joanna Case, chair; Patricia Cain, St. Joan of Arc, Asheville; Linda Licata, St. Paul the Apostle, Greensboro; Pat Millar, St. Leo the Great, Winston-Salem; Capuchin Father Martin Schratz, St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte; and Dr. Cris Villapando, diocesan director of faith formation, Charlotte.

"Focus on Initiation" began with an in-depth look at baptism, then switched to the already baptized who want to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. Those who have never experienced sacramental baptism in any denomination go through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) before they are baptized into the Catholic Church.

The NAFC has existed for 25 years to fully implement the RCIA into every Catholic parish, and presents programs each year in the United States and Canada. Team members conducting the program at the Summit were Father Seher, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Cincinnati, Ohio, and workshop presenter on initiation of adults and children into the Catholic Church; and Mercy Sister Sheila O'Dea, NAFC associate director and consultant in liturgical and catechetical formation in dioceses throughout the United States and Canada; and Kathy Kuczka, liturgy and music director at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and liturgist for the Atlanta Forum on the Catechumenate.

Unlike the traditional practice in many parishes, RCIA need not follow a set schedule such as start in September, baptize at Easter.

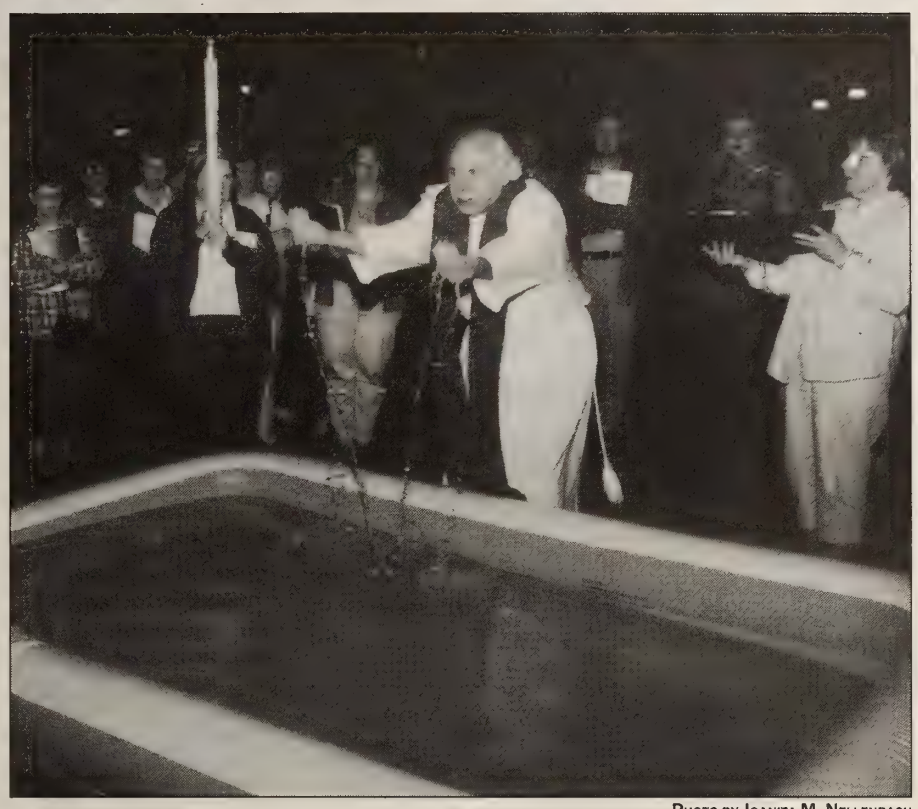


Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**To get everyone in touch with their baptisms, Father Philip Seher officiates at a baptismal rite during the "North American Forum on the Catechumenate: Concerning the Baptized."**

"The period [for RCIA] is as long as it takes, while they're continually nourished by the word of God," Father Seher said, but, "At least a year, because if we cut it down, they miss something. The word of God becomes formative. Between the rite of election and Easter the scriptures become almost like a retreat. We hear wonderful stories of God.

"We're not a club. We're apprenticing people. The disciples are apprenticing to find other disciples. It's a faith process, a conversion process. The liturgical year is a framework. This is a process about developing a relationship with Christ and the church."

"Cradle" Catholics don't remember their baptisms, but to help them get in touch with that sacrament, Sister Sheila asked everyone to close their eyes and focus on what would unlock their baptisms for them, such as their baptismal clothing, a baptismal certificate, stories the family told.

"Who were the people at your baptism?" she asked. "Feel the water. Smell the chrism. When the baptism was over, was there a party, a celebration? Stay with the memory and let it unfold."

People shared among themselves what they knew of their baptisms. Bill Tolone of St. Thomas Aquinas didn't remember his infant baptism, but he recalled that his younger brother and sister wore the same white gown that he was told he had worn. His two sons have also worn it.

Others thought of similar gowns, including an elaborate outfit made in Germany. One woman felt that her baptism had been a healing event for her family because her grandmother had died a few days before the event.

Then, as Ann Mulvaney of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fayetteville, carried the Pascal Candle, everyone processed outside to celebrate the baptismal rite around a water-filled aqua wading pool. After the rite, Father Seher invited everyone to dip their hands in the water.

The next morning, Kuczka asked what the previous evening's reflections and outdoor ceremony meant to the attendees.

"I had thought about baptism in a very superficial way," said Amy Deal of St. John Neumann in Charlotte. "I didn't remember mine, and my family never talked about it. Last night, I realized that this is something that's ongoing. It was such a sense of connection with community. I feel a deeper union with them. To me, it's not just a sacrament you have to have. I made it my own forever. It's such a gift. When I put my hand in the water, it really reinforced it."

The focus then switched to those who have been baptized in other denominations and want to be received into full communion in the Catholic Church, as well as on the different emphases for each group. Working with an uncatechized person — one who has been baptized but never practiced any faith and doesn't have much of a relationship with Christ — would be a different and usually longer process than working with a catechized person, someone who has been baptized and developed an intimate relationship with God.

"The catechized person is one with enlightened faith, who directs his or heart to God, who participates in liturgy, does apostolic activity, lives a life completely in accord with the spirit of Christ," Sister Sheila said. "It's not about how much knowledge they have, but about how they live their lives."

Catechized and uncatechized may be new terms to some, but "convert" isn't what it used to be. In the old days, a convert was anyone who joined the Catholic Church, whether or not they'd been baptized. No more. A convert is one who has never been sacramentally baptized. The team emphasized that all sacramentally baptized persons, not just Catholics, are members of the Body of Christ. Thus a person of another denomination is not "converting" but is being received into full communion in the Catholic Church.

It's all about relationship-with God and the worshiping community.

"We don't do private baptism, because, if we do, we're saying community isn't important," Father Seher said. "We

See FORUM, page 14

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**Book Review**

# This best seller owes its place to Oprah, not to real acclaim

By JOSEPH R. THOMAS
Catholic News Service

Despite sometimes-electric prose, the tension of many passages, the vivid characterizations and the human drama on display in Jonathan Franzen's novel "The Corrections" (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, $26), the book is an excruciating bore as often as not. One suspects it owes its best-seller listing as much to Oprah's influence in the marketplace as to popular acclaim by actual readers.

The premise of "The Corrections" is simple: Enid Lambert, long-suffering wife of Alfred, a bullying retired railroad executive reduced to pitiful dependency by Parkinson's disease, desperately wants to celebrate Christmas at their Midwestern home with their three children and three grandchildren after eight years of holiday traveling to Philadelphia where the host has been their oldest boy, his wife and family.

The trouble is, all of the adult principals are borderline psychopaths. Mostly devoid of human compassion and generally unlikable for one reason or another, they are governed more by self-interest and intellectual, physical and emotional appetites than by any great concern for the well-being of other members of the family, except on rare occasions. And even then the motivating factor often enough is guilt.

One exception might be Denise, the youngest child. But Denise, like the others, is an emotional wreck, having married too early, gotten a divorce, become a chef, entered into a lesbian relationship, landed a plush assignment, turned away from a sexual encounter with her employer (an encounter she openly invited), embarked on a torrid affair with his wife and then turned back to him.

The other adults are Gary, a paranoid banker and a materialist who is as bullying as his father; Gary's beautiful but spoiled wife, Caroline, who is as manipulative as Enid, the mother-in-law she detests; and Chip, who lost his college teaching position because of an affair with a student and now leads a Bohemian life as intellectually impoverished as his bank account.

To synopsize the story is to reveal the skeleton of a workable plot. But Franzen, mesmerized by his ability to conjure up bizarre if imaginative situations, appears to be more interested in literary pyrotechnics than in moving his story along at a reader-congenial pace, filling 568 pages with sometimes explosive, sometimes showoffy and sometimes dull prose. One mind-boggling sentence runs for more than 300 words.

Franzen is attempting to do two things: take you into the psyches of his characters while exposing contemporary "truths" for the open sores they really are.

Unfortunately, the psyche is a horrible place to be when Alfred is hallucinating, or when Gary is attempting to subdue his paranoia with vodka, or when Caroline is plotting to outmaneuver him, or when Chip is in the throes of some erotic imagining or Denise has surrendered to self-loathing or Enid has given herself over to self-pity or unreasonable optimism.

In spinning his frenetic web, Franzen utterly demolishes contemporary myths: sex is liberating, materialism is the essence of the good life, the political left is a bastion of integrity holding the key to reform, corporate America is all heart, life is controllable by drugs.

The book-buyer then ought not conclude that he or she is likely to come away from "The Corrections" in a feel-good mood simply because it is built around a yearning for a jolly old-fashioned family Christmas — a type of Christmas it is unlikely that this family ever experienced.

The reality is that the book deals with the disintegration of relationships within a dysfunctional family. While "corrections" do take place, no one will mistake them for a happy ending. Or a merry Christmas.

*Thomas, retired editor in chief of The Christophers and a former diocesan newspaper editor, is a frequent reviewer of books.*

# Word to Life

**November 18,** *Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*
*Cycle C Readings:*
1) Malachi 3:19-20a
Psalm 98:5-9
2) 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
3) Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

By DAN LUBY
Catholic News Service

We'd finished lunch, and now, sitting in his study, my professor asked how he could help.

Calmly I began to tell my story, but before I knew it I was gripped with powerful — and alarming — emotions. I detailed my list of frightening and discouraging woes: desperate homesickness in a foreign country, money troubles, my wife's emergency surgery, unfriendly neighbors, competitive fellow students and, most recently, professors who seemed narrow-minded and arrogant.

He listened intently, nodding most of the time, shaking his head at the worst parts.

The more I talked, the more fearful and frustrated I felt, under siege, defeated. I finished talking, breathless, near tears, convinced I should quit.

He said it sounded rough, and I nodded my head vigorously. I drank in his affirmation like a thirsty man in a desert, reinforced in my conviction that it was all just too hard, that we should go home.

He said, "But don't quit, whatever you do." Then he explained that in my litany of conflict and strife he had heard not a call to surrender but confirmation that I was doing what God was calling me to.

Patiently, he reminded me that following Jesus inevitably puts people into circumstances demanding courage and discernment. When it's all smooth sailing, he suggested, maybe we're not in the right place.

His insight gave me new perspective on my struggles and helped me recognize them as invitations to deeper faith and greater trust in the presence and power of Christ.

In Sunday's Gospel Jesus acknowledges that true discipleship brings difficult and dangerous conflicts, that fidelity to the truth will put his friends in harm's way.

But the heart of his message remains good news: His presence will sustain us through every trial; his love overcomes every threat, even death itself.

*QUESTION:*
*What circumstances of strife and anxiety might you reconsider as confirmations that you're on the right track in your walk of discipleship?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Nov. 11 - 17**

**Sunday**, 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14, 2 Thessalonians 2:16—3:5, Luke 20:27-38; **Monday (St. Josaphat)**, Wisdom 1:1-7, Luke 17:1-6; **Tuesday (St. Frances Cabrini)**, Wisdom 2:23—3:9, Luke 17:7-10; **Wednesday**, Wisdom 6:2-11, Luke 17:11-19; **Thursday (St. Albert the Great)**, Wisdom 7:22—8:1, Luke 17:20-25; **Friday (St. Margaret of Scotland)**, Wisdom 13:1-9, Luke 17:26-37; **Saturday (St. Elizabeth of Hungary)**, Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9, Luke 18:1-8

**Scripture for the week of Nov. 18 - 24**

**Sunday**, Malachi 3:19-20; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12, Luke 21:5-19; **Monday**, 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63, Luke 18:35-43; **Tuesday**, 2 Maccabees 6:18-31, Luke 19:1-10; **Wednesday (Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**, 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31, Luke 19:11-28; **Thursday (St. Cecilia, Thanksgiving Day)**, Zephaniah 3:14-15, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 5:18-20; **Friday (Sts. Clement I, Columban and Bl. Miguel Pro)**, 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59, Luke 19:45-48; **Saturday**, 1 Maccabees 6:1-13, Luke 20:27-40

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# Tales of two popes: Films chronicle papacies of John XXIII, Pius XII

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The stories of two 20th-century popes are about to be chronicled in films that are already provoking sentiments of approval and apprehension at the Vatican.

The motion-picture hero will be Pope John XXIII, whose beatification last year spurred a renewed interest in his life. Production on two Italian TV films are to begin this fall, one starring Ed Asner — TV's "Lou Grant" — and the other Bob Hoskins, perhaps best-known in the United States for his part in "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?"

Meanwhile, a big-screen movie reserves a villain's role for Pope Pius XII, whose actions during World War II have stirred acrimonious debate among Catholics and Jews. Based on the 1963 play, "The Deputy," by German playwright Rolf Hochhuth, it's being shot in Romania by Greek director Constantin Costa-Gavras.

The films reflect the huge difference in how these two popes are remembered by much of the world.

Today as when he lived, the much-beloved Pope John is known as the smiling pontiff who spoke in common language and convened the Second Vatican Council.

The austere and reserved Pope Pius XII, on the other hand, has become arguably the most controversial pontiff in history — vehemently defended by many church experts as a quiet hero, but vilified by critics for his alleged silence during the Jewish Holocaust.

The two films on Pope John will air as TV miniseries. Asner, 71, will star in a production by the Italian state television network, RAI. It's being directed by Dominique Otheniin-Girard, whose credits include "Hellborn," "The Last American Elvis" and "Halloween 5."

British actor Hoskins, 59, will appear in "The Good Pope," the film directed by Italian Ricky Tognazzi and produced by Mediaset, controlled by Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. The U.S. company Deangelis Film Production said it was co-producing the venture for English-language distribution.

Robin Williams reportedly was considered for the role of Pope John, but it went to Hoskins, who recently played the late Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev in "Enemy at the Gates." The screenplay for the Mediaset film series was written by a team that included Marco Roncalli, a relative of the late pope. It focuses on the last year of the pope's life.

A third Italian production on Pope John also was rumored to be in the hopper — prompting one media critic to call the late pontiff an "infallible" movie subject.

The filming of "Eyewitness" — the working title of the film based on "The Deputy" — has raised painful memories for the Vatican. Church historians say Pope Pius was generally praised by Jewish groups for his conduct during World War II until the appearance of "The Deputy," 18 years after the war ended.

The play, which was translated into English and sent to Broadway, portrayed Pope Pius — the deputy, or vicar, of Christ — as too cowardly and too concerned with Vatican diplomacy to stand his moral ground against Hitler and help stop the slaughter of Jews by the Nazis.

The play was denounced by church leaders as an "atrocious calumny" and criticized by mainstream media as too harsh on the pope, and in rebuttal one Jewish historian wrote that as many as 800,000 Jews had been saved because of the pope's leadership and behind-the-scenes efforts. Nevertheless, "The Deputy" has left a lasting mark on the ongoing debate.

Costa-Gavras, best known for political films like "Z" and "Missing," filmed some of the scenes in Rome's Jewish ghetto, where more than 1,000 Jews were rounded for deportation by Nazi soldiers in 1943.

He has shot most of the film in Romania, however, because the buildings there still look a lot like wartime cities in Germany. For some scenes that take place in the Vatican, he used rooms in the former palace of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Costa-Gavras ended up using relatively unknown German and Romanian actors, though Dustin Hoffman was rumored to have been considered for the part of a cardinal who tries to convince the pope to condemn the Holocaust.

The playwright Hochhuth, 70, wanted Peter Ustinov for that part. And he's apparently not happy with the way Costa-Gavras is shooting the movie, either.

"I've been completely cut out of the production process. The screenplay censors some exchanges I think are of central importance," he said in an interview with the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera earlier this year.

The Vatican has a small movie theater where the pope and other church officials are sometimes treated to advance showings of films. The betting is that the productions on Pope John will be previewed with great fanfare.

But the cinema adaptation of "The Deputy" probably will be viewed in private, by church officials preparing once again to defend the memory of Pope Pius.

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CNS photo from Walt Disney Pictures

**"Monsters, Inc."**
**Monsters Mike Wazowski and James P. Sullivan run a scare factory in the city of Monstropolis in the animated movie "Monsters, Inc." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.**

# Movie Capsule Reviews

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — *Following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

**"Monsters, Inc."(Disney)**

Delightful animated comedy about a furry, spotted beast (voiced by John Goodman) and his green, one-eyed friend (voiced by Billy Crystal) who gather the screams of young children to power their monster world and accidentally transport a little girl (voiced by Mary Gibbs) back to their realm. As directed by Pete Docter, the animation is superb but the story, though imaginative, doesn't take full advantage of the concept of things that go bump in the night. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

**"Bones" (New Line)**

Repellent slasher drama in which a gangster (Snoop Dogg) murdered 20 years ago returns from the dead to exact revenge on his killers. Director Ernest Dickerson tacks grisly mayhem onto a very thin plot that attempts to make social commentary about ghettos and those who have left them. Repeated violence with gross, bloody imagery, brief drug abuse, fleeting nudity and recurring rough language and profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Domestic Disturbance" (Paramount)**

Tautly paced thriller in which a divorced father (John Travolta) must protect his 12-year-old son (Matt O'Leary) from his dangerous new stepfather (Vince Vaughn) whom the son saw commit murder. Though the run-of-the-mill narrative has its flaws, director Harold Becker's campy film keeps the action moving by relying on the endangered-child angle and a chilling music score. Some violence, a fleeting sexual reference and intermittent profanity with brief crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Behind scenes, God guides human history, pope says at audience

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although he often works "behind the scenes," God continues to guide human history, to protect those he created and to provide for their salvation, Pope John Paul II said.

"He is the mysterious and invisible director who respects the freedom of his creatures but, at the same time, holds in his hands the thread of events in the world," the pope said Oct. 31 at his weekly general audience.

At the audience in St. Peter's Square, the pope focused his remarks on a canticle from Isaiah used in the Liturgy of the Hours.

While the canticle of praise opens with the words, "Truly you are a hidden God," it also underlines God's presence in the world by looking at what he has created and what he has done for his people.

The canticle rightly reflects the fact that God cannot be seen, the pope said.

"One can only contemplate his presence in the universe, almost following his footsteps and prostrating oneself in adoration and praise," he said.

The passage from Isaiah focuses particularly on the evidence of God's existence experienced by Israelites repeatedly protected and freed from oppression, the pope said.

When, in the words of Isaiah, God says, "Turn to me and be safe, all you ends of the earth," the pope said, the canticle is showing that God's special love for the Israelites is not exclusive, but rather "is an act of love which all humanity is destined to benefit from."

In the same way, he said, God's special relationship with the followers of Christ in the church "is not a privilege which 'closes' and 'excludes,' but is a sign and instrument of his universal love."

The "universalistic perspective" of the canticle calls believers to continue their praise of God throughout the day, announcing to the world that "God has manifest himself in Jesus as savior of the world."

### Pope marks All Saints, All Souls by praying for victims of violence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As he marked the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, Pope John Paul II offered special prayers for the victims of recent violence and for all those who have been killed for their faith in Christ. Reciting the midday Angelus Nov. 1, the feast of All Saints, the pope said the commemoration, together with the Nov. 2 feast of All Souls, calls Christians to reflect on the meaning of life and death, highlighting the call to holiness and God's offer of eternal happiness. "The heavenly Father does not resign himself to the loss of any of his children, but wants them all to be with him, holy and immaculate in love," the pope said.

### The story of the man who went to church and didn't pray

Not long ago, exactly on Oct. 27-28, 2001, the story of the Pharisee and the Publican was read again during the weekend, and again I found new insight in the fascinating story of the two prayers uttered by the two men.

The prayers are carefully recorded by St. Luke (18:9-14). The Pharisee prays: "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous.... I fast twice a week, I pay tithes on all I get." There is nothing wrong with this prayer, except when the Pharisee spoils the beautiful prayer by saying "I am not like everyone else.... I am not like the tax collector."

The Publican's prayer is genuine, unspoiled. He simply says: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." What we call the prayer of the Pharisee and the Publican should have the following title: "The two men went to church to pray; one did not, the other did."

Let us reflect on this story, which may be our story sometimes. Both men going to pray, have good intentions — and good intentions alone get us nowhere. Somebody even said that hell is full of good intentions and bad actions. How come two people pray, yet one is condemned, while the other is reconciled? Very simple: One truly prayed, the other did not. The Pharisee speaks the language of self-worth. He thinks of himself as the center, not God. He lists all his virtues and more, and he also thanks God with pride for his goodness, so he actually thanks himself. He is beautifully engaged in an act of self-adoration, and he does it very well. He says "I Am" constantly. Is there an identity crisis, perhaps?

The Holy Trinity, for the Pharisee, was "Me, Myself and I." Maybe it's time for us to switch from the fiction world to the real world. There is a story about a famous singer, well known in California. He was spending a few days of vacation with his wife and four children. On one of those days it was raining, and they were tired of staying inside, so they decided to go to the movies. When they arrived at the movie theater, the lights were on, and there were about 10 people already seated. When the singer and his family appeared, all 10 jumped to their feet and applauded loudly. The singer was thrilled to be recognized so far away from California. A man came over and shook his hand, and the singer said, "I am just amazed that you should recognize me so far away from home." "Recognize you?" said the man, "I haven't a clue who you are. All I know is that the manager of the movie house would not show the film unless six more people showed up."

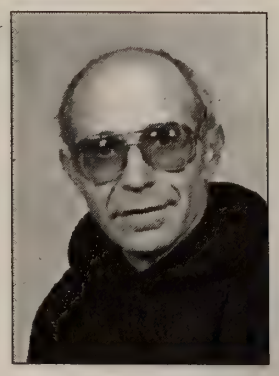
Continuing the reflection on the vanity of the Pharisee and the sincerity of the Publican, we notice that the prayer of the Publican speaks the language of humility and love. God is the center and the Publican lists his sins rather than his virtues. He says "You are" rather than "I am." The powerful teaching of Jesus is very compelling and unequivocal: True prayer must be humble; true humility must be prayerful.

A classic work on the subject is St. Bernard's "Steps of Humility and Pride." He says that the pursuit of truth leads in three directions and ends in three different places. If we pursue the truth of God far enough, we will end up in contemplation and prayer. If we pursue the truth about our neighbor far enough, we end up in compassion and understanding. If we pursue the truth about ourselves far enough, we will end up in humility and love.

It may not be prudent and wise to blow our own ego to the point of being empty and vain. A popular saying goes: "If the fish did not open his mouth, he would not have been caught." Maybe the story of the frog who wanted to fly illustrates this truth. There was a frog who wanted to spend the winter in Florida and had no means of quick transportation, but he had some friends in the geese family who were very well equipped for the flight. He, then, devised this plan. He got a long rope and had his geese buddies each hold one end of the rope in their beaks. Then he held on to the middle of the rope tightly with his strong jaws, and away they went. It worked, and it was a pleasant flight — the only way to fly for a frog — until a spectator on the ground looked up and saw the strange spectacle, and said: "My goodness, whoever had that idea must be a genius." The frog unable to restrain the impulse to take credit, opened his mouth and said "I" — and that was the end of the trip.

*Father Aurilia is pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.*

## Guest Column



FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap
Guest Columnist



## On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

### If pastors really did rule the parish ...

I suspect there comes a time in almost every pastor's tour of duty when he asks himself, "Hey, dude, do you run this parish or not?"

The problem, of course, is that a pastor is the canonical head cheese of a parish yet, as popular convention has it, parishes are a mishmash of shared authority in which parish councils, parish finance committees, school boards, staff gatherings and meetings at special tables during coffee and donuts after Mass make decisions for the parish in what is known as "a consensus" (from the Greek "con" meaning "do it my way" and "sensus" meaning "over my dead body").

Thus, the pastor often becomes less like the captain of a ship able to navigate his parish with clear and inspired authority and more like a quarterback who has called a play in the huddle but soon finds himself running backward — chased by blitzing linebackers who were not part of the huddle. Because, it seems, if pastors really did rule the parish:

1) Anyone walking out of church straight from the Communion line would receive a small, but significant, electrical shock when passing through the door.

2) Engaged couples would schedule marriage preparation before scheduling their caterer and band.

3) There would be telephone breathalyzers for anyone calling after 8 p.m. for "counseling."

4) The question, "Does the bishop know about this?" would be banned.

5) "Sorry, no homily today because I haven't slept in three days," would be quite acceptable.

6) Parish assessments from the chancery would be based on how many people raised their hands when asked, "Who has extra money they want to drop by the rectory after Mass?"

7) People would beg for second collections.

8) Anyone in the parish could recite the Ten Commandments.

9) Waving would be considered as good or better than actually attending a group's meeting.

10) During meetings it would be perfectly acceptable to scream, "If Jesus were here right now, he'd be so nauseated!"

11) It would be liturgically permissible to pause during Mass and ask people wearing radio earphones to announce playoff game scores.

12) Mass times would be based on the pastor's biorhythms.

13) Closing one's door, putting one's feet on the desk and shutting one's eyes would count as exercise.

14) E-mail confessions would be re-opened for discussion.

15) Parishioners would make prayer a much clearer priority than a crying room.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Hold on to hope

We know it here as The Prayer of The Christophers; you might think of it as the Prayer of St. Francis. It's the one that begins, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon ...."

A prayer of breathtaking beauty and simplicity under any circumstances, it seems especially appropriate in this strange and unsettled time that has followed Sept. 11. Not only is there comfort in its promise; its measured cadence reminds us of the things that really matter, even in the darkest days of our lives.

Consider, for example, the remaining four lines of the first stanza that was started above: "Where there is doubt, (let me sow) faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light, and where there is sadness, joy."

Darkness and fear have surely colored these autumn weeks, and so has despair. The light of faith will always overcome fear, and as the prayer gently recalls for us, the answer to despair is hope.

As people of the Judeo-Christian tradition, we come by our hope quite naturally. It is ingrained throughout Scripture, either explicitly (as in Psalm 119, verse 49: "Remember Your word to Your servant, in which you have made me hope") or by inference. All of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, insist that divine guidance never fails, and that once we learn to follow God's way we can face life with confidence, courage and the sure hope of God's reward.

St. Paul wrote often of the virtue of hope, and even if he assigned a greater value to that of love (1 Corinthians 13:13), he continually reminded his far-flung faithful of the role of hope in their lives — and ours. "Hope does not disappoint us," he wrote, "because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit." (Romans 5:5). And again: "Continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel." (Colossians 1:23)

Those last lines, particularly, might have been written for these latter days of the year 2001. No question about it; these are times when many are gripped by despair — and heaven knows there is much to be desperate about. But as St. Paul himself advises, let's not allow ourselves to be shaken from our hope. It is through hope, after all, that we have the confident expectation that if we hold on — persevere, endure — and trust in God, we will get through the darkest times.

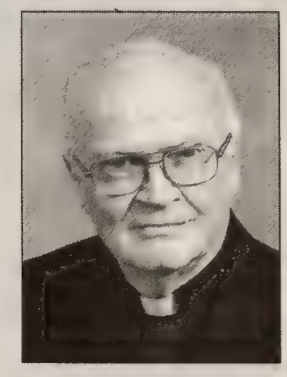
Many years ago Maryknoll Father James Keller, the founder of The Christophers, came up with a little essay on hope that's as inspiring today as the day it was written.

"Hope looks for the good in people instead of harping on the worst," it begins. "Hope opens doors where despair closes them. Hope discovers what can be done instead of grumbling about what cannot. . . . Hope is a good loser because it has the divine assurance of final victory."

Father Keller's thoughts on hope are concise enough to fit on one of our Christopher bookmarks (the reverse side contains similar reflections on "holiness" by another former Christopher director, Father John Catoir).

Write to me at 12 E. 48th St., New York, NY 10017, if you'd like one sent to you free. I'll be sure that it's on the way to you as soon as possible. In the meantime, hold on to hope. It's a God-given gift just made for our troubled times.

# Looking Around



FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ
CNS COLUMNIST

### Any Day Can Be Veterans Day

They call Nov. 11 Remembrance Day in Canada, and we call it Veterans Day in the United States. I just made it under the wire to claim a place in the age cohort that wore the uniform in World War II, the crowd Tom Brokaw calls "The Greatest Generation."

I turned 18 in May 1945, graduated from high school in June and went into the Army in July. That's the way it was in those years from 1941-45 for young men, boys really, who chose not to enlist in the Navy, Coast Guard or Marines before turning 18 and took their chances on the draft.

The war ended while I was in Georgia in basic infantry training. Combat veterans returned home in the fall of '45, and kids like me went overseas to form the Army of Occupation. A year later I was out of the Army and into college on the G.I. Bill of Rights.

Now I'm the beneficiary of another Veterans' benefit: free prescription drugs from the pharmacy at the Veterans Affairs Hospital here in Washington. My Veterans Universal Access Identification card opens the door to no-fee medical care.

I applied because several friends, all veterans, told me about the prescription-drug benefit. Lipitor, I noticed, reduces both cholesterol and accumulated cash.

A couple of funny things happened on my way to the pharmacy.

First, as I was filling out the necessary forms to establish my eligibility, the newspapers reported a further delay in getting approval for a World War II Veterans Memorial in Washington. Not an encouraging signal.

The day after I submitted my application, I received a call from Veterans Affairs telling me they could find no record of my military service. I faxed them a copy of my official discharge papers.

I eventually got an appointment at the VA Hospital and found myself in the "hurry-up-and-wait" environment familiar to anyone who ever wore the uniform. I experienced a two-hour wait for the physician who would write the prescription; a two-hour wait to have blood drawn; an hour wait for the drug. Plenty of time to observe many outpatient veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and other eras.

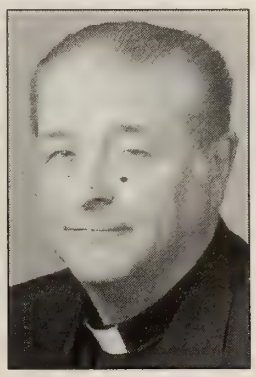
There was unfailing courtesy on the part of the providers, and respect and expressions of gratitude at every turn on the part of the veterans.

I celebrated a Memorial Mass for an 83-year-old decorated World War II veteran who saw action in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and France, and later had a distinguished career in business. A wonderful family gathered to mourn his passing. He died in the VA Hospital in Iowa City.

In the homily I mentioned the form letter he and I (and all honorably discharged veterans of that era) received from President Harry Truman extending heartfelt thanks from a grateful nation: "Because you demonstrated fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment ..., we now look to you for leadership and example in further exalting our country in peace." Robert Palma had fulfilled Truman's hopes.

Regrettably, it hasn't worked that way for all vets. Some 600,000 of them are homeless in America today. This grateful nation has to give them more than thanks.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### The Fate of Suicide Bombers

*Q. How does God deal with suicide bombers who believe they will go to "paradise" and be with Allah? How can they go to hell if they don't even believe in it? For that matter, how can anyone go to hell who doesn't believe in it? Sometimes I think hell is only for bad Catholics.*

A. You are one of many who have written to me since Sept. 11 asking basically the same question. I am surely not qualified to explain Islamic beliefs on the subject, but Catholic teaching has some interesting and valuable things to say about it.

Contrary to the assumptions of many, including even to this day a fair number of Catholics, the Catholic Church holds that all persons who sincerely attempt to follow the dictates of their conscience, what they believe to be right and good, are saved.

This concept is by now well entrenched in church teaching. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says it clearly: "Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart and, moved by grace, try in their actions to do his will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience — these too may achieve eternal salvation" (No. 847, quoting the Vatican Council II Constitution on the Church).

Pope John Paul II elaborated on this in his message for the World Day of Peace, Jan. 1, 1999. Speaking about religious freedom, he concluded, "People are obliged to follow their conscience in all circumstances and cannot be forced to act against it."

All this assumes, of course, for all human beings whatever their culture or background, a diligent and honest attempt to inform one's conscience with all the grace and wisdom possible, and then to live one's life in accord with what is seen as "religious duty," however the individual sees that duty.

Some will claim, of course, that no human being could honestly envision as morally good the inhuman and appalling acts of cruelty we experienced in our country on that day — acts which, incidentally, are perpetrated in countless other nations of our world to this hour by people other than Muslims.

More than a few Americans, among them religious leaders, have publicly proclaimed that all the dead terrorists are burning in hell, and those still alive will do so. Arrogance like this is unworthy of any thoughtful human being, let alone any Christian.

Judgments like this about the condition and fate of other people's souls are wholly beyond our reach. The pretense of having sufficient knowledge and wisdom to make such judgments invades territory that belongs to God alone.

God created all of us, including the terrorists, out of love. And Jesus, as St. Paul declares, died for each of us. It is, therefore, the worst sort of blasphemy to dare to tell God which of his children he will reject or to tell Jesus which of those for whom he died must be condemned.

Does this answer your question? To be sure, whether an individual explicitly believes in hell or not, someone of any or no religion is capable of rejecting God and his law by a deliberate, radical, eternal choice of evil over good. But that is not the whole story.

We must also confront our complete ignorance of how God's grace and truth may have transformed a person, not only during his or her life, but also in the last moments. We believe God performs incredible miracles of mercy. Who knows which ones took place here?

We don't know and will never know in this life. But it is with these instincts of faith and hope, aware that we all desperately need his mercy, that the church has us pray, just after the consecration at Mass, that God will bring our deceased "brothers and sisters, and all the departed," all people in the world who have died, into the light of his presence.

# N.C. seen as leader in death-penalty moratorium movement

By JOHN STRANGE
NC Catholic

RALEIGH (CNS) — One of the reasons that the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty came to North Carolina for its 25th anniversary national conference in October was because the state has become a progressive leader in the moratorium movement, said David Elliot, the group's communications director.

"North Carolina is the story," Elliot told the NC Catholic, newspaper of the Raleigh Diocese. "North Carolina is the only state that has seen 14 towns and cities pass moratorium resolutions."

North Carolina also received national recognition recently when it passed a law prohibiting the execution of the mentally retarded, he said.

"Progressive isn't a word I would use" to describe North Carolina with regard to the death penalty, said Stephen Dear, a Catholic who is executive director of North Carolina's People of Faith Against the Death Penalty. But Dear said that his state is far ahead of many of the 38 states that execute.

His organization has 14 town and city councils on the record for a death penalty moratorium, and Dear said that by the end of next year he expects to have 30 more. He also hopes to add 50,000 signatures to the 22,000 he already has on a petition for a moratorium.

Considering that executions have been carried out in North Carolina for "just shy of 400 years," if one considers colonial times, Dear said, the state has come a long way, indeed.

"Great things are happening in North Carolina," he told NC Catholic. "I'm proud of our state, and I'm proud of the religious leadership, and particularly the leadership the Roman Catholic community has presented in calling for a moratorium."

Since 1976, when the death penalty was reinstated in the United States, North Carolina has executed 20 inmates, most of them in the last four years.

Dear said that, when he began working for the People of Faith Against the Death Penalty four years ago, there had been only seven or eight executions.

"But things are changing to our side of the equation," he said, "and that's what is so hopeful."

Jane Henderson, executive director of Equal Justice USA, said during the conference that North Carolina has proven that "grass-roots activists can really make a change. Some day ... there will be a moratorium, and ultimately abolition in North Carolina."

Elliot said that only Maryland, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, California, and North Carolina have working moratorium movements. The other states, he said, "aren't there yet."

Even in Texas, where a third of all U.S. executions take place, moratorium is becoming "a good idea in general," said Bee Morehead of Texas Impact.

Morehead said Texas has become known as the home of "ugly death-penalty cases," such as when a court-appointed defense attorney slept through most of the trial, or when a man who spent 12 years of a life sentence in prison was released when it was discovered he did not commit the crime. The man pled guilty to murder on the advice of his attorney to avoid death row.

"And those cases bothered even the average Texan," Morehead said.

Conference participants said the events of Sept. 11 have placed them and their cause in a "new environment," but that their work against capital punishment must not stall.

"Innocent people are still being put to death," said Peter Loge, director of the national Justice Project. "That didn't change."

Loge said that the American justice system, especially when it comes to the death penalty, remains fatally flawed. "The machine we have constructed is desperately, desperately broken," he said.

But he and other activists said that many items in federal and state legislation have been put on the back burner.

The Innocence Protection Act, for example, which would require DNA testing and "enforceable standards for defense counsel," has wide bipartisan support in the Senate, Loge said, and the support of U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

But Loge said Leahy and his staff have been working against anti-terrorism legislation that he said overreaches and curtails some civil liberties. "Legislation isn't moving because everybody is really focused on something else," he said.

He said that calls to make terrorism a capital offense are empty and ineffective. For terrorists who crash planes into buildings and kill thousands, he said, "the death penalty is not going to mean a lot."

In fact, terrorists are often seeking "martyrdom," he said, and "executing them is going to complete their mission."

Morehead of Texas Impact said that the anti-death penalty message has become a hard sell since the events of Sept. 11.

But she said that she and her organization will continue to "present general information about the criminal justice system and try to bring people back to the situation."

She also will remind people, she said, that "terrorists are pro-death."

# Catechetical Forum, from page 9

say, 'Mary has been richly formed in the Baptist tradition and for whatever reason God is calling her to the Catholic Church.' How do we mess that up? We say, 'Mary is converting from the Baptist church after years of apostasy.'"

"If a person is baptized in another Christian community, we develop ecumenical sensitivity," Sister Sheila said. "Their formation is mystagogical (post-baptismal). Ecumenical sensitivity means that we don't say that person is a convert to Catholicism. We accept the baptism of all who are baptized by water and the Trinitarian formula ["In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit"]. Have we stopped saying that people belong to other faiths? Other Christians are our Christian brothers and sisters.

"The ... process is apprenticeship into a way of life. Some may need a long time for this to mature. Reception takes place when a person is ready. The Rite of Reception is not tied to the Easter vigil. The sacramentally baptized person [of another denomination] is already incorporated into the Body of Christ. The apprenticeship is their being nurtured so they can join us at the table."

That apprenticeship also involves the candidate getting to know the community, to find out how the community members live their lives and what their relationships are with Christ, and how they are Christ to others.

Carla Steiner of St. Paul the Apostle in Greensboro told how her daughter, Joanna, 31, but mentally 9 years old, is often Christ to her.

"When she brings something up to me, she begins as if she knows what I'm talking about," Steiner said. "If I can't figure it out, I have to ask her questions in a way that doesn't turn her off. I have to really listen to her, which sometimes takes a great deal of patience. This has taught me that everyone deserves to be listened to. She has been Christ for me when I look at her generosity. She never expects anything in return. She says she will live with me as long as I need her. She's been a true gift in many ways."

The culmination for the fully catechized is the rite of reception into the Catholic Church, shown in the demonstration rite in which Carol Hayner was "received." Franciscan Father Hilary Brzezinski was also received and was as moved as Hayner had been.

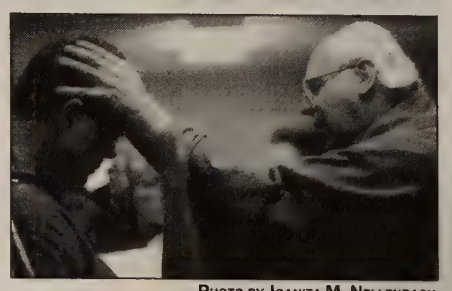


Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**During role-play to show how the rite of reception into the Catholic Church should be conducted, Father Phil Seher anoints Franciscan Father Father Hilary Brzezinsky, who is portraying a person of another denomination being received into the church.**

"For me it was an experience of prayer," he said. "It wasn't role-playing. I've envied the people I've received into the church because I haven't had that experience."

He liked "the abundance, the richness" of the oil, which was not real chrism but olive oil with Kuczka's perfume added, saying it reminded him that "the experience of being a Christian can be messy."

During his sermon, Father Seher talked about how all Christians, whatever denomination, are united in the Body of Christ. The Catholic Church's rite of reception includes this prayer: "For the Church [Communion] in which N. was baptized and received his/her formation, that it may always grow in knowledge of Christ and proclaim him more effectively, we pray to the Lord."

"I really liked what Phil said about already being united," Father Brzezinski said. "That's sort of a new thought for a lot of us. That will have to grow over time. It's very challenging and will take some revisioning and rethinking. I thought it was good to hear our churches of origin prayed for. That was new for me. It makes a new light even brighter about Christian unity. I remember a Jesuit professor of mine saying that unity is in our love for each other."


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# World Community Day service focuses on debt forgiveness

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — Jews in biblical Israel celebrated a jubilee every 50 years by releasing all Hebrew slaves and restoring alienated lands to their former owners. By doing this, they hoped to maintain a fair distribution of wealth and make sure that no Jew remained in perpetual servitude or poverty.

The local unit of Church Women United (CWU) commemorated this celebration with "Sound the Shofar: Jubilee! Forgive All Debts, Set People Free!" — a World Community Day worship service on Nov. 2 at Corinth Reformed United Church of Christ. The evening service began with the traditional sounding of the shofar, a ram's-horn trumpet that ancient Hebrews blew during religious observances.

The worship service included reminders of the countries and the people who suffer because of international debt and prayers for forgiveness of that debt. The Hispanic choir from St. Aloysius Catholic Church sang a hymn in Spanish to remember Latin American countries; a traditional South African song came later, accompanied by the playing of a djembe, an African drum.

The Rev. SuZanne Seavey, assistant rector at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, talked about forgiveness during her sermon. "We look at sin and debt as something people must have earned for themselves," she said, but sometime during each of our lives, "no matter what we do, no matter how hard we try, we can't get out from under some sin, some debt we have.



PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

**Helen Gitlin, at left, a volunteer for Unique World Gifts, shows some handcrafted instruments to Suzanne Hambrick at the reception following the World Community Day service.**

"How do we forgive others, and how do they forgive us? It's not a simple matter. The world is only changed when every person in the world is changed. The world is changed when even one person is changed.

"I ask you tonight to call to mind the people, the events in your own lives that need God's light of forgiveness on them, to experience the freedom from the bondage that we are all held in by our sins. It's not just about money but about people because it crushes the spirit of people."

Intercessory prayers gave examples of individuals in Africa, Asia and Latin America who are suffering deficiencies in health services and education because of this debt or who see their countries natural resources destroyed as their governments convert land into other types of businesses.

The worship bulletin, produced by the national CWU, gave participants suggestions for what they could do individually to help and asked that people remind their elected representatives to fully fund the debt relief plan that was enacted in 1999.

Women from more than 15 area churches prepared and participated in the service. Carole Marmorato of St. Aloysius chaired the planning committee. Ada Smith, choir director of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, led the South African song, accompanied by her son Adrian, who played the djembe, and Peter Corneliussen of Corinth, who directed the music at the service and played the organ and piano.

Dennis Jones, president of Temple Beth Shalom synagogue, sounded the shofar at the beginning and end of the service.

A reception followed the service, during which Unique World Gifts, a nonprofit store in Hickory, displayed handcrafted items from the Third-World. Volunteers and churches in the area operate the store to help provide income to the people producing the items.

The local CWU unit is planning a World Day of Prayer service at St. Luke United Methodist Church on March 1, 2002.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY 2001

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UNITY IN Diversity

# Deacon tells of faith, shares ministry through writing

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

EDEN — Rev. Mr. Jerry Potkay's father was a king. No one else in Connecticut or in any of the Northeastern states shipped and imported as many watermelons as the senior Potkay, which earned him the title, the "King of New England." During his high school years, Potkay assisted his father with the family fruit and vegetable wholesale business and helped the workers unload the summertime fruit.

Potkay grew up on the Atlantic coast in the midst of watermelons, hurricanes and storms, World War II air raids and Catholics during the 1940s and '50s. After graduating from high school, he embarked on a spiritual journey. He decided to enter the seminary because of a long-standing dedication to his faith and the need to explore his vocation.

"Because of required weekly confessions as a child and my religious background, I was very close to God and really interested in finding out more about my faith," said Rev. Mr. Potkay.

However, he left the seminary after two years and entered a Trappist monastery in Massachusetts for two months. "I was looking for something else in the monastery and didn't find it there either," he said. "It wasn't what I had anticipated."

He enlisted in the Marines in 1961 but found himself in an environment similar to the seminary and monastery. "It was another regimented lifestyle, and I had to do everything accordingly," he said. However, he remained close to his faith as an altar server. "The Marine chaplain always noticed that I was trying to get to Mass on time, so he asked me on the spot (to serve at Mass)."

His life's journey took an unexpected turn during the week he was discharged. During a visit with relatives back in his home state, he was asked to take Carol, a neighbor, out on a date. The beachside conversation led to a marriage proposal two days later, a four-month engagement, and marriage in 1964. "He swept me off my feet," said Mrs. Potkay with a little laugh.

Potkay worked as a machine operator and machinist at Remington Arms, an ammunition company, and became a mechanical technician for an automatic industrial sewing machine company. At the suggestion of an instructor at the Bullard Havens Vocational Technical (Vo-Tech) School, where he apprenticed, Potkay began teaching technical subjects at the school while taking night classes at Central Connecticut State College. After 10 years of juggling classes and work, he earned his bachelor's degree.

During this time, he also began his ministerial work by serving as lector, parish council secretary and president, and in other church positions. Word of the diaconate began to spread in his diocese, and his parish's assistant pastor asked if he wanted to apply. Although he was not interested at first, a year later he began attending one of the formation classes on church history. Even though he had not officially signed up for the class or the program, he earned an A.

"Over the year, I figured it was where I belonged, and everything had worked out the way it should," Rev. Mr. Potkay said. "I was only there to do the work God wanted me to do. It drew me closer to God, and I gained an insight on people as I took the courses."

After being ordained in 1983, the desire for continuing education was strong in Rev. Mr. Potkay, so he entered graduate school and earned his master's degree in biblical studies in January 1990. He continued to teach for 24 years in vo-tech schools in Connecticut before moving to North Carolina.



Mrs. Potkay had a sister living in the state, and the couple felt they needed a change. Still, it was difficult to leave their home, and Mrs. Potkay cried for a year before she adjusted to their new surroundings and parish, St. Joseph of the Hills.

Rev. Mr. Potkay could not shake his education bug and started teaching high school math. Although he had to adjust, he says it was a positive experience. "It was a good way to get acquainted with African-American people, and I was really able to understand people of all races."

He has worked with RCIA, marriage preparation, and sick and shut-in visits at his parish. Rev. Mr. Potkay said that his work with disabled children has been one of his most rewarding experiences because he was able to watch the children develop and learn to perform simple tasks that others take for granted. He also taught technology at a middle school and religion at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School.

Rev. Mr. Potkay has also been writing articles for newspapers in Eden and Greensboro and recently began working as a correspondent for The Catholic News & Herald. He considers his writing to be another ministry and a way to supply information to those who are not receiving it.

He said that people need to be continually informed about the diaconate because he finds that many people still do not know what a deacon is. Through his various ministries, he hopes to educate people as much as possible about Catholicism.

"I will try to keep doing everything I can to do the work of God to the best of my ability," said the father of five and grandfather of 14. "I will only work through prayer, and I want to give everyone a positive message. If we all can continue to do that, then we will be fine."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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# Pope encourages U.S. Catholics to continue promoting understanding

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II encouraged U.S. Catholics to continue their tradition of promoting understanding, dialogue and respect among religions.

Dialogue, he said, is essential for ensuring that "the name of the one God become increasingly what it is: a name for peace and a summons to peace."

The pope made his comments Nov. 6 during an evening meeting with about 90 staff members, trustees and donors to the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, which opened in Washington in March.

The center, which includes a museum with interactive exhibits and a conference center, is designed to promote Catholic faith and values, dialogue and reflection on how faith and culture can impact each other.

"The tragic events which have shaken the international community in the past two months have made us all aware once more of the fragility of peace and the need to build a culture of respectful dialogue and cooperation between all the members of the human family," the pope told the group.

"I am confident that the Catholic community in the United States will continue to uphold the value of understanding and dialogue among the followers of the world's religions," he said.

Pope John Paul said the Catholic Church's commitment to dialogue is inspired by its conviction that the Gospel message has "the power to enlighten all cultures and to act as a saving leaven of unity and peace for all humanity."

As communities and nations become marked by a growing religious and cultural pluralism, he said, it becomes more and more necessary to promote dialogue, respect and understanding.

Pope John Paul thanked those involved in the Washington center named in his honor for contributing to Catholic dialogue with other religions and cultures and for "making the church and her teachings more widely known."

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The Catholic
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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

November 16, 2001
Volume 11 ▾ Number 10

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Abraham, our common ancestor, teaches all of us, Christians, Jews and Muslims, to follow this way of mercy and love.

– Pope John Paul II
Address in Lisbon, May 1982

# Diocesan faithful set ablaze by Fire in the Mountains 2001

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

LAKE JUNALUSKA — Life on the edge isn't always reality TV programming. On Nov. 10 it was "Living on the Edge: The Challenge of Spirituality" at Fire in the Mountains 2001.

The three speakers — Bishop William G. Curlin, Father Louis Cameli and Dr. Cris Villapando, diocesan director of faith formation programs — talked about living on the edge, whether spiritually or physically. It's a challenge that asks people to stop living life in the same old way. The first challenge is to learn more about the spiritual life, which is why the more than 225 attendees were at Lake Junaluska for the eighth annual Fire in the Mountains.

"You have created a tradition," Villapando said. "This is (one of) the largest gatherings in the diocese."

Following the events of Sept. 11, when it's more difficult than ever for some people to forgive, Bishop Curlin talked about a priests' retreat he gave 24 years ago on Nov. 10 at Dachau, the former Nazi concentration camp. During the retreat, a priest approached Bishop Curlin and said that he had been a prisoner, tagged with a yellow cross for Catholic priests in the camp and crippled by a gunshot wound from a guard.

When the camp was liberated, the guard begged the priest to help him. When asked by Allied soldiers if the guard had committed atrocities, the priest did not tell of what happened. Years later on a street, he saw the former guard coming toward him with recognition and fear in his face. Instead of public condemnation, the priest embraced the man and said, "Peace be with you, brother." He told Bishop Curlin, "I was free of Dachau then."

"Peace on earth has to consist of more than peace treaties," Bishop Curlin said. "Peace comes when we live the life of Christ. Don't just tell the world about Jesus; live the life of Jesus. I hope that you pray with your heart. The way we say 'amen,' the way we genuflect, reveals what's in our hearts."

Father Cameli also challenged those present to look into their hearts by understanding themselves in light of their Catholic faith in the context of Sept. 11, understanding the world and understanding Christian anthropology.

"What's the response to this (Sept. 11)?" Father Cameli asked. "What do we tell the kids? There are certain psychological helps. We need the great leadership of our president and others. We need the armed forces. There are lots of levels of response, but for us there's another level. What does this mean with regard to our faith? One of the things that was damaged on Sept. 11 was our faith in other people.

SEE FIRE, PAGE 10

# Celebrating the church in the African diaspora



PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**Members of the St. Benedict the Moor Choir, Winston-Salem, are pictured from left to right: first row Catherine Franklin, Mary Turner; second row Esther Rockette and Joyce Brooks.**

BY REV. MR.GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — It's a cause for celebration — the church alive in the African diaspora.

Groups joined forces Nov. 11 to celebrate just that. Those participating were Thea House, the Catholic campus ministries at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical University (NC A&T) and Bennett College joined forces with the St. Benedict the Moor Choir from Winston-Salem, the Ladies Friendship Club of St. Mary Church, Greensboro, and St. Pius X Church, Greensboro.

The African diaspora refers to the same type of dispersion that forced the Jews to leave their homeland, first when the Assyrians conquered Israel in 722 B.C. and then when Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar deported the Judeans in 597 and 586 B.C.

The slave trade dispersed Africans throughout the world, but people of African descent today are searching out and finding their roots in their former homelands. They, too, are trying to maintain contact with that heritage and their homeland by assisting their brothers and sisters still in Africa with financial aid and by reviving the proud culture and symbolism of the past.

At the Nov. 11 celebration, John Agebe, attired in classic African garb, gave the gathering call, stressing that the beginning of wisdom is to know who you are. He then led the congregation to the knowledge that the "world is our village." This was followed by the recognition and seating of elders; Alberta Hairston, NC A&T campus minister, led the call to worship.

Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor of the Charlotte Diocese, celebrated the Eucharist. Father Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X, concelebrated, with Rev. Mr. Ronald Steinkamp assisting. Crossbearer Augustine Andy, NC A&T, dressed in authentic African dress, led the entrance procession accompanied by a lively rendition of the "Battle hymn of the Republic Sung" by the St. Benedict the Moor Choir from Winston-Salem. The congregation joined in.

Three NC A&T students did a

SEE DIASPORA, PAGE 10

### CRS seeks $50 million to fund Afghan refugees, displaced persons

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Relief Services is seeking to raise $50 million for the immediate and long-term care of Afghan refugees and displaced persons, the agency's executive director announced. The agency needs the funding to provide for the needs of a portion of the estimated 5.5 million Afghans left vulnerable following the U.S.-led bombing of Afghanistan that began Oct. 7, said Kenneth F. Hackett, executive director. CRS allocated $2.3 million in new aid for refugee relief, but agency officials estimate that $5.5 million was needed in immediate emergency aid, Hackett told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview. "We have to get supplies in fast. This is an emergency, a substantial program, and we want to be there for the recovery," he said.

### Nazareth bishop says most Palestinians are not extremists

DETROIT (CNS) — Palestinians who celebrated the Sept. 11 attack on the United States and the suicide bombings inside Israel are not representative of the majority of the Palestinian people, a bishop from the Holy Land said. "Those examples of suicide are not the regular policy of the people or (Palestinian leaders)," said Auxiliary Bishop Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo of Jerusalem, the Nazareth-based vicar for Israel in the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. He told of anti-terrorism prayer services for peace, justice and the victims of the attacks by Palestinian Christians and Muslims since Sept. 11. There also were public demonstrations by Christian and Muslim Palestinians against terrorism, Bishop Marcuzzo told The Michigan Catholic, newspaper of the Detroit Archdiocese, during a recent visit to the United States.

### Solving hunger essential to preserving peace, Vatican official says

ROME (CNS) — With the lives of 800 million people threatened by hunger, food security has become an essential issue for the preservation of world peace, a Vatican official told an international conference of food experts. The multitudes suffering chronic hunger and poverty risk becoming a hopeless and frustrated "mob" that turns to "worse instincts," Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, the Vatican representative to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, said in Rome Nov. 8. He said it was unacceptable that so many are threatened with starvation at a time when much of the world lives in unprecedented development and progress. This contrast threatens peace and stability, especially in the present moment of world tension, he said.

### Vatican to WTO: Take needs of poor countries 'much more seriously'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican diplomat said the World Trade Organization must take the problems of poorer countries "much more seriously," as a ministerial meeting of the international body got under way. "I think these times show even more how urgent it is to have an 'inclusive' system of international commerce, in which all can participate effectively on the same footing," said Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, head of the Vatican's delegation to the World Trade Organization meeting Nov. 9-13 in Doha, Qatar. Meeting participants had the option either to make steps toward greater participation for poor countries or to accentuate "the divisions now existing," Archbishop Martin told Vatican Radio Nov. 8.

### Bishop Fiorenza opens bishops' meeting, contrasts hate and hope

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Opening the fall meeting of the U.S. bishops just two months after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston contrasted the "destructive power of hate" with the message of hope that bishops are called to preach. "It is Christian hope alone that gives confidence despite the catastrophic problems of the present time," he said Nov.



CNS PHOTO BY MARTIN LUEDERS

**Girl washes dishes in street of Catholic ghetto**
**A young girl washes dishes in a Catholic ghetto in Peshawar, Pakistan. Most of the country's 1.1 million Catholics live in clusters. Traditionally descendants of low-caste Hindu converts, they are the poorest in an impoverished nation**




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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**November 18 — 2:30 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Gabriel, Charlotte

**November 24 — 5 p.m.**
Mass and dedication of renovated church and hall
Our Lady of the Rosary, Lexington

**November 27-28**
Visiting seminarians

## Diocesan planner

**November**

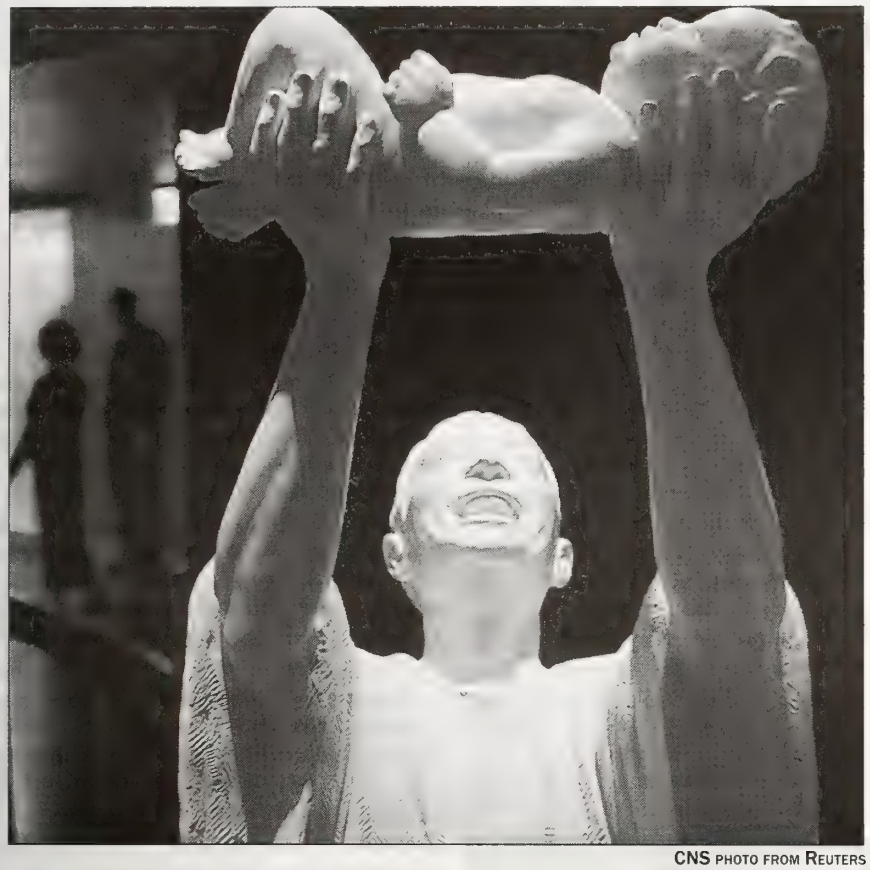
**22** GASTONIA — All are invited to St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, for Thanksgiving Day dinner this afternoon from 2-5 p.m. in the parish center. At no cost, family and friends can share in a meal, enjoyment and fellowship. For details about the dinner or transportation, call (704) 867-6212, Ext. 101 or 113.

**25** HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

**26** BELMONT — Auditions for the Abbey Players/Belmont Community Theatre production of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" will be held tonight and Nov. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Haid Theatre on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Non-traditional casting, traditional male roles open to women, will be considered, and those auditioning will be asked to read from the script. For more information, call (704) 825-6786.

**26** CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/dementia will be held today and every second and fourth Monday from 10-11:30 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information about the support group or the Shining Stars Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, meeting every Monday and Wednesday from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and every Thursday at Sardis Presbyterian Church from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

**26** NEWTON — The Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group will be meeting at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the parish hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828)



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Museum of world religions opens**

**Visitors enter an exhibit at the Museum of World Religions in Taipei, Taiwan, Nov. 9. The newly opened museum, the first of its kind, exhibits collections from the world's major religions and is dedicated to religious tolerance and understanding.**

# $3.3 million federal grant funds for Mercy Housing will provide quality, affordable housing for low-income seniors

BELMONT, N.C. — Mercy Housing SouthEast has been awarded more than $3.3 million in federal grant funds to construct a 40-unit affordable housing development for very low-income seniors. An additional $528,000 will be provided for rental subsidies over a five-year period. The funding comes from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"This development will help address a critical need in this community for affordable rental housing for seniors. I am so excited for the seniors who will finally get the opportunity to live in quality, service-enriched housing," said Michelle Allen, project developer for MHSE.

The units will be developed on land that was donated by the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina, one of the co-founders of Mercy Housing SouthEast. The Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina, the City of Belmont and many local churches, businesses and community residents have been extremely supportive of this project from its inception.

"Community support is critical to making a development idea into a reality," said Kathleen Brownlee, president of MHSE. "We're very grateful to those who have helped us advocate for affordable housing in the area."

Mercy Housing SouthEast is a member of the Mercy Housing System, a national, not-for-profit affordable housing development and management organization with over 11,000 units, serving more than 28,000 people on any given day. Mercy Housing System properties serve economically poor families, senior citizens and people with mental and physical impairments. MHSE is headquartered in Atlanta, Ga., with offices in Belmont, N.C. and Savannah, Ga. MHSE was founded by the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina and Sisters of Mercy of Baltimore.

12 in his presidential address as head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Nov. 12-15 meeting was the bishops' first under their new USCCB name, which officially took effect July 1.

**Knights of Columbus gives $1 million to rescue workers' families**

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — Less than two months after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the Knights of Columbus announced that it has given more than $1 million to families of New York City rescue workers killed at the World Trade Center. Through its network of insurance agents in New York and New Jersey, it delivered checks of $3,000 each to 334 families of police officers, firefighters and emergency medical workers who died in the disaster. The Knights, the world's largest Catholic fraternal organization, created the Heroes Fund Sept. 12 to give immediate help to the survivors of those who died in the line of duty. The victims did not have to be Knights or Catholic for their families to qualify. The first checks were delivered to families of some of the dead firefighters Sept. 13.

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**28** CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend the monthly memorial Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, that will be taking place tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones to be remembered during the Mass.

**28** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**28** WINSTON-SALEM — The St. Francis Center of Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, corner of Cherry and 3rd Sts., will present a program, "Three Thoughts for Advent," for three consecutive Wednesdays beginning today from 1:15-2:30 p.m. Pierson Shaw, pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, will be facilitating the program. Attendants are asked to provide their own lunch, but beverages will be provided. For more information, call Josephine Rosaschi at (336) 723-8241.

**29** BELMONT — Belmont Abbey, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd.; Mepkin Trappist Abbey in Moncks Corner, S.C.; and Gethsemani Abbey in Trappist, Ky., will be offering "Live-in Experience" vocational retreats today-Dec. 2, Dec. 5-9 and Jan 2-6. Participants can learn about monastic life firsthand while praying, working and enjoying vocational talks given by the monks. Space is limited, so those interested are advised to make reservations early. Mepkin Abbey dates are available on an individual basis. For more dates and information, call Natalie Smith toll-free at (866) 548-3463.

**29** CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., in association with the Western Carolina Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association will present "Alzheimer's Disease and Caregiving" tonight in the parish center from 7-9 p.m. Drs. Hiep Pham and Shirley Travis will discuss the disease and related disorders, caregiving information, preparation for the future and the Circle of Hope congregational approach to supporting dementia families. For further information and pre-registration, call Louise Murray at (704) 532-5275 or call (704) 532-7390 or e-mail Louise.Murray@alz.org.

**30** CULLMAN, Ala. — The Benedictine Spirituality and Conference Center at Cullman, Ala., will sponsor an intensive centering prayer retreat this weekend through Dec. 2. The retreat, facilitated by Sister Eileen Gallagher and Diana Tschache, is designed for those currently practicing centering prayer who wish to deepen their spirituality. For reservations, call (256) 734-8302 or e-mail shmon@hiwaay.net.

**December**

**1** CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte is looking for former members to join them for their 25th anniversary and Christmas party held this evening at the Southpark Suite Hotel. For more information, call Frances Wiggins at (704) 367-0464 or e-mail CathSinglesClt@aol.com.

**2** CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of Secular Franciscans will be meeting today from 2-4 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. All visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 573-4299.

**2** HICKORY — The Secular Franciscan Order of Hickory will present a re-enactment of St. Francis of Assisi's 1223 Greccio, Italy, recreation of Jesus' birth for local people of that historical period to experience those holy night conditions. The re-enactment will take place at 4 p.m. at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. For details, call Frank Cogger at (828) 256-1453 or John M. Martin at (828) 428-8920.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# Room At The Inn is witness to hope

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Hope does not disappoint.

In a letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul said, "Hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

During Room At The Inn's seventh annual banquet and fund-raiser, Executive Director Cindy Brown took the opportunity to reflect on her belief that hope forms the framework of the home for pregnant women and women with children.

"Hope," said Brown, "is the message of Room At The Inn to every mother and every child that our Lord brings to our doors. Regardless of the afflictions of the past, ... through the healing love of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, the endurance of these afflictions can be healed and molded into a proven character that is filled with hope and does not disappoint."

Since its inception seven years ago, Room At The Inn has given hope and served more than 250 women and children both born and unborn, Brown said. "With each mother served and with each baby born, Room At The Inn sees the great mystery of God's love, giving hope to the world."

Room At The Inn is unique in that it serves both pregnant women and women who already have children. Services after the birth of the newborn for both mother and child are the hallmark of the Charlotte-based maternity home.

More than just a place to live, Room At The Inn offers women a Christ-centered rehabilitation program, based on education, personal responsibility and spiritual direction punctuated with mental health and adoption counseling services.

A signature of Room At The Inn comes with its annual banquet and its subtle fund-raiser. Invitations are issued in abundance. There is no charge, and a substantial banquet is laid out for Room At The Inn guests. Dinner guests have the opportunity to hear firsthand accounts of the life-altering experiences of Room At The Inn mothers, while pictures and video of smiling, happy babies underscore Room At The Inn's success.

As in the past, it is the keynote speaker who holds the attention of Room At The Inn friends. This year, Gary Bauer, a former Republican presidential candidate, addressed the group of 1,000.

Bauer serves as chairman of a political action committee, the Campaign For Working Families, a Washington-based center for public policy. On Nov. 7, keynoter Bauer spoke of the recent terrorist acts against the United States: "There's an uninvited guest in the room, an uninvited guest who has been at every event wherever it has been held in this country over the last two months." That guest, he said, "is the memory of what happened Sept. 11 and what it means for this country.

"Sept. 11 was a turn moment, and I would put at the top of the list, [that] we should see this country reject death. We should see this country reject Roe vs. Wade and welcome all of our children into the world."

Roe vs. Wade and its decision, Bauer said, gave an unborn child about the same value as a Styrofoam cup.

"And it has given us a culture of death that eats away at our souls, eats away at our children, eats away at everything we stand for," he said. The battle "is going to be won in places [like the Charlotte-based Room At The Inn] long before it will be won in Washington. This home is saving real women and real children. [Tonight] you will be asked to generously stand with this fraternity of Room At The Inn. I hope you will [respond]. Don't make them beg to get the funds they need."

Contributions for Room At The Inn may be sent to Room At The Inn, Inc., P.O. Box 75384, Charlotte, N.C. 28275.

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org*



Photo by Joann S. Keane

**Gary Bauer, a 2000 presidential candidate and former Domestic Policy Advisor to former President Ronald Regan, signs copies of his book following the Room At The Inn banquet on Nov. 8 in Charlotte.**

# Pope blesses group of NYC firefighters, accepts chaplain's helmet

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II blessed a group of New York City firefighters and accepted the white helmet of one of their chaplains killed in the rescue effort at the World Trade Center.

Celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Nov. 10, the pope prayed for the more than 340 firefighters who died in the Sept. 11 attacks and expressed his condolences for their families.

"I offer a warm welcome to the delegation from the New York City Fire Department, so many of whose members lost their lives in the terrorist attack of Sept. 11," the pope said in English.

"May almighty God grant the bereaved families consolation and peace, and may he give you and your fellow firefighters strength and courage to carry on your great service to your city. With the promise of my continued prayers, I invoke upon you and your families God's abundant blessings," he said.

As the firefighters knelt before the pontiff, one of them presented him with the helmet that belonged to Franciscan Father Mychal F. Judge, fire department chaplain.

After the World Trade Center's first tower was hit by a hijacked plane Sept. 11, Father Judge, 68, was with the first New York firefighters to arrive on the scene. While administering last rites to a fireman fatally injured by a falling body, the priest was struck by falling debris and died.

Daniel Nigro, named to head the fire department after the previous chief was killed at the World Trade Center, was among those attending Mass with the pope.

Later in the day, at a Rome rally to remember the Sept. 11 victims, he told the crowd about their meeting with the pope.

"The pope told us that since Sept. 11 he has been praying continually for the victims and so that we firemen have strength. We answered that we have felt that and received that from him," Nigro said.

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# Cuba native receives statewide recognition in art and culture

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Work with the Latino community is what Sara H. Wolf loves. She does not think of her efforts as being worthy of any special recognition; however, she was recently named a recipient of one of the Latino Diamante Awards for 2001 in the area of art and culture. The entire process has been overwhelming for her, but she is pleased and excited about the recognition.

"It was nice just to be nominated," said Wolf, a St. Vincent de Paul parishioner, who thanked her husband, Luis, and daughter, Sara, at the awards ceremony Oct. 20 in Durham. "I really appreciate it and feel honored, but I do things for the community simply because I want to do them. I am very proud of being Cuban-American and an American citizen. I have a responsibility to help because I am very lucky to be in this country, and I want to give something back."

Since 1996, the Latino Diamante Awards, based in Raleigh, have recognized men and women for their efforts with the growing Latino population in North Carolina in various areas including business, education, health and science, community involvement and youth accomplishments. In the Diocese of Charlotte, the number of people of Latino descent grew from 28,464 in 1990 to 181,407 in 2000.

Wolf's affiliation with the Latin American Coalition as a board member, the Latin American Women's Association as past president and with the Catholic Hispanic Center in Charlotte has allowed her to share the heritage and culture of the Latino community with others.

For the past several years, the Latin American Festival, which reported an estimated crowd of 15,000 to 18,000 attendants this year, has been held at the Mint Museum of Art where Wolf is the librarian and the Latin American community liaison. Wolf says that the importance of the festival, which includes music, indigenous foods, entertainment, and arts and crafts, is twofold.

"The festival brings the Latino culture to people of other races, and Latinos have their countries represented and can see a little of their heritage displayed," she said. "It is so important to bring things like this into the lives of Latin Americans living here because there seems to be so much negative news reported. The youth need to be involved in other activities and need to be exposed to positive things."

The young girl of Wolf's memories who spent summers at the shore in pre-Fidel Castro Havana, Cuba, never dreamed of living and working in the United States. She grew up as the only child in her immediate family but was always surrounded by her large extended family. Catholicism was a large aspect of her life as she and her parents attended church regularly and were involved in church-affiliated organizations.

Her early life was filled with the smell of her mother's cooking, the sight of sugar cane swaying in the wind, the laughter of frequent family gatherings and the discipline of Catholic elementary school. She received a degree in administration in 1956 from Havana Business University and began working as the assistant to the director of the National Planning Board in Cuba. Much of life changed for Wolf and other citizens after 1959 when Fidel Castro overthrew the country's dictatorship and later established a Communist government.

"You were watched all of the time, at work, at home, on every block. You didn't know if your telephone was bugged," said Wolf, who was transferred from her first job after the government changed. "Every time you went to church, your purses were searched. There was a lack of freedom everywhere."

The Wolfs, who had married in 1960, were contemplating leaving their country for the United States where Luis's family lived. They asked for political asylum and were admitted into the country as political refugees. After living in Miami, they moved to Raleigh, where Sara began working in her first position in library sciences as a cataloguer at North Carolina State University until her daughter was born in 1965.

The family moved to Charlotte in 1965 and became American citizens in 1969. Sara began working at the Mint Museum part time while her daughter attended St. Ann School. The couple became heavily involved in their daughter's education and in the church. When the museum expanded its library system, Sara was offered a full-time position.

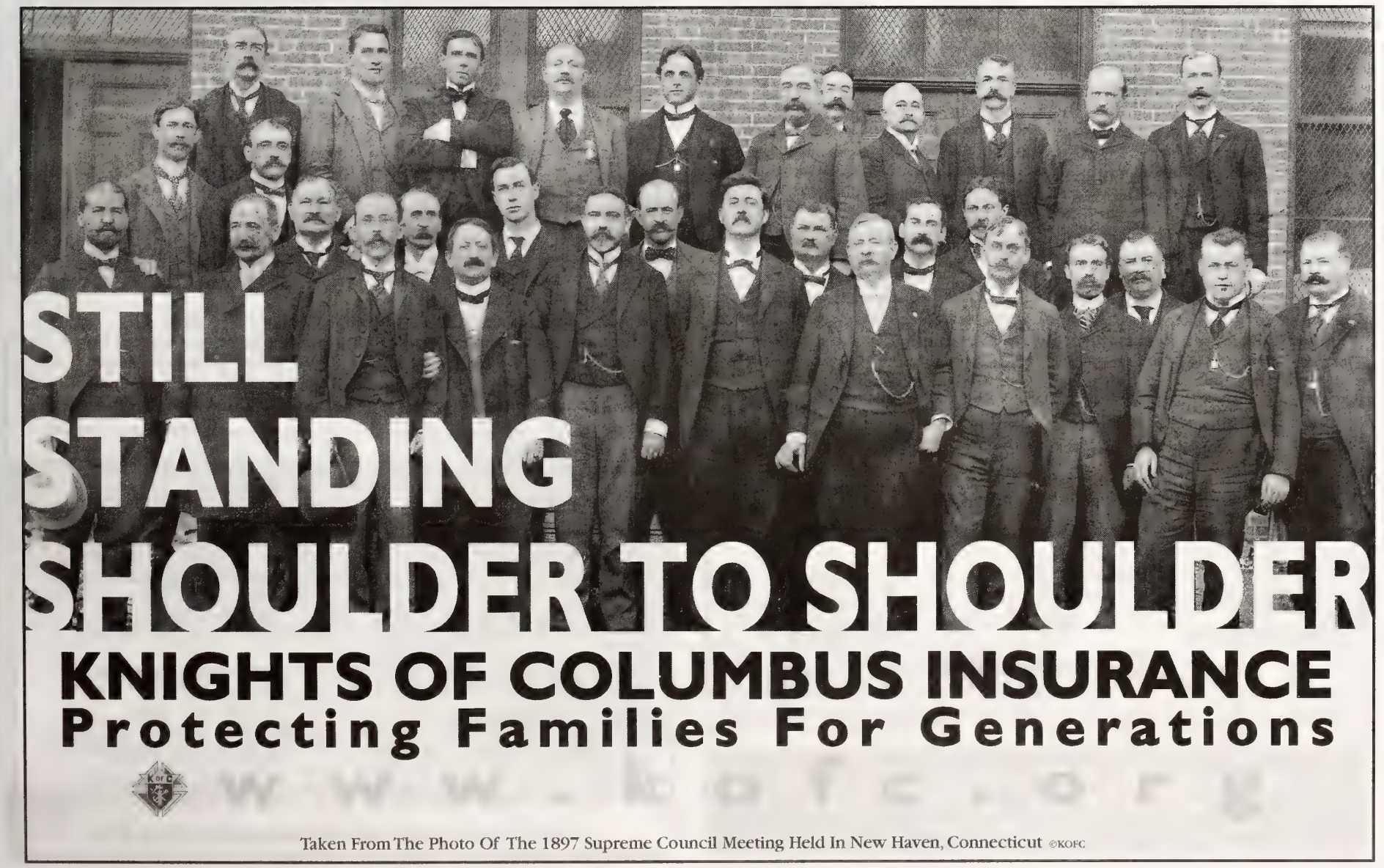
Her position as the liaison grew out of her desire to develop a reciprocal relationship with the museum and the Latino community. Further involvement with her community led to her role with various Latino organizations and groups around Charlotte. She says that God has guided her path, and her family has been her biggest support system.



Sara H. Wolf

"My husband is a large part of my relationship with God," Wolf said. "Before I do anything, I pray to God and listen for his advice. I have been able to do many things because of God's place in my life."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*



**Book Review**

# Book on Jewish spirituality good primer for Christians

REVIEWED BY EUGENE J. FISHER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Rabbi Lawrence Kushner is one of the most creative and engaging spiritual writers of our time. Indeed, his body of work might be compared to that of the great Abraham Joshua Heschel for its aability to open up to Jewish and non-Jewish readers alike the incomparable riches of Jewish religious tradition.

In "Jewish Spirituality: A Brief Introduction for Christians," he writes specifically for Christians (though Jews may find this book of interest, too). He says the book is "a window into the Jewish soul" which "will, for Christians, feel strangely familiar and will, for Christians and Jews, always challenge you to see yourself and your world through a new lens."

**_JEWISH SPIRITUALITY: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION FOR CHRISTIANS,_ by Rabbi Lawrence Kushner. Jewish Lights Publishing (Woodstock, Vt., 2001).103 pp., $12.95.**
**_THE WAY INTO JUDAISM,_ 4 Volumes. Jewish Lights Publishing (Woodstock, Vt., 2000-01). $21.95 each.**

In a short vignette provocatively titled "My Lunch With Jesus," Rabbi Kushner explains why he wrote a volume specifically for Christians, when up to now much of his work has been either for Jews or for people of all religious backgrounds.

Briefly, it came out of his encounter with a priest with whom, over lunch, Rabbi Kushner shared the painful admission that, because of the centuries of Christian attempts to convert and even persecute Jews, he had always felt "wary of Jesus." The priest's response to this heartfelt confession, given in some detail, was given in a whisper, with tears in his eyes: "Please forgive me, forgive us. It could not have been Jesus those Christians served."

"Your religion wants you to care about me that much?" Rabbi Kushner asked in surprise.

"Oh yes," the priest said, "I must continuously seek to find God in every person."

Rabbi Kushner felt that this gave him a new understanding of "what it means to say that God can take the form of a human being."

And so he wrote this book as a means to return his friend's gift of insight into the Christian tradition by guiding Christians into Jewish tradition.

It is well worth the journey. Rabbi Kushner introduces, gently and engagingly, basic concepts and insights of Jewish faith such as "teshuvah" (repentance) and "tikkun olam" (repairing the world) which have framed and supported Jewish lives through centuries of piety and persecution. Often he sheds light through stories, in classical rabbinic fashion. The book is a delight and a gift we should be grateful for, since it will enrich our own prayer lives.

Those who wish to delve more deeply into the spiritual nourishment of Jewish tradition also will want to go to the new "The Way Into ..." series now being put out by Jewish Lights. Rabbi Kushner's own "The Way Into Jewish Mystical Tradition" might be a good place to start.

All of the volumes are written for Jewish laypersons, and so do not presume previous expertise. Each of the authors is a leading Jewish writer in the field: Neil Gillman on "The Way Into Encountering God in Judaism," Lawrence Hoffman on "The Way Into Jewish Prayer" and Norman Cohen on "The Way Into Torah."

This last is about reading the Bible. It remains an amazement to me, even after years of study, how Jewish tradition can find such different and delightful new meanings in biblical texts and stories that we Christians tend to take for granted or as embodying only a single "truth." And the communal nature of Jewish Torah study is one that Catholics, especially, will appreciate and relate to.

There is a rich, delicate and meaningful feast here in these books. They can be read quickly, so well are they written, and then gone back to time and again to provide lasting spiritual nourishment for our souls.

All you have to do, as my Italian mother-in-law would say, is take them up and "Eat! It's all there for you!"

*Fisher is associate director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

# Word to Life

**SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS:**
**Nov. 25, 2001**

*November 25, Christ the King*
*Cycle C Readings:*
1) 2 Samuel 5:1-3
Psalm 122:1-5
2) Colossians 1:12-20
3) Gospel: Luke 23:35-43

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Once again we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. The Thanksgiving holiday has passed. Fall wanes, and daylight hours yield to the coldness of long dark nights. For thousands in our country, and tragically many of those are children, these long nights will be filled with unexplainable loneliness and sorrow. Learning to live without those we love, those who have nurtured us and made us feel safe, is a daunting challenge for those left behind.

We have heard a bell tolling across our country, reminding us how we are, as the British poet John Donne once wrote, "part of the main." Although we may not personally have known a single person affected by the recent terrorist attacks, suffering, fear and death remind us that a connectedness exists among us that some thought had become passe and others believed to be dead and gone: faith in God and the courage of ordinary people to help one another remain standing among incomprehensible devastation when hope seems lost.

In today's Gospel reading Luke paints a vivid picture of a multiple execution, administered by battle-seasoned soldiers who have watched countless people writhe in their last agony.

We are not witnessing the quick death of the sword, reserved for the Roman citizen who earns a death sentence. No. Luke is describing the barbarism of crucifixion that is meant to be a deadly warning to the lawless. Besides the obvious physical pain, crucifixion allows the lives of the condemned to ebb away in a sea of hate-filled curses and public humiliation. To the casual observer, the family friend or a member of the execution detail, this is a scene devoid of any tangible hope.

However, Luke alone allows us to hear a conversation that occurs among the three condemned men. One, caustic to the end, is blind to hope. The other criminal knows his own sins and recognizes the goodness of the third man, Jesus. Innocent, Jesus makes a promise to this man — a promise that echoes through the ages to those who hope in the Lord: "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." Today we celebrate Christ the King, the anointed one who has suffered with his people.

*QUESTIONS:*
*Knowing our king has endured such pain, do you find yourself emboldened to live your faith courageously?*

# Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Nov. 18 - 24**

**Sunday,** Malachi 3:19-20; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12, Luke 21:5-19; **Monday**, 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63, Luke 18:35-43; **Tuesday**, 2 Maccabees 6:18-31, Luke 19:1-10; **Wednesday (Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**, 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31, Luke 19:11-28; **Thursday (St. Cecilia, Thanksgiving Day)**, Zephaniah 3:14-15, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 5:18-20; **Friday (Sts. Clement I, Columban and Bl. Miguel Pro)**, 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59, Luke 19:45-48; **Saturday**, 1 Maccabees 6:1-13, Luke 20:27-40

**Scripture for the week of Nov. 25 - Dec. 1**

**Sunday**, 2 Samuel 5:1-3, Colossians 1:12-20, Luke 23:35-43; **Monday**, Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20, Luke 21:1-4; **Tuesday**, Daniel 2:31-45, Luke 21:5-11; **Wednesday**, Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28, Luke 21:12-19; **Thursday**, Daniel 6:12-28, Luke 21:20-28; **Friday (St. Andrew)**, Romans 10:9-18, Matthew 4:18-22; **Saturday**, Daniel 7:15-17, Luke 21:34-36

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**For information on specific programs, please call your local office.**

# "Inside the Vatican," Nov. 21, PBS

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A new National Geographic special explores a locale of particular interest to Catholics in "Inside the Vatican," airing Wednesday, Nov. 21, 8-9 p.m. EST on PBS (check local listings). The "inside" of the program's title refers more to geography than to any startling revelations about the inner workings of the Vatican.

Respectfully narrated by Martin Sheen, the documentary is book ended by preparations for, and actual footage from, a major ritual in St. Peter's Basilica: the ordination ceremony of nine new bishops. Pope John Paul II officiates in the basilica with numerous cardinals participating as well. Both the world's smallest sovereign nation and the headquarters of the world's largest religious body, the Vatican has a population under 1,000, 100 of whom comprise the Swiss Guards, the world's smallest standing army. And they are all Swiss, Catholic, and at least 5-feet-8 in height. Unlike most "security guards," they take an oath to serve and protect the pope.

Surprisingly, their colorful costumes consist of 154 separate pieces. The program puts a human face on the state within a city by following veteran Vatican photographer Arturo Mari around as he captures images of the pontiff at work, meeting both the humble and the exalted from around the globe. The photographer is most impressed by how the frail pontiff does not hesitate to physically embrace and kiss lepers in Korea. Mari describes the Holy Father's life as work and prayer and that "free time does not exist for the pope."

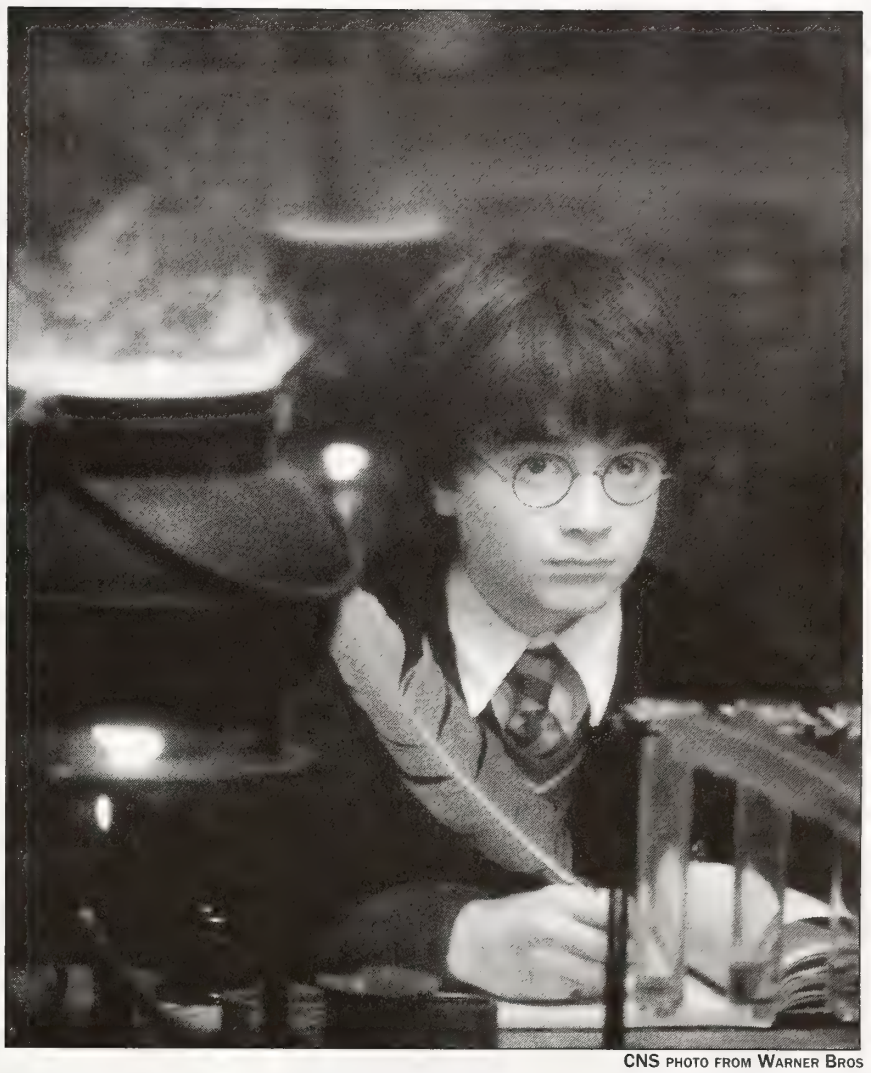
St. Peter's got its start when the emperor Constantine ordered a cathedral be built directly over the grave of Peter some three centuries after he was martyred in 64 A.D. Rome. In 1929, the Vatican became a separate state, although entirely surrounded by Rome. Within the Vatican walls are some of the world's greatest art treasures — as well as a fully operational soup kitchen.

The script takes note of how popes have been the greatest supporters of culture through the centuries, and one segment of the program visits art restorers who maintain the glorious paintings, sculptures and fine tapestries that comprise the Vatican collection. A Franciscan sister is seen cheerfully engaging in the painstaking removal of worn thread from a tapestry, to be replaced by one of the 6,000 different shades of thread at her disposal.

Mentioned in passing are a few less-than-saintly popes, and how Pope Julius II's handling of indulgences eventually led to the Reformation. However, credit is given to Pope John Paul for his pivotal role in the fall of communism, and a quite interesting segment explains how Pope Gregory XIII literally altered time in 1580, with the result that most of the world now uses the Gregorian calendar.

Factual and informative, the program does not dig deeply, but does present some exquisite visuals of the Holy See's extraordinary architecture as well as interiors of St. Peter's, the Apostolic Palace and the Vatican Library. The documentary should prove of interest not only to Catholics but to those who have not had the opportunity to visit the Eternal City.

*Pare is director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*



CNS PHOTO FROM WARNER BROS

**Scene from movie 'Harry Potter'**

**Actor Daniel Radcliffe stars as the title character in a scene from the film "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

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## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# God is always near those who pray, pope says at weekly audience

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The longest Psalm in the Bible, Psalm 119, is a meditation on how God's law not only should guide human behavior, but reminds men and women that God is always near, Pope John Paul II said.

"We are not alone because God hears us and intervenes," the pope said Nov. 14 during his weekly general audience.

Psalm 119 with its 21 sections corresponding to the letters of the Hebrew alphabet praises God for the gift of the law, which is "a shining lamp on the often dark path of life," the pope said.

The section of the psalm used for morning prayer places before God the believer who has spent the night in prayer and meditation and now looks toward the dawning day certain that God has heard his prayers, the pope said.

"Comforted by this knowledge, facing the day that is opening before him, the believer no longer fears the dangers ahead. He knows he will not be overwhelmed by his persecutors," the pope said, because "the Lord is close to him."

During the audience, Pope John Paul offered a special greeting to U.S. and European military personnel studying at the NATO Defense College outside Rome.

"In these troubled times," he said, members of the military must see their profession "as a noble service of peace and the common good."

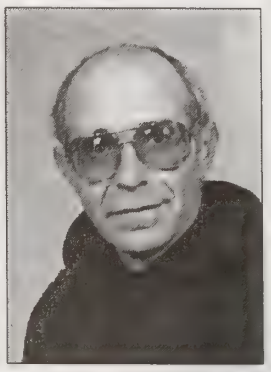
At the end of the audience, Pope John Paul offered prayers for the more than 550 people who died and the thousands left homeless in Algeria after severe storms and mud slides Nov. 10-11.

"I express my spiritual closeness to their families and all who are suffering because of this serious calamity. May our solidarity and the concrete support of the international community not be lacking for these brothers and sisters of ours," he said.

### Pope encourages prayer, sharing in quest for Christian unity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With continued sharing, theological research and prayer, Christians will be able to find ways to move beyond current tensions in the search for full unity, Pope John Paul II said. "May the Lord help us treasure that which has been realized already, guard it with care and hasten further developments," he said in a message to the Nov. 12-17 plenary meeting of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. While Christian unity is not yet a reality, "it is undeniable that a large part of the road already has been traveled," he said. Pope John Paul told council members that the major international dialogues the Catholic Church is engaged in with the Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Anglicans, Lutherans and other Protestants have led to consensus on a variety of issues that can and must be built upon.

## Guest Column



FATHER JOHN C. AURILIA, OFM CAP
Guest Columnist

### Liturgical meaning of Thanksgiving

The Old and New Testament make clear that our worship must be eucharistic (thankful), or we may miss the whole meaning of our existence. The richest literature of Thanksgiving is found in the 150 Psalms, which connect our gratitute to the various stages of our human failure and success. The Book of Leviticus goes into details about "peace offerings" (3:1-17) and prescriptions for giving "thanks." (7:11-18) Scholars tell us that in Qumran Cave "thanksgiving hymns" were found. They seem to be closely related to the songs of praise in the shape of Psalms.

The tradition of giving thanks continues and expands in the New Testament. St. Paul constantly gives thanks as he writes to different churches and communities. The Pauline letters articulate three basic reasons for being thankful: Remembrance, Confession, and Proclamation. Christians recall and make present the wonders of God; they confess their faith in the great events of grace, and, consequently, proclaim what they experienced and confessed. "As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death and resurrection of the Lord until he comes." (1 Cor. 11:26)

Thanksgiving, therefore, is the heart of any spirituality, which claims to be Christian. The celebration of Thanksgiving has much to do with acknowledging the giver as much as the gift; it allows us to open ourselves to God's grace and makes us aware that we are contingent creatures, who are not complete in ourselves. Humility and sincerity are always present in a thankful person.

There is a transformative power in giving thanks. In a liturgical setting, thanksgiving is the acknowledgement of me, finite creature, and Him, infinite Creator. The fourth preface for weekdays puts it beautifully:

"You have no need of our praise,
yet our desire to thank you is itself your gift.
Our prayer of thanksgiving adds nothing
to your greatness,
but makes us grow in your grace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Every preface begins with the standard line "it is our duty and our salvation always and everywhere to give you thanks through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ." The first Eucharistic Prayer begins: "We come to you, Father, with praise and thanksgiving through Jesus Christ your Son." From a liturgical point of view, thanksgiving is a way of life rather than an event of our lives. A thankful person always finds reasons for affirming God and people, no matter what the circumstances may be. A new business was opening, and one of the owner's friends wanted to send him flowers for the occasion. They arrived at the new business site, and the owner read the card, "Rest in Peace." The owner was angry and called the florist to complain. After he had told the florist of the obvious mistake and how angry he was, the florist replied, "Sir, I'm really sorry for the mistake, but rather than getting angry, you should image this: Somewhere there is a funeral taking place today, and they have flowers with a note saying, "Congratulations on your new location."

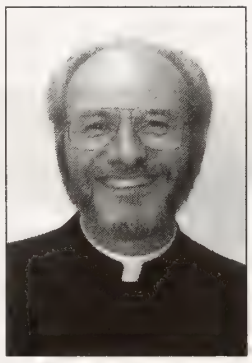
Allow me to suggest four simple principles which are always applicable:

A) The worst possible moment for an atheist is when he/she feels grateful and has no one to thank.

B) We should be thankful for the good things we have and the bad things we don't have.

C) If you have nothing for which to be thankful, make up your mind that there is something wrong with you.

D) It is not what you have in your pocket that makes you thankful, but what you have in your heart.



## Economy of Faith

By FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH, GLENMARY
Guest Columnist

### The hope of the Survivor Tree

Two weeks after the terrorist attack on America, I visited the Oklahoma City Memorial. Twin walls called the Gates of Time frame the moment of destruction where the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building once stood. On one wall "9:01" is carved, on the other "9:03." In between the gates 168 chairs made of bronze and stone rest on a grassy knoll, each with the name of one victim, most large for the adults killed that day, but some small for the 19 preschoolers taken at 9:02 a.m., April 19, 1995. The gently flowing water of the reflecting pool by the side of the chairs invokes a reverence for the space. I spent a full hour slowly walking the area of the one city block meditating on terrorism and violence.

Since September 11 flags fly throughout the country. "God Bless America" and "United We Stand" adorn windows and sign boards of commercial establishments and private residences. Public indignation by politicians and political pundits demonizing the enemy as evil or sick paves the way for retaliatory bombing and more unavoidable violence for the innocent.

Yet while the public mood readies itself for revenge, a whisper comes from believers and people of faith. "Love will prevail over hate," reads a sign at a gas station in Wise County, Virginia. "Pray for the victims" encourages a message at a convenience store in the next county. "Pray for the proper response" a bank sign cautioned immediately after the attack, then changed to "Pray for those we have lost and world peace." The attack sparked a certain faith response among ordinary believers and triggered some critical thinking.

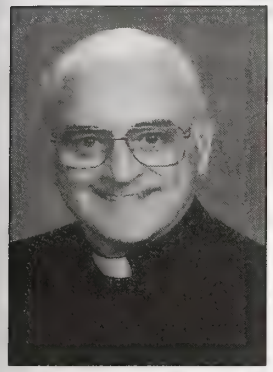
The just war theory, crafted to limit the atrocities of war, rejects vengeance as a legitimate reason for more conflict. Revenge is not a Christian virtue. Although the theory prohibits non-combatants as military targets, when war visits a land, no one is safe. Too much bombing, too many civilian deaths tip the balance of proportionality away from a justifiable war. Believers must decide when enough is enough. Ironically the first innocent civilians killed with the bombing of Afghanistan were four U.N. workers employed to clear land mines.

Paul VI taught: "If you want peace, work for justice." The attack on America represented a crime against humanity calling for an international court of law to prosecute the guilty. The World Trade Center and the Pentagon also represent the economic structures and the military might of the U.S. that many throughout the world resent. Justice asks that believers reexamine how American economic and foreign policy affects the world's poor and marginalized and adjust it for more fairness.

At the Oklahoma City Memorial, a single tree withstood the ferocious blast of the car bomb that blew out windows all over the city and was heard 55 miles away. An American elm bent by the force of the blast still lives in the plaza and was named the "Survivor Tree."

The tragedy in Oklahoma City occasioned a response in faith from Bud Welsh who lost a daughter in the Murrah Building. Welsh spoke against execution as a response to the tragedy. He wanted to break the cycle of violence and stop more death. In the future we will likely build more memorials for terrorism's victims unless we heed the witness of Welsh and choose forgiveness and justice. Like the Survivor Tree, even in the midst of violence and terror, signs of life and symbols of hope continue to grow.

*Father Rausch writes, teaches and organizes in Appalachia.*



# Light One Candle

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Anthrax is not contagious, but the fear factor is

Anthrax cannot be contracted the way the flu is. A flu epidemic passes from person to person, and 20 million people come down with it each year. A relative handful of people have come down with the anthrax infection, but everyone is affected by the fear it generates. This fear takes a huge toll on our emotions. We cannot allow ourselves to become infected with fear. So I ask you to calm down and think this thing through.

You are a good person. You don't deserve all this disruption, but you have to deal with it. To keep your head when the entire world is going mad is not easy, but you have a huge advantage. You are a Catholic Christian. Pray for serenity. Say your familiar Catholic prayers slowly. Then listen to the voice of Jesus saying: "Do not be afraid. Take heart, in this world you will have many troubles, but I have overcome the world."

The Lord challenges you to control your thoughts. Contrary to public opinion, you are all capable of taking control of your thoughts. If you are glued to the television and allow the media to fill your mind with thoughts of danger, you'll make yourself sick with worry, and you will be doing exactly what the terrorists want. You will become anxious, then fearful, then terrified. "Fight or flight" — these seem to be your only options.

But there is no one there to fight, and you can't run away from your home. This leaves you in a state of confusion, frustration and emotional instability.

Cancel these negative thoughts immediately. Reject thoughts such as, "I'm in danger, I'm going to be sick, I can't go on like this."

Nonsense! Feelings are not facts. If you control your thoughts you gradually will take control of your emotional life. Emotions follow thoughts as thunder follows lightning. The negative thoughts you invite into your mind will make you sick. If you think "danger," your body and emotions will be in a constant state of alertness and anxiety. This sets up the vicious cycle of fear, which leads to panic.

You can do better. Demand more of yourself. Fill your mind with positive thoughts: "I am not in danger. I am not in danger. I am not in danger. Thank you Jesus, I will not be afraid; I will not be afraid. I am saved in his strength. I will be well. I am protected. I will survive. I am happy to be alive. I will project a joyful presence."

This same advice would be useful to anyone, even a soldier in battle. Internal fears can be more threatening to life than the bullets flying overhead. Do not surrender to fear. Do not give the prince of darkness what he wants. He wants to disrupt your life and make you feel worthless. But you are a favored child of the Lord, a temple of the Holy Spirit. You are precious in God's sight, and he will protect you.

Jesus said, "Those who listen to my words and obey me are like the wise man who built his house on rock. "

Take heart. Be your own best friend. Get on with your precious life. All will be well.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### God's interventions revisited

*Q. I was distressed by your answer regarding God's will and whether God "interferes" with nature's laws. I agree that God works his will through the laws of nature, and that nature's predictability is meaningful and valuable.*

*But I don't think Jesus' message was simply to be good and accept whatever nature hands you because that's God's will. Miracles happen every day. People are healed and helped beyond all natural explanation. No situation is hopeless. If we pray for miracles for others and ourselves, we are showing faith, hope and love.*

*God can also give us Job-like resignation to the evil circumstances that befall us, and that's a gift too. But Christians say: "Christ's love lives in me. For whom shall I pray? Who needs a miracle of grace today?" (Wisconsin)*

A. Thank you for pointing out very well some important and hopeful Christian truths. A number of other readers wrote to me with the same concerns you have. We followers of Christ are not fatalists who lie down without feeling or passion and stoically let happen what will happen.

As I said in the column you mention, in the everyday processes of life the makeup of the world as God created it normally reveals "God's will " and determines what will happen.

We believe the Creator is a gracious and loving God, whose goodness is manifest in creation itself, in how and why it came into being, not because the Maker constantly intervenes to accomplish his compassionate will.

As we human beings continuously learn more about reality, the more we perceive the truth of this way of looking at the world. People once attributed thunder and lightning to the displeasure of their god(s) over human infidelity of some sort. We now have a better and more natural explanation.

Similarly, bizarre behavior or manifestations — wounds of the stigmata, for example, or floating in the air, or frothing at the mouth with unnatural gutteral speech — were once automatically assumed to have divine or diabolical origins.

More recent experience has proven, however, that occurrences like these may well have a more natural, psychological explanation.

These are among the reasons the church has learned through the centuries to exercise greater caution before attributing extraordinary events to miraculous divine intervention.

Miracles, wondrous events that mysteriously but unmistakably preclude all natural explanation, are always possible. And we can surely pray for them. It is, after all, still God's world, his continual re-creation.

Lourdes and some other sacred shrines offer countless instances of remarkable events that contradict all medical and scientific expectation of what "ought" to happen. Withered arms and legs become healthy and whole overnight. Carcinomic neoplasms that should inevitably be fatal disappear instantaneously.

These are without question God's doing. To seek such extraordinary blessings in prayer and pleading can be good, a sign of genuine Christian faith and hope.

It remains, however, that miracles, or instant-by-instant interventions into the workings of the world, are not God's usual ways. As the Genesis creation story tells us, God looked at what he had made and declared it good, very good. He was wonderfully satisfied with what he had done.

As far as we can tell, it is the same Wisdom that gave existence to this infinitely complex universe that allows it to live and breathe and act according to the "laws" he placed there in the first place.

# Family Reflections



BY ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Ecumenism and marriage

Interchurch and interreligious marriages are becoming more commonplace these days. Considering the power faith has on a marriage, marrying someone of another faith tradition might be seen as a great obstacle for unity and spiritual growth in a marriage. Certainly being of the same religion and denomination can pave a smoother road for a couple's life journey. Right? Well, our twenty years of marriage preparation work give us a different perspective.

Most of our marriage preparation work has been in the African American Catholic community in which interfaith marriages are much more common than in the general Catholic population. When discussing matters of faith and worship with the engaged, we have found that the considerations for having different faith traditions also apply to those who are both Catholic.

Very often engaged couples minimize such differences. So much else between them draws them to what they have in common. And the power of their burgeoning love seems to override differences in faith traditions.

Issues around the wedding may have interfaith couples face some of those differences early on. For example, having Eucharist as part of the wedding may be very important to Catholic family members. Though the Christian rite of marriage makes provisions for weddings without the Communion rite, some may feel that without eucharist it wouldn't be a "full Catholic wedding." Convincing the Catholic family that a wedding without Eucharist is no less Catholic and perhaps more hospitable is just one challenge for interfaith unions.

However, when having children is imminent, matters of faith become more important in a couple's life together. Patterns of worship, prayer and fellowship shape the lives of children and families with children. When children are present (or anticipated), the question of how they will be raised is important.

Couples who embrace those challenges and find workable responses are likely to develop their unique spirituality (the glue that holds them together) early in their marriage. The danger for a couple who are both Catholic is that they may be lulled into complacency and not embrace the challenges of their unique faith experiences as early.

We encourage all who aspire to Christian marriage, whether they are of the same or different faith traditions, to pay attention to their faith differences early, share with each other their unique experiences of the Sacred, and learn to appreciate those differences. And as their spiritual life unfolds, they become more aware of God in them. Then watch what happens. Their cup overflows into community. The hand of God guides them to a place where they celebrate their unique spirituality.

*Questions for Reflection:*

- *How do your experiences of faith differ from your spouse's?*
- *How have those differences challenged you?*
- *How have they been opportunities for spiritual growth?*

# Symposium explores common roots of Islam, Christianity, Judaism

By POLLY MACIULSKI
Catholic News Service

SHREVEPORT, La. (CNS) — Those who practice Islam, Christianity or Judaism must realize that despite differences in their beliefs, they have much in common, according to speakers at a Nov. 4 symposium in Shreveport.

Sister Marie Vianney Bilgrien, a School Sister of Notre Dame, said members of the three faith groups are all descendents of Abraham.

She told a standing room-only crowd in a Catholic elementary school cafeteria that Pope John XXIII once greeted 130 U.S. Jews with the biblical expression, "I am your brother, Joseph."

And years later, she said, when the late Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago spoke to Chicago Catholics for the first time as their archbishop, he greeted them with the same expression.

Sister Bilgrien, who is professor of moral theology at Greco Institute, a center for adult education in the Shreveport Diocese, ended her presentation with the question Cain posed to God in Genesis 4. He asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

"You better believe it," she said, answering the same question for her audience.

Rabbi Harold Robinson, from the B'nai Zion Congregation in Shreveport, said Judaism is the common heritage between Christianity and Islam.

He also praised the Catholic Church for the apologies it has issued for past sins, describing that action as a "huge step" toward fostering better relations among the faiths.

He said that members of the Jewish faith do not believe they are better than those of other faiths; but instead realize they have different responsibilities. He emphasized that Judaism is about acceptance of other faiths, not just tolerance of them. "Only Judaism says we need not be Jewish to be right," he added.

Munir Bader, president of the local Islamic association, said that Islam has been misrepresented through the media and by extremists within Islam, which leads to a great misunderstanding of Islamic beliefs and tradition.

He said those who practice Islam "condemn the senseless acts that are clearly against our belief," referring to terrorist attacks.

Islam is about faith, prayer, and charity, he said, adding that Muslims believe they should worship God and treat his creation with kindness and compassion. They believe in Moses and Abraham, but believe in Jesus as a prophet, not the Messiah.

The "most sophisticated weapons" that members of all faiths should use, he said, "to defend our lives and the hereafter are the Koran, the Bible, and the Torah."

The symposium, called "The Common Roots of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam," was sponsored by the Greco Institute and originated with an idea from Bishop William B. Friend of Shreveport, who suggested that the three faiths come together to learn more about one another's beliefs.

## Diaspora, from page 1

liturgical dance: Nadra Wagner symbolically swept away all that binds people and all that blocks awareness of God. Ebony Young sprinkled the congregation with water, recalling the waters of baptism, while Christina Donavon symbolized prayers ascending to the heavens as she carried burning incense through the church. They danced to the beat of Michael Roberto's shekere, a gourd wrapped in beaded netting.

In his homily Father West said, "Very devout people want to know what heaven is like." As with the people of Jesus' time, many assume that heaven will be a continuation of daily life as they know it. Just like Jesus' contemporaries, "we don't understand Scripture," but Scriptures clearly state that life will be completely different. Father West said that people "underestimate the goodness and the power of God ... for we are alive in God."

He went on to emphasize that since "God is our Father, we are all part of that one divine family," that before spending a lot of time criticizing others, we must look at ourselves. "Let God shine in our lives, then lift our hearts to others."

Father West stressed the importance of prayer, especially when asking protection from the evil one. Then, as people embrace the cross of sacrifice, they can open their eyes to the Holy Spirit. "It doesn't do anyone good to sit and listen to the Word," he said. All must "act upon that Word, because it is the same Jesus we hear about who is willing to heal and show us his mercy and compassion."

A dinner in the St. Pius X Kloster Center concluded the celebration.

## Fire, from page 1

We really have to probe our faith. It's not just a question of dealing with our feelings. How do we deal with this in faith?"

Father Cameli said that one thing that has helped him is Pope John Paul II's teaching on the dignity, value and preciousness of every human being.

Indeed there are a number of "counter forces," Father Cameli said. Win the game, enjoy the prize, and ignore the rest of the world, Father Cameli said, "is the opposite of what Jesus calls us to. It's only when we have a profound sense of the dignity and value of life that we can move beyond win, enjoy, ignore. We can have compassion."

However, spirituality challenges people to move beyond that.

Father Cameli called people to see the world as it really is, to "live with our eyes open, but our eyes open in faith. We need to reclaim it and teach it to our children.

"It's not that we commit sins, but that we are sinners—that's different," Father Cameli said of Christian anthropology. "It means that we're divided inside. It means we are brokenhearted. We're broken, in need of forgiveness. But that isn't the whole story. We are redeemed in Christ.

"The events of Sept. 11 are terrible, but it makes us stop and take stock of our world, to realize the value of human life, to get a sense of the complexity of the world and what life is all about.

"What we're about and what God is about in our lives is real transformation-total turning around. It's not an attitude, a cosmetic; but real, thorough, complete transformation is our destiny."

The Fire in the Mountains executive committee is already planning Fire in the Mountains 2002, which is set for Nov. 9, with Abbot Francis Kline of Mepkin Abbey, near Charleston, S.C., slated as guest speaker.

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*


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# First African-American elected president of USCCB conference

By PATRICIA ZAPOR
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops elected Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., as president on their first-ballot Nov. 13.

Bishop Gregory, 53, vice president for the past three years, is the first African-American and the first Catholic convert to be elected president of the U.S. bishops in history.

The bishops also elected Bishop William S. Skylstad, 67, of Spokane, Wash., as vice president and Archbishop James P. Kelleher of Kansas City, Kan., as treasurer-elect. The bishops also were casting ballots for nine committee chairmen and 13 committee chairmen-elect.

For the first time in their conference's history, the bishops were using electronic voting. The prelates were given individual hand-held voting devices called Digivotes to use on most of the 34 ballots they would be asked to cast during their four-day meeting. On Nov. 12 a handful of bishops still had to cast paper ballots because officials ran out of the Digivotes.

The bishops' new president holds a doctorate in liturgy from Rome's Pontifical Liturgical Institute and has written extensively on the subject, particularly on liturgy in the African-American community.

Bishop Gregory is chairman of the bishops' Committee on Personnel and vice chairman of three others: the Committee on Priorities and Plans, the Executive Committee and the Committee on Nomination of Conference Officers. He also is a member of the Administrative Committee and the ad hoc Committee on Publishing and Promotion Services.

He was born Dec. 7, 1947, in Chicago. It was just a few weeks after he enrolled as a sixth-grader at St. Carthage School that Wilton Gregory decided he wanted to become a priest. He first had to become a Catholic, however, which he did by the end of the school year.

Two years after becoming a Catholic, he entered Chicago's Quigley Preparatory, a high school seminary. By the time he was 25, he was ordained a priest. Just 10 years later, he became the youngest bishop in the country. He was installed as an auxiliary bishop for Chicago a few days after his 36th birthday in 1983.

The election was held during the bishops' Nov. 12-15 fall general meeting, their first as the USCCB, operating under new statutes that call for all officers and chairmen to be elected a year in advance of taking office.

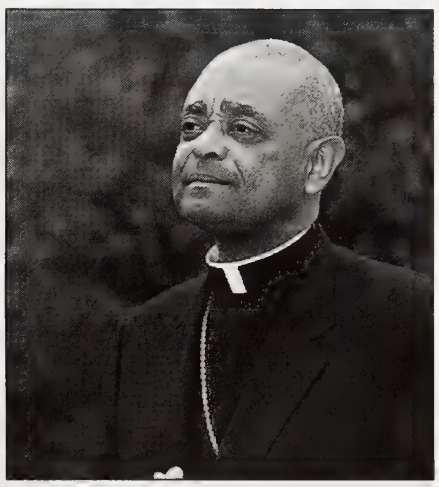
Previously, under the bishops' statutes as the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference, officers and most committee chairs took office at the end of the meeting at which they were elected.

Over the years, a few committees had shifted to electing chairmen-elect a year ahead of time for the sake of greater continuity in the transition. When the bishops revised their statutes, they adopted that model for all the officer and committee elections.

Since this is the transition year, in effect they had two sets of elections, one to fill seats being vacated this year and another to fill those that become vacant next year.

All officers and committee heads have three-year terms.

The term of the current secretary, Bishop William B. Friend of Shreveport, La., does not end until 2003.



CNS PHOTO BY MARTIN LUEDERS

**Bishop Wilton D. Gregory said he hopes his election as the first African-American president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is seen as a sign of the church's commitment to be inclusive and multicultural. He heads the Diocese of Belleville, Ill.**

### Martin Sheen aids collection for retired religious

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The yearly Catholic collection for retired religious is getting an added boost this year with Catholic actor Martin Sheen doing public service ads on radio and television. Sheen, star of the NBC drama "The West Wing," said he wanted to help the campaign out of his admiration and respect for the Notre Dame de Namur Sisters and Marianist Brothers who taught him as he grew up in Dayton, Ohio. "They had a profound impact," he said. "I've been inspired and nourished by them. Their families were like our families; their fathers were immigrants and laborers." His comments were in an announcement released Nov. 8 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to promote this year's collection, which is to be taken up in most U.S. parishes Dec. 8 and 9.

### Pope, moving slowly, begins new round of parish visits in Rome

ROME (CNS) — Moving slowly but with a pastor's perseverance, Pope John Paul II began a new round of parish visits in Rome. The 81-year-old pontiff visited the Church of Holy Mary Mother of God in a hillside neighborhood behind the Vatican Nov. 11. He celebrated an outdoor Mass, spoke about the connection between faith and daily life, and greeted several hundred parishioners. Hesitant on his feet, the pope showed his age throughout the 90-minute visit. At the offertory, when prayers were offered for him, he leaned against his staff with a bowed head. But he delivered his sermon in a clear voice and, at the end of the liturgy, smiled when numerous babies were brought to him for a blessing.

### Head of Catholic University says students 'anxious' after attacks

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Students at The Catholic University of America have been "anxious" in the weeks following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, according to Vincentian Father David O'Connell, the university's president. "It's really got them very, very upset," Father O'Connell acknowledged Nov. 12 during a report on the university at the U.S. bishops' fall general meeting in Washington. "You have to remember that our (academic) seniors were born in 1980," he added. "They've had no experience with a national conflict, and it's bothering them a great deal." Father O'Connell reported that about 1,000 students gathered soon after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon for a memorial service where they spoke aloud the names of loved ones who perished. One Catholic University lecturer died, as did family members of some students.

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# Faith sustains deacon and family through life tragedies

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

HENDERSONVILLE — The seven Renuart children would kneel in a row and pray the rosary every night with their parents. Young Albert Renuart received his first exposure to his faith from these evening prayer sessions and weekly Mass. Having clergy and women religious in his extended family and attendance at Catholic school in Florida also influenced his young spiritual life.

"In my dad's family, there were two nuns, and I had an uncle who was a priest. He was a positive influence on me," said Rev. Mr. Renuart, who entered St. Charles Seminary in Baltimore, Md., after graduating from high school. "The kids in high school knew that I would go to seminary."



Rev. Mr. Albert Renuart

It was a departure for Renuart from the family lumber business started by his Canadian-born paternal grandfather. However, World War II shipped many of his siblings their separate ways. The United States entered the war while Renuart was in the seminary, and his three brothers had signed up to fight for their country.

Renuart caught the service bug and asked for military leave from his seminary. He joined the Marines and was sent to Okinawa, via Saipan and Iwo Jima, where his oldest brother was also stationed. The war was nearing its end, and the brothers had just gone up in a transport plane for a practice run. They were thrilled to be with each other during perilous times but were both ready to go back home. Renuart did not know that it would be the last time they would be together.

His brother's plane was shot down over Japan, and the news brought Renuart to his knees in grief and prayer. One of the most profound influences on his life was gone. His steadfast faith kept him going but did not return him to the seminary. He is not sure if the wartime memories and his brother's death were the causes of his decision, but he says that it never crossed his mind to go back.

"I grieved for a long time, and it was very difficult for my parents," said Rev. Mr. Renuart.

He and his younger brother went to the University of Detroit in 1946 to study architecture. Another brother's wedding brought them home to serve as ushers in 1949. Before the service began, Renuart spotted her. "I saw a beautiful girl dressed in a white suit and a big, black straw hat. All of the ushers rushed to escort her. I fell for her, and that was the beginning of my quest. I was going to marry her," he said of the first time he saw his wife-to-be, Mary Jane.

Mrs. Renuart tells a different story: "My date was late, so I just went ahead. I knew he was one of the Renuart boys, and every one of them was a real catch. I thought he was handsome but figured it was a passing thing."

After Renuart transferred to the University of Miami, where he received his degree and began working in construction, they finally went on their first date. Their signals crossed, and Renuart arrived dressed in a softball uniform while Mary Jane was dressed to go to dinner and dancing. She went to the softball game in her dress and ate watermelon with the group. Finally agreeing on wedding attire, the couple married in November 1950 on his parents' anniversary. "For 51 years, I think we have done very well," he said.

The Renuarts focused on church and their five children's educations for many years. After Vatican II reforms, Renuart became a eucharistic minister, lector and usher and brought Communion to his parents after his father grew ill. While Mrs. Renuart taught at a Catholic girls' academy, the couple served on the board of directors of marriage encounter and worked with faith formation.

The Cursillo movement motivated Renuart, giving his spiritual life a boost. "I was floating almost (after making Cursillo). It was a fantastic experience because it reiterated love of one another."

In 1969, some of the first deacons were ordained in his diocese, and his interest was piqued. His bishop, however, was reluctant to allow him to apply because of his young family.

He placed the permanent diaconate on the back burner and, as his children grew and matured, so did his faith. He continued working in various ministries in the church, but a knock on the door in the wee hours of a Sunday morning in 1986 sent his world spinning.

Their son, Kenneth, had gone scuba diving with friends, and as they were driving back, the jeep was run off of the road. Their twenty-eight-year-old son had been killed. "It strikes you so quickly, and I wasn't crying at first. We went to Mass that morning, and it was announced after Mass. A friend came up to me, and I broke down and cried," remembered Rev. Mr. Renuart.

"He is still a profound influence on our family, and our children have kept his memory alive," Mrs. Renuart said.

Although his wife was reluctant to agree to her husband becoming a permanent deacon so soon after their son's death, Renuart applied to the diaconate with her consent in 1989 and was ordained in 1992. He served at his Florida parish from 1992 through 1995 when the mountains of North Carolina began to call him. He had intended to retire to Hendersonville where he used to vacation as a child with his family during the summers.

The couple moved to the small city, and he began serving in many ministries at Immaculate Conception Church including the building committee and baptismal preparation. Health complications nudged him into retirement from full-time diaconate work this past summer, but the grandfather of eight shows no signs of slowing down completely: "Once a deacon, always a deacon. I want to continue serving as much as I can."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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2000-2001
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE of CHARLOTTE
ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As your bishop, I am accountable to you, the people of the Church of western North Carolina, for the proper stewardship of our resources. I am pleased to present to you the annual report of the Diocese of Charlotte for the year ending June 30, 2001.

The report shows that your diocese is both spiritually and financially healthy. I am grateful for this report and for the good works that have been accomplished during the past year. Through your generosity, Catholic education programs have been strengthened; outreach to the less fortunate members of our communities has been expanded; and support of our young men studying for the priesthood - your future priests - has continued. These good works are the direct result of your generous stewardship of time, talent and treasure.

Our Catholic schools are a source of great pride to our diocese. During this past year, 14 of our schools were awarded accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Now every diocesan school has attained this significant distinction. The new Bishop McGuinness High School opened its doors to students this past August. This new 120,000 square-foot school is a state-of-the-art facility centrally located in Kernersville so as to serve the entire Triad region.

The Church has long recognized its responsibility to the greater community, especially the less fortunate among us. During this past year, two diocesan organizations, The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and the Office of Economic Opportunity of Catholic Social Services (located in Murphy, NC), awarded grants to parishes and community-based organizations in support of social outreach programs. Both organizations plan to continue their support of grassroots programs to alleviate poverty and support the marginalized among us.

Throughout this past year, we continued our outreach to the growing numbers of Hispanics in our diocese through the diocesan Hispanic Ministry program, Catholic Social Services' Hispanic outreach programs, and numerous parish-based programs throughout the diocese. Additionally, the diocese is sponsoring diversity, language and cultural programs to better prepare our clergy and laity for the mission of sharing the Good News with our brothers and sisters of all nationalities.

Our diocese continues to grow in number and need. While much is being done, the future will present new challenges as we strive to serve all God's people. It is only by your generous assistance that we will be able to continue to be responsive to the increasing needs of our people. I am aware of the many sacrifices that you make on behalf of your parish, the Diocesan Support Appeal and the special appeals that directly assist the ministries of the Church. I am grateful for your support, and beg your continued assistance as, together, we build a community of faith in western North Carolina.

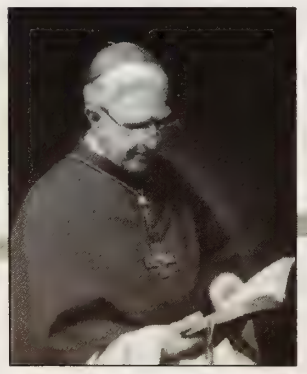
The tragic events of September 11, 2001 have brought us closer together as a country and as brothers and sisters in the Lord. Most importantly, I ask that you continue to pray daily for peace in our world, and for the victims and their loved ones. Please also pray for our diocese, that we may always be guided by the Spirit in ministering in Jesus' name.

Remembering you and your loved ones in my daily prayer, I am

Devotedly in the Lord,

+William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte



# Diocesan Support Appeal

"Whom Shall I Send?" was the theme of the 2001 Diocesan Support Appeal. The purpose of the DSA is to help provide funding necessary to carry out the mission of our diocese; namely, to fulfill our call to grow ever more perfectly into a community of praise, worship and witness, and to become a leaven of service and sign of peace through love in the Piedmont and western North Carolina. The DSA supports 35 designated diocesan ministries. Those ministries fall into four categories: Catholic Social Services (which receives 28% of its funding from the DSA), Educational Ministries, Multicultural Ministries, and Vocations.

Countless lives are changed throughout the diocese as a direct result of CSS programs. Faith Formation ministries touch the lives of thousands of children, youth, college students, young adults, and adults. Hispanic ministry serves the fastest growing segment of our Catholic population. We added two new Hispanic pastoral ministers this past year, and the new Hispanic Catholic Center in Charlotte is scheduled for completion early next spring. As our diocese grows, the need for deacons and priests to serve the people of God also grows. DSA funding helps our deacons and seminarians respond, "Here I am, Lord. Send me!"



## DSA Ministry Funding For The Year Ending June 30, 2001

| | |
|---|---|
| Grants to Catholic Social Services | $1,071,778 |
| Multicultural Ministries | $404,336 |
| Hispanic | 357,078 |
| African American | 3,709 |
| Hmong | 43,549 |
| Vocations | $139,860 |
| Seminarian Formation | 60,735 |
| Permanent Diaconate | 79,125 |
| Educational Ministries | $1,212,782 |
| Catholic Schools Office | 237,069 |
| Campus Ministry | 362,796 |
| Faith Formation | 315,032 |
| Youth Ministry | 132,921 |
| Lay Ministry | 39,158 |
| Media Resources | 58,450 |
| Vicar's Office | 61,932 |
| Evangelization | 4,869 |
| Liturgy | 555 |
| DSA Fundraising Costs For The Year Ending June 30, 2001 | $129,225 |

# VOCATIONS, CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS LIFE



## Vocations, Clergy and Religious Life

Seminarian Formation

Clergy Continuing Care

Support of Retired Priests

Office of Permanent Diaconate

Office of Women Religious

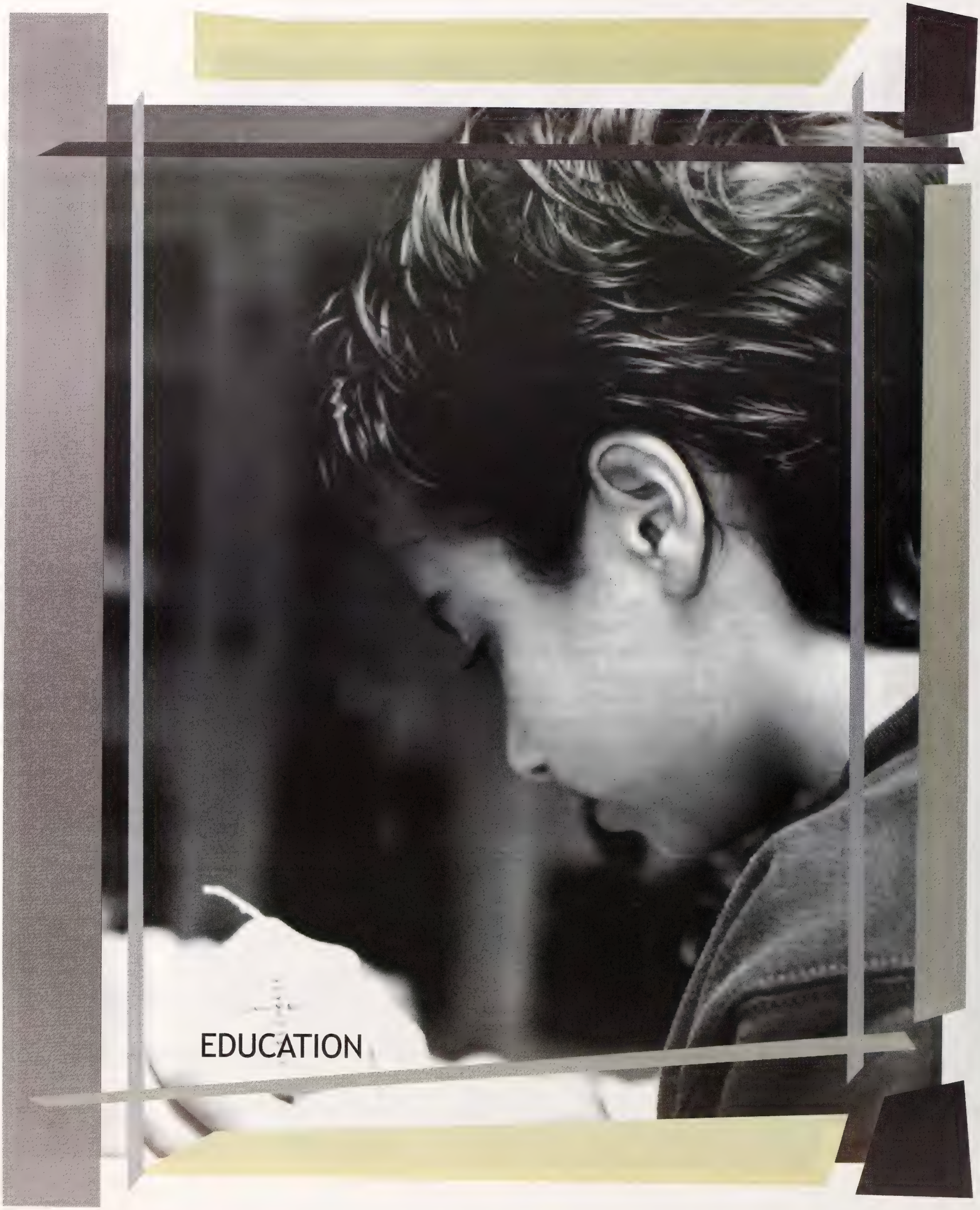
Providing necessary leadership for our parishes and for the diverse ministries of our growing diocese is an ongoing challenge. Currently, 21 young men are in seminary preparing to give their lives to the Church in the Diocese of Charlotte in service as priests. In June, four men were ordained into the priesthood, and two more will be ordained in December.

Their backgrounds reflect the rich cultural diversity of our diocese. Their enthusiasm for Christ and for the work of the Church strengthens our hope that the sacraments will be faithfully celebrated in every corner of the western half of North Carolina. Whether in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, studying in their rooms, serving our parishes in their summer apostolate or enjoying a game of basketball, they bring an energy and vitality to their vocation.

At present, our parishes and people are served by 77 diocesan and 59 religious order priests. In addition, the 24 retired priests, who have so generously given of themselves to the people of God in the Diocese of Charlotte, have created a legacy of outreach and love. Even in their retirement, many of these dedicated men continue to serve the Catholics of western North Carolina by generously giving of their time and talent to help with weekend parish Masses and confessions. Their generous and devoted service, together with that of our 111 religious sisters and 78 permanent deacons, continues to build upon the foundation of Catholicism in this region of the South. Countless lives are touched and transformed each day by their devotion.

Financial Highlights — Vocations, Clergy and Religious Life

| Revenue & other support | $ 1,715,976 | Expenses | $ 1,715,976 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Contributions - | | Seminarian formation | 405,910 |
| Clergy retirement collection | 313,453 | Contributions to priests' | |
| Seminarian collection | 146,608 | retirement programs | 1,065,690 |
| Friends of Seminarian program | 161,806 | Other | 244, 376 |
| Other | 82,875 | | |
| Parish assessments | 474,770 | | |
| Grants | 42,500 | | |
| DSA funding | 139,860 | | |
| Administration funding | 354,104 | | |


EDUCATION

## Education

Campus Ministry and Young Adult Ministry

Catholic Schools Office

Faith Formation Office

Lay Ministry Office

Youth Ministry Office

Diocesan Media Resource Center

Office of the Vicar

Jesus Christ, while on the Mount of the Ascension, commissioned his Apostles to implement faithfully His mandate to teach in His name in the power of the Holy Spirit. Bishop Curlin, a successor of the Apostles and the shepherd of the local Church, has directed that the Education Vicariate should assist him in ensuring that the parishes, schools and other centers are enabled to fulfill their role within the pastoral, educational mission of the Church.

Each person who has been baptized into Jesus Christ and welcomed into His Mystical Body has a right to be educated in the faith regardless of his or her age, race, ethnicity or social, economic status. It follows, then, that the pastoral, educational mission of the diocese must be and is an absolute priority since it touches the very core of its identity and responsibility.

The agencies included within the Education Vicariate have provided a number of valuable and successful programs and services during this year. Those who serve in parishes, schools and college campuses have been the beneficiaries. For example, hundreds of catechists and youth ministers have been involved in the process of certification, enabling them to exercise their role more fruitfully. Then too, more than 200 young adults have participated in the highly successful Theology on Tap series conducted at a number of sites in the diocese.

Two programs that represent a collaborative effort on the part of the agencies within the Education Vicariate have been extremely well received and effective.

Diocesan and Regional Schools

All Saints School

Our Lady of the Assumption School

Saint Ann School

Saint Gabriel School

Saint Patrick School

Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School

Charlotte Catholic High School

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School

- The Leadership Training Series, made available in Asheville and Charlotte, has been viewed as highly beneficial by more than 70 participants.

- LIMEX, a program sponsored by Loyola University in New Orleans, prepares its particpants to earn a master's degree in religious education or pastoral ministry. Presently 35 persons from throughout the diocese are participating in LIMEX.

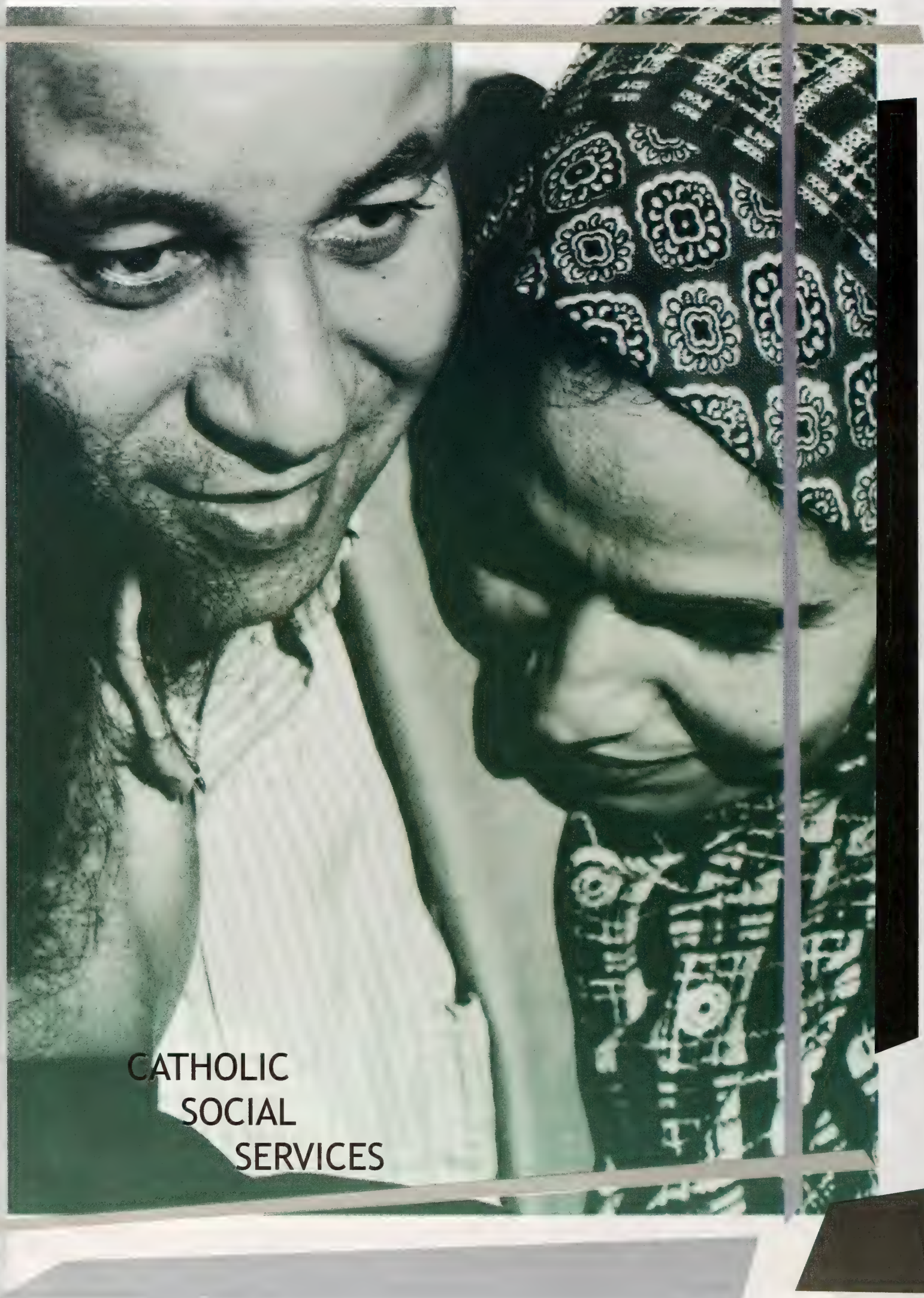
These and numerous other programs and services are being implemented within the diocese. They contribute significantly to the fruitful fulfillment of its educational mission as mandated by the risen Lord on the Mount of the Ascension.

**Financial Highlights — Diocesan and Regional Schools**

| Revenue | $ 20,795,401 | Expenses | $ 19,046,185 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tuition and fees | 17,195,256 | Instructional personnel | 11,102,506 |
| Parish support | 1,782,014 | Other instructional costs | 1,145,680 |
| BMHS capital campaign gifts | 817,075 | Facilities | 3,060,761 |
| Other contributions and gifts | 729,740 | Administrative personnel | 1,576,492 |
| Other | 271,316 | Interest | 459,507 |
| | | Other | 1,701,239 |

**Financial Highlights — Education Formation Offices of the Diocese of Charlotte**

| Revenue & other support | $ 1,698,091 | Expenses | $ 1,698,091 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *(includes DSA funding of $1,212,782)* | | | |


CATHOLIC
SOCIAL
SERVICES

## Catholic Social Services

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, NC, Inc.

Justice and Peace Office

Special Ministries Office

Refugee Office

Charlotte Regional Office

Western Regional Office

Piedmont Triad Regional Office

Administrative Office

**Mission:** Catholic Social Services is a Christian ministry of love, service and justice dedicated to supporting and empowering individuals, families and faith communities as they meet the challenges of life and address the conditions of society.

During the past fiscal year, Catholic Social Services has touched the lives of 24,000 people across the Diocese of Charlotte in a variety of meaningful ways. Some of our services focus on the needs of families. More than 300 couples have used our marriage preparation course to help them start their marriages in Christian commitment. Our marriage preparation seminars are held in different locations around the diocese to make participation easier.

Two hundred seventy-five families have received services through the adoption, pregnancy support and foster care programs. We have placed 40 children from North Carolina, China, Russia and Vietnam. We have given families safe haven and opportunities to rebuild their lives through our refugee services. These families come from Eastern Europe, Africa and Latin America. This year we resettled 350 families, including 24 of the "Lost Boys from the Sudan." Our Hispanic outreach services have helped families adjust to a new culture and a new language through education, advocacy and legal services. In addition to our regional offices, these services are offered in Greensboro, Hendersonville, High Point, Huntersville and Morganton.

Through our regional offices in Charlotte, Asheville and Winston-Salem, we helped families feed their children, pay for shelter, bury loved ones. We helped many of these families learn to accept each other and solve problems together through our counseling programs. We were advocates for the elderly, disabled and unborn. We worked in the diocese to address the needs of the poor and disadvantaged by direct assistance and by education. The Office of Economic Opportunity in Murphy established ABLE, a matched savings program. The Office of Justice and Peace has worked to educate parish groups to advocate for just wages and fair treatment throughout our diocese.

We have seen Jesus in the faces of those who come to us for aid. We have reached out to them in His name with love and compassion and service. We are committed to continuing His work in this diocese.

Financial Highlights — Catholic Social Services

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Revenue & other support | $ 4,264,018 | Expenses | $ 4,210,296 |
| Federal and state agency awards | 1,366,321 | Adoption program | 495,009 |
| Other grants, contracts & awards | 467,613 | Counseling program | 312,542 |
| Contributions - Diocese of Charlotte | 1,208,687 | Direct assistance | 147,432 |
| *(Includes DSA funding of $1,071,778)* | | Elder ministries | 117,959 |
| Contributions - Other | 700,813 | Hand to Hand program | 243,617 |
| Fees | 497,472 | Hispanic services | 642,204 |
| Other | 23,112 | Host Homes program | 252,080 |
| | | Project HOPE | 229,311 |
| | | Refugee Resettlement | 821,715 |
| | | Other programs | 375,821 |
| | | Administrative expenses | 487,188 |
| | | Fundraising expenses | 85,418 |

# THE FOUNDATION



## The Foundation

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, founded in 1994, is a nonprofit organization established to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its 181 parishes, schools, agencies and organizations. The Foundation provides the means for individuals and organizations to create long-term financial stability. Through the creation of individual endowments, the Foundation provides a means to generate income to help sustain lasting strength and viability of these Catholic institutions in western North Carolina.

By creating an endowment, an individual or group can take another step in living out the life of stewardship - the giving of time, talent and treasure in gratitude for God's many gifts to us. Just as we have the opportunity to make our gifts of treasure from our monthly income, we also have an opportunity to give from our accumulated assets to endow the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Charlotte.

This year, we began a grant-making process open to all of our diocesan entities. Fourteen parishes, schools and agencies applied for grants, and nine of those were awarded grants of up to $5,000 each. During its first three years of making grants, the Foundation will focus its efforts on programs that effectively support those who are poor, minority communities and evangelical initiatives, with a particular emphasis on those whose efforts are collaborative.

Individuals and organizations who include the Diocese of Charlotte and its entities in their planned gifts — such as a bequest in a will, a gift of life insurance, a gift of real estate, or a life income arrangement such as a trust or annuity — can be members of the Catholic Heritage Society. The Society is the diocese's way of honoring the Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the Church.

**Financial Highlights — The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Assets at June 30, 2001 | $ 6,673,951 | Liabilities at June 30, 2001 | $3,367,940 |
| Cash | 50,869 | Accounts payable | 5,485 |
| Receivables | 4,836 | Custodial & annuity obligations | 3,362,455 |
| Assets held in trust | 433,284 | | |
| Investments | 6,184,962 | | |
| | | Net Assets at June 30, 2001 | $3,306,011 |
| | | Unrestricted net assets | 753,009 |
| | | Temporarily restricted net assets | 672,069 |
| | | Permanently restricted net assets | 1,880,933 |

## REPORT FROM CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

I am pleased to report that the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte remains financially healthy due to the generosity of the people of this diocese. The consolidated financial statements presented on the following pages include all significant entities of the diocese except for parishes (and parish and interparochial schools), which report separately to their parishioners. Diocesan operations completed the year ended June 30, 2001 with a decrease in net assets of approximately $1,020,000. Included in this decrease is a reduction in net assets restricted by donor-imposed stipulations of $165,000.

The remainder of $855,000 represents a decrease in unrestricted net assets. The following items are included in the determination of this decrease:

- Net realized/unrealized losses on long-term investments of $2,380,000, and
- Depreciation expense of $1,856,000.

These two items account for a decrease in net assets of $4,236,000, as compared to the total decrease in unrestricted net assets of $855,000. The difference, which is a positive $3,381,000, represents the increase in net assets attributable to all other programs and activities, from which resources were provided for:

- Principle repayment of debt of $1,254,000, and
- The acquisition of property, plant and equipment totaling $1,390,000.

The pie charts below depict the major sources of revenues and summarize expenditures for the fiscal year just ended. The consolidated statement of activities on page 14 shows revenue for the year totaled $35,159,000. Support of diocesan programs and ministries, i.e., program expenses, totaled $24,775,000, representing 68% of total expenditures. Expenses relating to supporting activities, i.e., administrative and fundraising expenses, totaled $11,405,000. Approximately 25% of the total administrative and fundraising expenses represents interest paid to parishes through the diocesan savings and investment program of $1,032,000, and depreciation expense of $1,856,000.

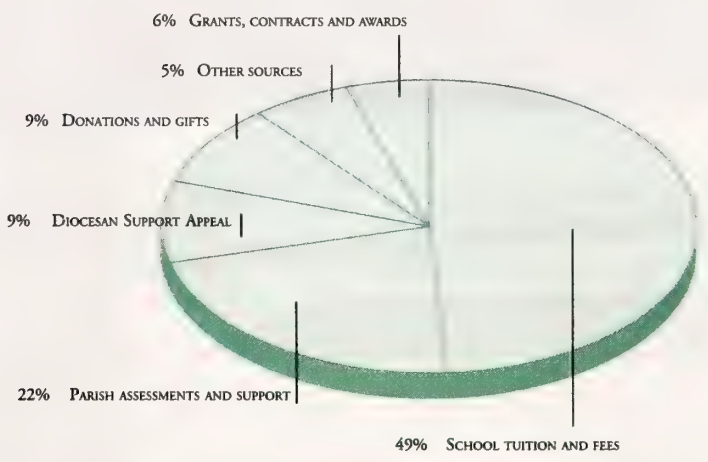
The diocesan Finance Office remains committed to the highest standards of fiscal integrity and accountability. It is our responsibility to ensure that accounting policies and procedures are being adhered to, and internal controls are in place and operating so as to safeguard Church assets and ensure that all financial activity is accounted for properly. Financial oversight is provided by the diocesan Finance Council, which is directly responsible to the bishop, and by routine financial audits.

The consolidated financial statements of the Diocese of Charlotte for the year ended June 30, 2001 are presented on the following pages for your review. The integrity of these statements and the integrity of the underlying financial systems are the responsibility of the diocese. The public accounting firm of Arthur Andersen, LLP, was engaged to perform an independent audit of these financial statements. Their audit report is also included in the financial report that follows.

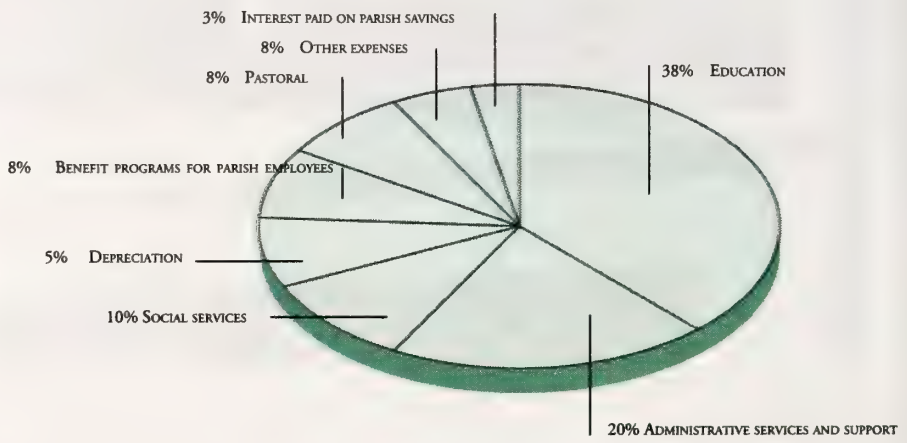
William G. Weldon

William G. Weldon, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

### Sources of Revenue




### Uses of Our Resources



# THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
# CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS JUNE 30, 2001

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

To the Most Reverend William G. Curlin, Bishop of Charlotte:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statement of financial position of THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE (the Diocese)(see Note 1) as of June 30, 2001, and the related consolidated statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of diocesan management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.
We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte as of June 30, 2001, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Arthur Andersen LLP

Charlotte, North Carolina
October 12, 2001

### THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
### JUNE 30, 2001

| ASSETS: | |
|---|---|
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 4,784,354 |
| Accounts receivable: | |
| Pledges, net | 1,772,994 |
| Other | 760,379 |
| Notes receivable, net | 6,481,458 |
| Advances to parishes, net | 871,795 |
| Assets held in trust | 433,284 |
| Beneficial interest in perpetual trusts | 4,908,888 |
| Investments | 23,791,217 |
| Property and equipment, net | 46,573,340 |
| Pension intangible asset | 1,312,502 |
| Assets whose use is limited | 233,795 |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets | 417,795 |
| | $92,341,801 |

| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS: | |
|---|---|
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | $ 1,646,587 |
| Accrued salaries, wages and benefits | 1,440,918 |
| Accrued pension expense | 2,690,778 |
| Accrued health claims | 633,151 |
| Accrued clergy long-term care | 358,249 |
| Accrued property/liability claims | 79,845 |
| Unearned revenue | 3,847,687 |
| Notes payable | 527,467 |
| Bonds payable | 19,700,000 |
| Custodial and annuity obligations | 21,383,179 |
| Total liabilities | 52,307,861 |
| UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS: | |
| Undesignated | 11,984,279 |
| Designated | 16,321,422 |
| Net asset charge - Clergy Retirement Plan | (1,106,531) |
| TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS | 3,641,830 |
| PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS | 9,192,940 |
| Total net assets | 40,033,940 |
| | $92,341,801 |

### THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
### FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2001

| CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | |
|---|---|
| Change in net assets | $(1,020,476) |
| Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities: | |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 1,864,841 |
| Loss on beneficial interest in perpetual trust | 148,182 |
| Unrealized loss on investments | 2,688,373 |
| Change in assets and liabilities: | |
| Decrease in pledges receivable | 248,373 |
| Decrease in accounts receivable - other | 167,244 |
| Decrease in prepaid expenses and other assets | 137,089 |
| Increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses | 328,839 |
| Increase in accrued salaries, wages and benefits | 154,830 |
| Increase in accrued health claims | 209,117 |
| Increase in accrued property/liability claims | 4,045 |
| Decrease in accrued pension expense | (106,780) |
| Increase in accrued clergy long-term care | 249,249 |
| Increase in unearned revenue | 2,173,023 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 7,245,949 |
| **CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:** | |
| Purchase of property and equipment | (10,573,296) |
| Proceeds from the disposition of property | 40,933 |
| Issuance of advances and notes | (3,890,118) |
| Payments received on advances and notes | 486,251 |
| Decrease in discount on advances and notes | (106,703) |
| Increase in allowance on advances | 58,484 |
| Increase in custodial obligations | 357,638 |
| Sale of investments, net | 8,728,947 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (4,897,864) |
| **CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:** | |
| Decrease in bond issuance costs | 4,031 |
| Repayment of note payable - Bank | (1,254,270) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (1,250,239) |
| NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | 1,097,846 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year | 3,686,508 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year | $ 4,784,354 |

SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF NONCASH ACTIVITIES:

As discussed in Note 7, in fiscal 2001, the Clergy Retirement Plan's accumulated benefit obligation exceeded the fair value of plan assets, as such, the following were recorded:

| | |
|---|---|
| Pension intangible asset for unrecognized transition obligation | $ 1,313,000 |
| Accrued benefit cost | (2,299,000) |
| Net asset charge | 1,107,000 |

The accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

## THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2001

| | Unrestricted | Temporarily Restricted | Permanently Restricted | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **REVENUES:** | | | | |
| School tuition and fees | $17,195,256 | $ 0 | $ 0 | $17,195,256 |
| Contributions - Diocesan support appeal (DSA) | 3,333,000 | 0 | 0 | 3,333,000 |
| Other support - DSA programs | 401,893 | 72,971 | 0 | 474,864 |
| Other donations and gifts | 1,181,284 | 1,781,955 | 142,599 | 3,105,838 |
| Parish Assessments: | | | | |
| Employee benefit programs | 2,855,441 | 0 | 0 | 2,855,441 |
| Property/liability insurance | 754,760 | 0 | 0 | 754,760 |
| Catholic News & Herald | 699,195 | 0 | 0 | 699,195 |
| Central office | 1,683,315 | 0 | 0 | 1,683,315 |
| Parish support of schools | 1,782,014 | 0 | 0 | 1,782,014 |
| Federal and state agency awards | 1,287,985 | 78,336 | 0 | 1,366,321 |
| Other grants, contracts and awards | 16,637 | 661,976 | 0 | 678,613 |
| Fees for services rendered | 1,172,092 | 0 | 0 | 1,172,092 |
| Rental income | 684,105 | 0 | 0 | 684,105 |
| Interest and dividend income | 1,338,103 | 69,812 | 185,868 | 1,593,783 |
| Net realized/unrealized losses on investments | (2,380,347) | (261,996) | (46,030) | (2,688,373) |
| Other income | 456,421 | 12,499 | 0 | 468,920 |
| Net assets released from restrictions - | | | | |
| Satisfaction of program restrictions | 2,862,955 | (2,862,955) | 0 | 0 |
| Total revenues | 35,324,109 | (447,402) | 282,437 | 35,159,144 |
| **EXPENSES:** | | | | |
| PROGRAM: | | | | |
| Pastoral: | | | | |
| Clergy, vocations and support for retired priests | 1,715,976 | 0 | 0 | 1,715,976 |
| Multi-cultural ministries | 589,750 | 0 | 0 | 589,750 |
| Contributions, grants and subsidies | 428,129 | 0 | 0 | 428,129 |
| Education: | | | | |
| Regional and diocesan schools | 12,248,186 | 0 | 0 | 12,248,186 |
| Other education and faith formation | 1,558,561 | 0 | 0 | 1,558,561 |
| Social service programs | 3,580,989 | 0 | 0 | 3,580,989 |
| Benefit programs for parish lay employees | 2,768,472 | 0 | 0 | 2,768,472 |
| Property and liability insurance programs for parishes | 402,796 | 0 | 0 | 402,796 |
| Publication of Catholic News & Herald | 760,795 | 0 | 0 | 760,795 |
| Catholic Conference Center | 549,723 | 0 | 0 | 549,723 |
| Tribunal | 171,505 | 0 | 0 | 171,505 |
| Total program expenses | 24,774,882 | 0 | 0 | 24,774,882 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE: | | | | |
| Central office administration | 1,840,074 | 0 | 0 | 1,840,074 |
| Regional and diocesan schools administration | 5,179,132 | 0 | 0 | 5,179,132 |
| Social services administration | 484,122 | 0 | 0 | 484,122 |
| Rental property expense | 90,295 | 0 | 0 | 90,295 |
| Interest - parish savings and investment programs | 1,031,551 | 0 | 0 | 1,031,551 |
| Interest - Long-term debt | 375,411 | 0 | 0 | 375,411 |
| Depreciation | 1,855,682 | 0 | 0 | 1,855,682 |
| Other | 195,457 | 0 | 0 | 195,457 |
| Total administrative expenses | 11,051,724 | 0 | 0 | 11,051,724 |
| FUNDRAISING | 353,014 | 0 | 0 | 353,014 |
| Total expenses | 36,179,620 | 0 | 0 | 36,179,620 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | (855,511) | (447,402) | 282,437 | (1,020,476) |
| NET ASSET CHARGE - Clergy Retirement Plan | (1,106,531) | 0 | 0 | (1,106,531) |
| NET ASSETS, beginning of year | 29,161,212 | 4,089,232 | 8,910,503 | 42,160,947 |
| NET ASSETS, end of year | $27,199,170 | $3,641,830 | $9,192,940 | $40,033,940 |

The accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

## THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
## JUNE 30, 2001

### 1. ORGANIZATION

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (the Diocese) serves the Roman Catholic Church in western North Carolina. The Diocese comprises a geographic area of 20,470 square miles covering 46 counties ranging from the N.C. Piedmont region to the N.C. Mountains region. The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of all significant organizations, except parishes (and parish and inter-parochial schools), which are directly owned by the Bishop of Charlotte and which operate under the auspices of the Diocese, as follows:

* The Central Administration (Central Office), which provides administrative and other services to parishes, schools and agencies of the Diocese. Services include: coordination and support of educational programs and multi-cultural ministries; the vocations program; continuing formation of priests and support of retired priests; parish savings and investment program; employee benefit program; property/casualty insurance program; diocesan tribunal; operation of the Catholic Conference Center and Cathedral Publishing, Inc., the publisher of The Catholic News & Herald.

* Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, which provides Catholic secondary education for the Winston-Salem, Greensboro and High Point areas.

* Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS), which operates five elementary schools, one middle school and one high school in Mecklenburg County.

* The Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools Education Foundation, which conducts and administers fundraising activities for the benefit of MACS.

* Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina, Inc., a professional human service agency providing counseling, adoption, pregnancy support, foster care, crisis intervention, material assistance, burial assistance, Hispanic and immigration services, refugee resettlement, justice and peace advocacy and education, along with family enrichment services. Catholic Social Services oversees the operations of Catholic Legal Services, Inc., which renders indigent legal services for the Hispanic community.

* The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, Inc., which receives, administers and disburses funds through the creation of endowments for educational, religious and charitable purposes for the benefit of the Diocese and its various parishes, schools and agencies.

The activities of the above organizations have been consolidated by functional area in the accompanying consolidated statement of activities. All significant intradiocesan transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The accounts of the Diocese are maintained on the accrual basis. The Diocese complies with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 116, "Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made," and SFAS No. 117, "Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations."

Funds managed by the Diocese on behalf of affiliated organizations are in accordance with SFAS No. 136, "Transfers of Assets to a Not-for-Profit Organization or Charitable Trust that Raises or Holds Contributions for Others."

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Diocese considers all highly liquid instruments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. The Diocese has designated $260,000 of cash and investments for property and liability self-insurance reserves as of June 30, 2001.

Assets Held in Trust

Assets held in trust represent future beneficial interests to the Diocese under various trust arrangements. Amounts are recorded based on the actuarially determined present value of the future gift.

Investments

Investments are carried at market value. Changes in the market value of securities are reflected as unrealized losses on investments in the accompanying consolidated statement of activities.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment is stated at cost, when purchased, and at estimated market value, when donated. Depreciation expense is determined by using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The following represents the major classes of property and equipment at June 30, 2001:

| | | Life (in years) |
|---|---|---|
| Land | $ 9,514,000 | N/A |
| Buildings | 27,871,000 | 30-40 |
| Improvements | 3,946,000 | 10-15 |
| Furniture and equipment | 4,371,000 | 3-10 |
| Vehicles | 1,333,000 | 5 |
| Construction-in-process | 10,904,000 | |
| | 57,939,000 | |
| Less - Accumulated depreciation | (11,366,000) | |
| | $46,573,000 | |

Custodial Obligations

Custodial funds are managed by the Diocese, as agent, on behalf of the originating organization. These funds are not recorded as contributions or net assets of the Diocese but rather are included as assets and corresponding custodial obligations in the accompanying consolidated statement of financial position.

Net Assets

Diocesan net assets consist of the following:

Unrestricted

Unrestricted net assets consist of all resources of the Diocese which have no donor-imposed restrictions. The officials of the Diocese may, at their discretion, designate unrestricted support for a specified purpose.

Temporarily Restricted

Temporarily restricted net assets consist of contributions received whose use by the Diocese is limited by donor-imposed stipulations that expire by passage of time or can be fulfilled by actions of the Diocese. When a donor restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the combined statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Permanently Restricted

Permanently restricted net assets consist of contributions received from donors whose use by the Diocese is limited permanently by donor-imposed stipulations.

School Tuition, Fees and Parish Support

Tuition and related fees represent amounts paid by students' families, net of applied tuition assistance, and are recognized over the school year (10 months) in which earned. Parish tuition assistance represents contributions made by the participating parishes of the Diocese specifically for tuition assistance. Amounts received in the current year for the following school year's tuition is recorded as unearned revenue in the accompanying statement of financial position.

Tax-exempt Status

The Diocese is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

## 3. PLEDGES AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

The Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) campaign begins in the fiscal year prior to the expenditure of funds by DSA program agencies. At June 30, 2001, approximately $555,000 in pledges out of a goal of $3,333,000, had not been collected.

The Diocese assesses parishes and affiliates to cover the costs of general administration, property and liability insurance, employee health insurance, employee retirement and The Catholic News & Herald. Total assessments receivable at June 30, 2001, was approximately $63,000.

## 4. NOTES RECEIVABLE

The Diocese has approximately $6,481,000 of notes receivable outstanding at June 30, 2001, of which $6,453,000 was with parishes. Most of these notes bear interest at a rate of prime minus .5%; however, some are noninterest bearing.

## 5. ADVANCES TO PARISHES

The Diocese maintains a revolving loan fund, which was established primarily from resources provided by bequests stipulated for advances to small or needy parishes at no interest. Advances outstanding at June 30, 2001, totaled approximately $1,634,000. These advances are long-term in nature and are reflected at their estimated present value of approximately $872,000 in the accompanying consolidated statement of financial position at June 30, 2001.

## 6. INVESTMENTS

Investments are held with Wachovia Bank of North Carolina (the Trustee) under an agreement with the Diocese. Investments are carried at market value and realized and unrealized gains and losses are reflected in the consolidated statement of activities. The cost and fair market value of investments at June 30, 2001, are summarized below:

| Foundation | Cost | Market |
|---|---|---|
| Endowment funds: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 139,000 | $ 139,000 |
| Marketable securities: | | |
| Equity securities | 3,161,000 | 3,641,000 |
| Charitable fixed income fund | 2,231,000 | 2,264,000 |
| Annuity funds: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Marketable securities: | | |
| Equity securities | 81,000 | 82,000 |
| Charitable fixed income fund | 53,000 | 54,000 |
| Foundation investments | $5,670,000 | $6,185,000 |

| Other | Cost | Market |
|---|---|---|
| Common stocks | $10,014,000 | $11,191,000 |
| Bonds | 5,941,000 | 6,103,000 |
| Cash | 219,000 | 219,000 |
| Other | 93,000 | 93,000 |
| Other investments | $16,267,000 | $17,606,000 |

## 7. PENSION AND RETIREMENT PLANS

Lay Noncontributory Deferred Benefit Pension Plan

The Diocese sponsors a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan (the Plan) covering substantially all lay employees of the Diocese. The Plan provides for benefits based on an employee's years of service and compensation. It is the intent of the Diocese for the minimum funding to be the actuarially recommended contribution amount.

The following table sets forth the funded status of the Plan and amounts recognized in the consolidated statement of financial position:

| | |
|---|---|
| Benefit obligation | $(13,486,000) |
| Fair value of plan assets | 11,752,000 |
| Funded status | $ (1,734,000) |
| Accrued benefit cost recognized | $ (391,000) |
| Weighted average assumptions: | |
| Discount rate | 7.5% |
| Expected return on plan assets | 8.5 |
| Rate of compensation increase | 4.5 |
| Benefit cost | $ 662,000 |
| Employer contribution | 649,000 |
| Benefits paid | 389,000 |

Each diocesan entity is assessed 4% of lay employees' salaries to fund the contribution to the Plan and certain other employee benefits.

Tax-deferred Annuity Plan

The Diocese sponsors a tax-deferred annuity plan under section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code for substantially all lay employees of the Diocese. Employer matching contributions to the Plan are based on a percentage of contributions. Each diocesan entity is responsible for payment of the matching contribution directly to the tax-deferred annuity plan.

Clergy Retirement Plan

The Diocese sponsors the Diocese of Charlotte Clergy Retirement Plan (The Clergy Plan) to provide pension benefits for diocesan priests. An annual collection is held at each parish to raise funds for clergy retirement and other clergy benefits. Each parish is assigned 3% of annual offertory as their goal for this collection. Any shortfall from goal in the amount collected is paid by the parish. Annual collections from the parishes for this purpose are included within temporarily restricted net assets. The annual contribution to the Clergy Plan is based on the results of an actuarial valuation. This actuarial valuation is performed once every three years. The next anticipated valuation will be performed as of July 1, 2003. It is the intent of the Diocese for the minimum funding to be the actuarially recommended contribution amount. Between valuations, required funding will be increased by 5% to account for inflation and other factors. In fiscal 2001, this has contributed to the difference between the fair market value of plan assets and the accumulated benefit obligation. Other factors contributing to this difference include investment losses in fiscal 2001 and a change in the discount rate from 8% to 7.5%.

The following table sets forth the funded status of the Clergy Plan and amounts recognized in the accompanying consolidated statement of financial position:

| | |
|---|---|
| Benefit obligation | $(6,462,000) |
| Fair value of plan assets | 4,163,000 |
| Funded status | $(2,299,000) |
| Accrued benefit cost recognized | $(2,299,000) |
| Intangible asset for unrecognized transition obligation | 1,313,000 |
| Net asset charge | (1,107,000) |
| Weighted average assumptions: | |
| Discount rate | 7.5% |
| Expected return on plan assets | 8.5 |
| Cost of living increase | 3.0 |
| Benefit cost | $ 246,000 |
| Employer contribution | 366,000 |
| Benefits paid | 315,000 |

Clergy Retirement Benefits Other Than Pension

In addition to providing the Clergy Retirement Plan discussed above, in fiscal 2001, the Diocese adopted the Retired Clergy Health Plan which provides retired diocesan priests certain unfunded health and long-term care benefits.

The net periodic postretirement benefit cost included the following components for the year ended June 30, 2001:

| | Long-term Care | Health |
|---|---|---|
| Service cost | $ 31,000 | $ 47,000 |
| Interest cost | 77,000 | 131,000 |
| Net amortization of transition obligation | 51,000 | 82,000 |
| Net periodic benefit cost | $159,000 | $260,000 |

The following table sets forth the change in projected benefit obligation and the net liability recognized in the consolidated statement of financial position as of June 30, 2001:

| | Long-term Care | Health |
|---|---|---|
| Reconciliation of benefit obligation: | | |
| Obligation at July 1, 2000 | $1,014,000 | $1,643,000 |
| Service cost | 32,000 | 47,000 |
| Interest cost | 77,000 | 131,000 |
| Actuarial loss | 40,000 | 106,000 |
| Benefit payments | 0 | (61,000) |
| Obligation at June 30, 2001 | $1,163,000 | $1,866,000 |

Net liability recognized in consolidated statement of financial position

| | Long-term Care | Health |
|---|---|---|
| Funded status at June 30, 2001 | $(1,163,000) | $(1,866,000) |
| Unrecognized transition obligation | 964,000 | 1,561,000 |
| Unrecognized loss | 40,000 | 106,000 |
| Net liability | $ 159,000 | $ 199,000 |

The accumulated postretirement benefit obligation was determined using a weighted average discount rate of 7.5% for both the long-term care and health plans.

## 8. NOTES PAYABLE

On September 23, 1995, the Diocese obtained a $9,660,000 commitment for an unsecured loan from a bank to provide financing for the construction of Charlotte Catholic High School. On January 1, 1997, the loan's fixed interest rate was amended from 9.07% per annum to 8.39% per annum. In April 2001, the remaining outstanding principal balance was repaid. Interest expense amounted to $29,000 during fiscal 2001.

On December 5, 1997, the Diocese obtained a $1,875,000 commitment for an unsecured loan maturing on January 15, 2003, from a bank for the construction of an addition to Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School and the purchase of land for Charlotte Catholic High School. The loan's fixed interest rate is 7.88% per annum. The outstanding balance under this agreement was approximately $468,000 at June 30, 2001. Interest expense amounted to $56,000 during fiscal 2001. The scheduled maturities over the next two years are as follows: $424,000 in 2002 and $44,000 in 2003.

On February 10, 1995, Bishop McGuinness High School obtained a $110,615 commitment for an unsecured loan maturing on October 15, 2004, from a bank to provide financing for operational purposes. On January 1, 1997, the loan's fixed interest rate was amended from 9.07% per annum to 8.39% per annum. The outstanding balance under this agreement was approximately $49,000 at June 30, 2001. The scheduled maturities over the next four years are $14,000 in 2002, $15,000 in 2003, $15,000 in 2004 and $5,000 in 2005.

Catholic Social Services has borrowed money from the United States Catholic Conference to cover the general operating expenses of the refugee office. This loan is unsecured, non interest bearing and payable upon demand. The outstanding balance was $10,000 at June 30, 2001.

## 9. BONDS PAYABLE

In June 2000, the North Carolina Educational Facilities Financial Agency (the Agency) issued $19,700,000 of variable rate educational facilities revenue bonds (Bond issue) with final maturity, subject to prior redemption, on June 1, 2017. The proceeds therefrom have been loaned to William G. Curlin, as Bishop of the Diocese and will be administered by the Central Administration. Such proceeds are being used to finance the acquisition, construction, installation and equipping of a new Bishop McGuiness High School (BMHS) and to refinance the construction and equipping of a Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) entity, as well as to pay a portion of the interest on the bonds and to pay bond issue costs. The Central Administration is allocating a pro rata portion of the Bond issue to BMHS and MACS. These affiliated entities have recorded their pro rata investments, interest components and resulting payable to the Central Administration on their financial statements.

Principal and interest payments on the loan are supported by an irrevocable, direct-pay letter of credit by a bank. As of June 30, 2001, the letter of credit, which expires on July 5, 2002 (subject to earlier termination or extension in accordance with the letter-of-credit agreement), supports the entire loan amount. The annual fee associated with this letter of credit is .32%.

The mandatory redemption of the Bonds will be provided by sinking fund payments beginning in June 2002 and ending June 2017. Interest accrues at a variable rate and is due quarterly. The interest rate fluctuates on a weekly basis and was 2.75% at June 30, 2001.

The future debt service requirements of the bonds are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| 2002 | $ 1,470,000 |
| 2003 | 1,529,000 |
| 2004 | 1,583,000 |
| 2005 | 1,653,000 |
| 2006 | 1,727,000 |
| Thereafter | 22,977,000 |
| | 30,939,000 |
| Less - Amount representing interest | (11,239,000) |
| | $19,700,000 |

## 10. PARISH SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PROGRAMS

The Diocese administers parish savings and parish investment programs. These programs have been established for the benefit of diocesan parishes, schools and agencies. Interest is earned at prime less 3.75% for the savings program and prime less 2.75% for the investment program. Savings program funds may be withdrawn at any time, whereas withdrawal of investment program funds is subject to a minimum 18-month investment period. Funds on deposit related to these programs along with accrued interest totaled approximately $18,297,000 at June 30, 2001, and are reflected as custodial obligations in the accompanying consolidated statement of financial position.

## 11. EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS

The Diocese administers medical and dental insurance coverage for all employees including Parish and mission employees. The Diocese charges each organization premiums for the coverage of its employees on a monthly basis. The individual organizations have no liability for claims in excess of the premiums to be paid. The Diocese has an arrangement with a third party to administer the medical and dental plan. Approximately 15% of the premiums submitted by diocesan entities is paid to the third-party administrator for administrative services and the premiums for specific and aggregate stop-loss coverage in fiscal 2001. The remaining portion of the premiums is designated by the Diocese to pay claims which are processed by the third-party administrator. The Diocese has specific stop-loss coverage at $100,000 per claim and aggregate coverage beginning at 125% of the actuarially projected total individual claims under $100,000 for fiscal 2001. Employee health benefits expense was approximately $3,481,000 during fiscal 2001.

## 12. LEASE AGREEMENTS WITH PARISHES

MACS leases various facilities from two participating parishes of the Diocese under lease terms ranging from 12 to 18 years. These leases provide for contingent rentals based on usage and may be amended or modified at any time during the lease term. Rent expense was $291,000 for fiscal 2001.



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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

November 23, 2001
Volume 11 ▾ Number 11

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Prayer makes us aware that everything – even evil –finds its principal and definitive reference point in God.

– Pope John Paul II
Letter to U.S. Bishops, 1993

# Artist draws inspiration and strength from creative endeavors

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

FOREST CITY — Alan Paul Murfitt poured a small amount of red-dish-brown paint onto a piece of clear plastic, filled his brush, and began to paint the hair of Pontius Pilate's servant. It was "Jesus Condemned to Death," the first of the 14 Stations of the Cross that Murfitt is painting and repairing for his parish church, Immaculate Conception. Father Herbert Burke, the parish's pastoral administrator, asked him to take on the project after seeing several statues he had painted. Murfitt wanted to paint the stations a few years ago, but the previous pastor never gave him permission. The smooth-as-marble, cream-colored plaques, Murfitt said, look "dead" to him, adding that, "Now, when people look at them they'll be able to see some of what (Jesus) suffered." Joann Cilone, wife of Rev. Mr. Andrew J. Cilone has seen the completed station, which Murfitt delivered to the church just before Thanksgiving. "I think he's doing a very good job," she said. "He was really nervous about it; he didn't want to do anything that would upset anybody. He's just a very special person." Murfitt works by a window in a room at home or at nearby Isothermal Community College, where he's taking an art class so he can learn to do details, such as realistic faces. He's also painted angels and a statue of St. Francis of Assisi, among other pieces, but accepts no payment for his work. "I don't want any money," Murfitt said. "I do it for the Lord. This is my way to give thanks to the Lord for bringing me where I am today. I was supposed to be dead. He gave me back my life." Where Murfitt, 54, is today is a long way from the accident that put him in a wheelchair and on artificial legs and from his tough youth in the Bronx, N.Y. He did drugs, sold drugs, made zip guns, pistols built of pipe. Once he stole a car so he could visit his twin sister who was working upstate. He'd been raised Catholic, but after confirmation he mostly quit going to church. "Sometimes I believed, sometimes I didn't," he said. "You could say I hung out with the wrong crowd, but that's what we did in my neighborhood." He had a violent temper: "I used to carry a (metal) pipe, about six feet long. Somebody jumped in my face, I knocked 'em down. I never hurt anybody real bad. I got close to it, but I never hurt anybody real bad, never killed anybody." Then came the accident when he was 29.



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

**Alan Paul Murfitt paints the first Station of the Cross.**

Murfitt was the porter (janitor) at Public School 145 on New York City's Upper West Side. His foreman regularly ordered him to burn trash in the school's incinerator. "I wasn't supposed to because I didn't have a license," Murfitt said, "but when you've got kids, sometimes you do things if you want to keep your job." That first Monday after Christmas day 1976 a new employee turned on the gas in the incinerator, without Murfitt's knowledge, but the fire didn't start. Murfitt opened the incinerator door, dropped in a piece of paper, added a flaming piece." I threw the paper in," he said, "and instead of the gas blowing up, it blew out." Murfitt's co-workers found him unconscious, right hand over his face. That hand and his face weren't hurt, but he was burned over 75 percent of his body. His work boots held in the heat that cooked his legs and feet. Doctors amputated his left leg above the knee; two months later they took the fingers of his left hand and his right leg below the knee. He spent a year in the hospital." I don't remember the pain," he said. "The Lord doesn't let me remember."

A psychiatrist visited to determine Murfitt's mental state. The window was open, and the doctor asked if he wanted to jump out. "No," Murfitt replied, "but if you want to, go ahead."

SEE ARTIST, PAGE 5

### Expanding Christian music choices seen appealing to more youths

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (CNS) — As Christian music has expanded over the years to include pop hits, alternative, rap, ska and hard rock, the popularity of that kind of music has grown among youths in the Archdiocese of Kansas City. Dana Nearmyer, consultant for youth ministry for the archdiocese, believes that about 50 percent of the youths in the archdiocese have been exposed to Christian music, with half of those being literate and knowledgeable about it. "The essence of Christian music is its ability to draw people toward the sacramental life," Nearmyer told The Leaven, Kansas City archdiocesan newspaper. "Youth ministry's use of Christian music as a way to reach kids has increased dramatically in the last few years." In late October, the archdiocese hosted its first music festival, drawing 300 teens to Prairie Star Ranch in Williamsburg.

### Bishops designate Jan. 1, 2002, as national day of prayer for peace

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops designated Jan. 1, 2002, as a national day of prayer for peace as a response to the Sept. 11 terror attacks. The vote, which required a simple majority of the bishops present and voting, passed 146-3 on the last day of the bishops' fall general meeting in Washington. "I'm sure the three (who voted no) misvoted," Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, outgoing president of the conference, said after the Nov. 15 vote, which was conducted by electronic balloting. "In response to the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, pastors and Catholic laity have found many opportunities for prayer," said the proposal by the bishops' Committee on Liturgy, headed by Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb of Mobile, Ala.

### Catholic personnel told not to attend Rochester woman's ordination

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (CNS) — Rochester Bishop Matthew H. Clark told priests, deacons, pastoral administrators and pastoral ministers in his diocese they were forbidden to attend the Nov. 17 ordination of a woman who belongs to a local breakaway Catholic church called Spiritus Christi. He also said Catholic leaders cannot attend any sacramental services at the church, which is in schism with the Roman Catholic Church. "As pastoral ministers, we have a special responsibility to avoid actions that will contribute to the confusion of the faithful or increase the scandal occasioned by this schism," Bishop Clark wrote in similar, separate letters to each group. "I know that you will be deeply sensitive to the situation and avoid doing anything that might cause confusion among the faithful or weaken the bonds of faith and charity which make us one." The bishops' letters were about the ordination of Mary Ramerman by Bishop Peter Hickman of the Old Catholic Church.




CNS PHOTO BY ART BABYCH, CANADIAN CATHOLIC NEWS

**Anti-globalization demonstrators protest IMF meeting in Ottawa**

**Protestors display signs during rallies against the IMF and World Bank in Ottawa Nov. 17. Church-based organizations were among the 2,000 anti-globalization demonstrators who criticized the policies of capitalism and called on Canadians to create a just world.**

### Salvadoran church asks OAS for pressure on archbishop's case

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Salvadoran church official has asked the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to pressure the Salvadoran government to investigate seriously the 1980 murder of Archbishop Oscar A. Romero. The Salvadoran government has not complied with a commission decision last year asking for a reopening of the case and the abrogation of an amnesty law preventing suspects from being brought to trial, said Maria Julia Hernandez, director of the legal aid office of the San Salvador Archdiocese. "The state is protecting the murderers and plotters," she told Catholic News Service Nov. 15 after testifying before the commission, part of the Organization of American States. The Archbishop Romero case is still important because it shows the high-degree of impunity that exists in the country, she said.

### U.S. bishops issue statement on life in a post-Sept. 11 world

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops Nov. 15 overwhelmingly approved a statement on life in the post-Sept. 11 world. Approved by a 167-4 vote on the last day of their fall general meeting in Washington, its title was changed from "Pastoral Message on the Aftermath of Sept. 11" to "A Pastoral Message: Living With Faith and Hope After Sept. 11" so as not to convey a "negative" tone, said Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston, chairman of the bishops' Committee on International Policy. The message calls the use of force to root out terrorism "legitimate" — a stance which sparked an unsuccessful challenge from Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit — but it also asks for a host of nonmilitary solutions to issues that could be seen to spark terrorism.

### War crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone backed by church, priest says

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (CNS) — The perpetrators of human rights abuses during Sierra Leone's 10-year civil war should be brought before a war-crimes tribunal for crimes against humanity, said a Catholic Church official. "The church favors reconciliation, but there is a need to awaken the consciousness of guilt in those who committed crimes against humanity. The only way of doing it is through a trial," said Father Theophillus Momoh, a member of the church's interreligious council and parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Freetown. "At the end, they will feel remorseful for what they have done," he told Catholic News Service.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**December 1 — 5 p.m.**
Confirmation
Christ the King, High Point
**December 2 — 3 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Joan of Arc, Asheville
**December 3-5**
Visiting seminaries
**December 7 — 7:30 a.m.**
First Friday Mass for Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick, Charlotte
**December 8 — Feast of the Immaculate Conception**
2:30 p.m. Mass and holy hour with prayers for world peace for Knights and Dames of Malta and public
St. Patrick, Charlotte

## Diocesan planner

**November**

**29** BELMONT — Belmont Abbey, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd.; Mepkin Trappist Abbey in Moncks Corner, S.C.; and Gethsemani Abbey in Trappist, Ky., will be offering "Live-in Experience" vocational retreats today-Dec. 2, Dec. 5-9 and Jan 2-6. Participants can learn about monastic life firsthand while praying, working and enjoying vocational talks given by the monks. Space is limited, so those interested are advised to make reservations early. Mepkin Abbey dates are available on an individual basis. For more dates and information, call Natalie Smith toll-free at (866) 548-3463.

**29** CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., in association with the Western Carolina Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association will present "Alzheimer's Disease and Caregiving" tonight in the parish center from 7-9 p.m. Drs. Hiep Pham and Shirley Travis will discuss the disease and related disorders, caregiving information, preparation for the future and the Circle of Hope congregational approach to supporting dementia families. For further information and preregistration, call Louise Murray at (704) 532-5275 or call (704) 532-7390 or e-mail Louise.Murray@alz.org.

**December**

**1** CHARLOTTE — The members of the Catholic Singles of Charlotte group are looking for former members to join them for their 25th anniversary and Christmas party held this evening at the Southpark Suite Hotel. For more information, call Frances Wiggins at (704) 367-0464 or e-mail CathSinglesClt@aol.com.

**1** MORGANTON — The Ladies' Guild of St. Charles Borromeo Church, 728 W. Union St., is hosting their 3rd annual cookie walk today from 9 a.m.-noon in Murray Hall. For details, call the church office at (828) 437-3108.

**2** CHARLOTTE — The St.

### Nonembryonic stem-cell research holds potential, says expert

ROME (CNS) — Stem cells produced by nonembryonic tissue — including the blood from placentas and umbilical cords — have shown themselves to be surprisingly versatile in recent experimentation, a U.S. expert told a church-sponsored conference in Rome. But other experts said that embryos or fetuses are still the best source for stem cells, especially in potential treatment of diseases like Parkinson's or cerebral trauma. The Nov. 13-14 conference was hosted by the School of Bioethics at the Regina Apostolorum university, run by the Legionaries of Christ. It brought together medical and ethical experts on stem-cell research. Stem cells are those with the ability to develop into a variety of cell types.

### Christian-Muslim conflicts have complex roots, says Vatican agency

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To end the conflict between extremist Muslim groups and Christians, a broader vision than a "war on terrorism" or "clash of civilizations" is needed, a Vatican agency said. The missionary news service Fides said that behind violence against Christians in Muslim countries are often complex economic, political or military interests that must be sorted out. That is the case in Afghanistan, where the present chaos is the result of regional conflicts, oil interests, Islamic fundamentalist expansion and "many errors by both East and West," Fides said in an editorial Nov. 12.

### Catholic Charities USA Sept. 11 fund raises $14 million

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A special Catholic Charities USA fund to aid people affected by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks has collected $14 million to date, according to a report to the U.S. bishops. Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., who is the bishops' representative to Catholic Charities, told the U.S. bishops at their fall general meeting Nov. 12 that about 55 percent of the $14 million came directly from individuals. About 40 percent came from parish and diocesan special collections. As opposed to millions raised for other funds that are going toward immediate needs, the Catholic Charities funds are dedicated to longer-term problems related to the plane hijackings that leveled the World Trade Center and destroyed part of the Pentagon, Bishop Skylstad said.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Afghan civilians return home**

**Displaced Afghan civilians travel home to Kabul atop trucks Nov. 16. Vehicles packed with civilians and their belongings started returning to the Afghan capitol after Northern Alliance troops pushed Taliban forces to the south**

### In Rome, Baltimore, cardinal procures glass for cathedrals' domes

ROME (CNS) — Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore is directly involved in procuring glass for basilica domes on both sides of the Atlantic. The cardinal presided Nov. 14 over the inauguration of the new stained-glass lantern on the dome of his titular church in Rome, Michelangelo's Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels and Martyrs. At the same time, Cardinal Keeler is overseeing the restoration of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore, including the re-installation of 24 skylights in the dome of the nearly 200-year-old church.

### Bethlehem park named for American reopens following year of violence

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — A Bethlehem park and playground funded by a U.S. Catholic was rechristened in a program that drew about 350 West Bank children. Marie Doty Park, funded by New York philanthropist George Doty in honor of his wife, has been largely empty since its opening in July 2000 due to a year of fighting that has been particularly intense since early November. Officials from Caritas, the local church's aid agency, said the Nov. 14 program it sponsored at the park was necessary to welcome children and families back into the park. The land for the park was donated by the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

### Project to publish Dead Sea Scrolls nears completion

NEW YORK (CNS) — A project to publish the Dead Sea Scrolls is nearing completion, with the final, 37th volume based on the scrolls scheduled to be released later this year, according to the project's editor in chief. Emmanuel Tov made the announcement at a press conference Nov. 15 at the New York Public Library. Completion of the project should bring an end to comments about delays as an "academic scandal" or about a needed "liberation of the scrolls," said Tov, who announced that the final volume, titled "Discoveries in the Judean Desert," is being released by Oxford University Press. An introduction is to be published next year. Some people had charged that access to the scrolls, written mostly in Hebrew and Aramaic, was blocked because they contained information about Jesus and the early Christian movement that would undermine traditional teachings.

### Philadelphia church information hotline logs more than 55,000 calls

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Since its debut three years ago, nearly 55,000 calls have been placed to 1-877-BLESS ME, the Philadelphia Archdiocese's hotline for those with questions about the Catholic Church and their faith. The figures were released in mid-November by the archdiocesan Office of the Vicar for Renewal and Evangelization, which operates the BLESS-ME hotline (1-877-253-7763). Msgr. Charles V. Devlin, vicar for renewal and evangelization, credits the success of the BLESS-ME line to its accessibility in "answering the needs of people as they occur. People call for instantaneous consultation in facing the problems of their life."

Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of Secular Franciscans will be meeting today from 2-4 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. All visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 573-4299.

**2** HICKORY — The Secular Franciscan Order of Hickory will present a re-enactment of St. Francis of Assisi's 1223 Greccio, Italy, recreation of Jesus' birth for local people of that historical period to experience holy night conditions. The re-enactment will take place at 4 p.m. at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. For details, call Frank Cogger at (828) 256-1453 or John M. Martin at (828) 428-8920.

**2** SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**3** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight and every first Monday at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Dec. 4 and every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**3** CHARLOTTE — Christians in Career Transition is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meeting will take place tonight and Dec. 17 from 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

**6** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Ladies' Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

**8** CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo community will meet tonight for a school of leaders at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For further information, call Long Nguyen at (704) 455-2563.

**8** CHARLOTTE — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., is presenting a new Advent musical filled with music, drama and dance in preparation for Christmas. The presentation entitled "Like Winter Waiting" will feature a cast of 50 child and adults musicians from the church choirs and a small professional orchestra. For ticket and other information, call Marti Dushak at (704) 545-1224.

**9** CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

**11** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Arthritis Support and Education Group will meet this morning from 10-11 a.m. in Room D of the parish ministry center located at 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**12** CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will host a Christmas party today at 4 p.m. in the parish center. Members and non-members are welcomed to attend for refreshments and a musical program. For further information about the party or bingo held every Monday at 7:30 p.m., call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# Diocesan stewards honored at annual banquet

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — For those who have chosen to support the diocese and its various entities and ministries, the knowledge that their gift will last into the future is thanks enough. However, a special thank-you for what many of the diocesan faithful have chosen to do takes place every year. The Mass and dinner honoring approximately 80 members of the Heritage Society was held at St. Vincent Church Nov. 4.

"Bishop Curlin wants to personally thank people who have formulated an estate plan to remember the church in some way. He invites everyone for a special dinner and Mass as a way of expressing gratitude whether the amount is $5,000 or $500,000," said Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development.

Anyone who makes a planned gift to the diocese, the foundation, parish, Catholic school or agency becomes a member of the Heritage Society. The number of members stands at over 400 today. The foundation is a non-profit organization established to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations. An endowment, which provides a steady source of income over time, is a permanent fund placed in the diocesan foundation. The original amount, which earns interest over time, is not spent but the income can be used in the manner stipulated in the endowment agreement, explained Kelley.

The focus is on stewardship — time, talent and treasure. "For most people, when they think of giving of their treasure, a weekly, monthly or annual gift to their church or other charity from their annual income comes to mind," said Kelley. "In looking at stewardship, we are encouraging people to consider making a gift of their treasure out of their assets, not just their annual income. We want to encourage more people to give back to the church through planned gifts in gratitude for the blessings that God has bestowed in their lives."

More people are deciding to give a portion of their assets to the church after their deaths, after taking care of their loved ones. People should research the various options to find what is most beneficial to them: bequests, annuities, trusts, retirement plans, property or life insurance, continued Kelley.

With the rising decline of the number of men entering seminaries, Jackie and Tom Mate, parishioners of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, decided they wanted to help. With their commitment in their will to form an endowment fund to educate priests, they became members of the Heritage Society six years ago. "There is a great need for priests in the diocese, and we didn't want money to be a stumbling block for anyone who wanted to become a priest. If you help to educate a priest, that gift will keep on giving," said Mrs. Mate.

She said that the Heritage Society Mass was a reminder of their gift and keeps their act of faith close to their hearts. "Each year we attend, it reminds us of what we did and why we did it. We were glad we were able to decide where we wanted our assets to go after our deaths. It is a way of leaving something good behind. God has blessed us in so many ways that we felt we needed to give back."

Gina Rhodes, diocesan director of planned giving, said that the Mass and dinner honoring the members is a worthwhile event because it highlights those who have chosen stewardship as a way of life.

"We recognize and salute those individuals who have come forward to inform us of their intent, and we appreciate all of their efforts on behalf of the church. We can help people organize and realize the value of planned gifts," said Rhodes, who helps in organizing the Mass and dinner. "The future of our parishes, the foundation, Catholic agencies and schools are dependent upon planned gifts for future needs."

**For more information about becoming a member of the Heritage Society through planned gifts, call Gina Rhodes at (704) 370-3320 or Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301.**

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*



Photo by Joann S. Keane

**Jackie and Tom Mate pose with Bishop William G. Curlin at the annual Heritage Society Mass held at St. Vincent Church on Nov. 4.**

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# Catholic schools superintendent announces upcoming resignation

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Charlotte recently announced his plans to resign, effective June 2002, at the end of the current school year.

Skube has served the post of superintendent since 1987, and during that time, enrollment in the 17 Catholic Schools of the Western-North Carolina diocese has seen an increase of 70 percent. In that same time frame, both diocesan high schools were rebuilt, two new elementary schools were constructed, and the first diocesan middle school was established.



**Dr. Michael Skube**

Recruited by the former bishop of Charlotte, now-Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta, Skube was hired to implement goals recommended by the report of the Diocesan Synod. In particular, the Synod - an advisory report to the bishop on matters of importance to the life of the church — recommended research and development of alternative models of Catholic education to the Catholic School System.

"During this time, I have had the good fortune of working for church leaders who thoroughly support the mission of our schools," said Skube. "I have also had the pleasure of working with dedicated pastors, board members, principals, teachers, support staffs and parents all partnering together to provide the best possible Catholic school education to the children in our care," said Skube.

"I pray that God will reward Dr. Skube abundantly for his many years of dedicated and zealous service as superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Charlotte," said Bishop William G. Curlin.

"It's been a pleasure to collaborate - since 1995 - with Dr. Skube," said Father James Hawker, vicar for education in the Diocese of Charlotte. "I have been impressed with his devotion and dedication to the role of superintendent," added Father Hawker.

"After 13 years, it is time for new and fresh ideas of school leadership for the diocese," said Skube. Concurrently, Skube added, "It is a time to be recharged by seeking new challenges in another educational leadership capacity."

"Announcing my resignation now ... will provide diocesan officials the necessary time to conduct a nationwide search for the position of superintendent of schools," said Skube.

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org*

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# Artist, from page 1

He was always matter of fact. When his ex-wife came to visit him for the first time, he pulled back the sheet to show her what was left of his legs, telling her he'd rather not wait until he got home for her to see what he looked like.

To pass the time during his hospital stay, he worked on ship models. "I used to do model boats as a kid, but I messed them up," he said. In the hospital, his work improved, and he learned to use his fingerless left hand to support his tools and materials. He built sailing ships, including a Spanish galleon with 20 canons.

"I taught myself how to do the details," he said. "The hospital can show you their version, but that doesn't mean it'll work for you. You have to learn your own version. If you don't learn your own ways, you'll never be what they call a normal person. You'll always depend on somebody else."

He refuses to look to others for what he can do himself. At home with his wife Mary (they've been married 20 years, have raised 11 children and stepchildren, and have 13 grandchildren), he mows the lawn, has built a picnic table with benches, and uses a chain saw to fell trees.

Once told that he was "crazy" to operate a chain saw while sitting in a wheelchair, he held up his undamaged right hand and said, "Oh, I'm thinking about making this hand like the other one."

Murfitt said he likes to put people at ease, realizing they don't always know how to approach him.

"I remember one time when I sat in the front pew," Cilone said. "He always sits there. I went to put the kneeler down, and he said, 'Watch my toes.' I looked down, and we both cracked up."

Murfitt can't joke about everything. The accident took his legs, but it did nothing about his temper—or his faith. That began to change a few years ago.

"What it was," he said, "I was watching 10 to 15 minutes of all these television services, like John Hagee. He had the sinner's prayer, where they call you to the altar to confess your sins. I would watch Mother Angelica. Something told me, 'Go ahead and say it. Say the sinner's prayer."



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

**Murfitt pays close attention to the detailed hair of the servant in the station.**

Sometime after that he discovered that some of his power woodworking equipment was missing. "I was so mad," he said. "I came upstairs. I was looking for blood. When I got to the front door, all the anger went out of me. It was like, you know, when you see smoke on television and something sucks it away. I felt like I was floating on a cloud, like my troubles were gone."

He knows who took the equipment, and, although it's never been returned, he's made peace with that person.

Then there was the time he smelled the flowers. "I was sitting on the floor in the living room," he said. "I had the Catholic Bible, the King James, and the 'Oxford Blue Bible.' I was reading them and comparing to make sure what I was reading was correct. It says in the Bible to be careful what you read. I never used to be able to smell flowers, but all of a sudden this fragrance—a beautiful fragrance—came from the kitchen, and I knew my wife wasn't wearing perfume.

"It was the first time I ever smelled such a beautiful fragrance. I said, 'OK, I get the picture. I know you're there.' I didn't know if it was the Holy Mother or the Holy Spirit or what, but I knew it wasn't evil."

After that he started going to church. "I prayed and asked the Lord to show me what church he wanted me to go to," Murfitt said.

He found that there was a Catholic church— Immaculate Conception—in Forest City; his wife drove him to Mass. Murfitt wanted to show his commitment to his revitalized faith, so he asked a blessing from Father Gabriel Meehan, who was pastor at the time.

"It was like making a bond that I'm taking this seriously and not going back to my old ways, that when I say someone is my brother or sister, I really mean it," Murfitt said.

During the next Easter vigil, while holding a lighted candle, he looked at the crucifix and tears ran down his cheeks. "They weren't tears of sadness," he said, "they were tears of joy. I said, 'Lord, you're playing with me again. You're throwing that rubber brick at me again.' I know the Lord has a sense of humor, especially if he picked me out."

These experiences and praying about how he could increase his faith, led him to formation as a Secular Franciscan. He prayed that, if this wasn't God's will, the fraternity would reject him. He and three others from the Forest City area were received into the order last year in the St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity in Hendersonville.

"I felt good," he said. "It was like being on a cloud, and you're surrounded by brothers and sisters, and you know that they mean what they say."

Murfitt means what he says and is serious about his faith and his work.

"It gives me pleasure," he said of his painting. "I forget I'm in a wheelchair. I forget I don't have legs and half my fingers. Yes, I get depressed, I'm like everybody else; but when I'm depressed, I get out and do something."

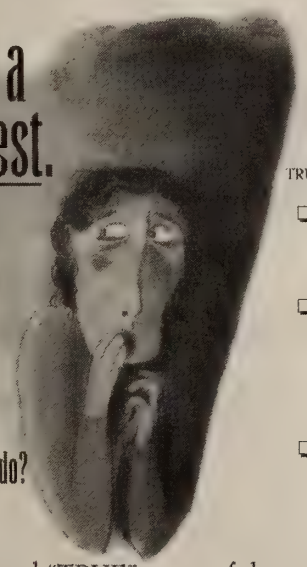
His advice to others: "Find something to do, and when you find something you like, keep doing that. You know how to fix bikes, open a bike shop. You've got to improvise." Murfitt's improvising includes counseling a young man in a wheelchair. When churches ask, he gives testimony about his experiences.

Each time he begins painting he prays that he is doing God's will.

"When you look at it like this (painted)," he said of the first station, "you see some of what this man went through. For all I know, it might inflate somebody's faith more, give them that extra kindling for the fire. We're supposed to be Franciscans; we're supposed to be inspirations for others."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*


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### Catholic college professor sees moral vision in Harry Potter books

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling "has created a very moral vision," says Robert M. Otten of Marymount University in Arlington, Va., where he teaches courses on classic children's literature. The books are about "the fundamental battle between good and evil," Otten told Catholic News Service about the writings of J.K. Rowling. He made the comments in light of the release of the new movie based on Rowling's book, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," and questions raised by some over the appropriateness of witchcraft and sorcery as subjects for children.

### Poor countries need access to world markets, says Vatican official

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Addressing a World Trade Organization conference, a Vatican official backed the push by poorer countries for greater access to Western markets, particularly in agriculture and textiles. As representatives of more than 140 countries tried to negotiate an agreement on the future trade agenda, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said he hoped the meeting would be remembered as the "development conference" of the World Trade Organization. "The poorer countries in particular need an equitable, rules-based system, in which they can participate in global trade on the basis of the highest achievable equality of opportunity," Archbishop Martin, head of the Vatican delegation, told conference participants in Doha, Qatar, Nov. 12. A text of his remarks was made available at the Vatican.

### Forum explores lay-Jesuit collaboration in higher education

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At a Woodstock Theological Center forum at Georgetown University, a Jesuit leader described "mentoring of mission" as a key element in new forms of Jesuit-lay collaboration in Catholic higher education. Featured at the Nov. 15 forum were Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington; Georgetown's first lay president, John J. DeGioia; and Jesuit Father Howard J. Gray, presidential assistant for mission and identity at John Carroll University in Cleveland and rector of the Jesuit community there. Father Gray said collaboration with laity has been an integral part of Jesuit life since the Society of Jesus was founded, but the order's 34th General Congregation in 1995 looked at the Jesuit mission as something that can only be done together with lay people, he said, and the Jesuits explored how they need to approach such collaboration so that it will be mutual and effective.



CNS PHOTO BY MARY ANN WYAND, THE CRITERION

**World War I Gustave Streeter recieves purple heart**
**Eighty-three years after the fact, World War I veteran Gustave Streeter receives the Purple Heart Nov. 8 during a ceremony at the Indiana War Memorial in Indianapolis. Streeter was wounded by shrapnel in France and treated his own wounds. He was 105 on Sept. 29.**

### Sales of handcrafted 'floating crosses' to help homeless veterans

DETROIT (CNS) — Adrian Hill served during the Vietnam War in covert military operations. He ended up homeless after his wife died of a rare disease when she was 38. "I was in debt over a half a million dollars in back hospital bills and had to file Chapter 11 bankruptcy," said Hill, who has congestive heart failure. Hill found hope with the Michigan Veterans Foundation and today is a member of a team of veterans making "floating crosses" at the veteran's center in downtown Detroit. The crosses sell for $85 to $115 and help fund projects for veterans in need. The 5-by-7-inch crosses are magnetically suspended in an 11-by-10-inch maple or mahogany frame. Tethered by a nearly invisible filament, a cross appears to float independently of its base. Each cross is overlaid with a figure of Christ crucified or a star of contrasting wood.

### Fire chaplain tells of horror, hope in Sept. 11 attacks

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (CNS) — For two months Father John Delendick, pastor of St. Michael's Parish in the Brooklyn Diocese and chaplain to the New York Fire Department, has celebrated seemingly endless memorial Masses and funeral Masses for victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. The priest was on the hellish scene of destruction at the site of the trade center just minutes after the second plane hit. The memories of that day are still vivid and the difficulty of helping families cope is ongoing, he told The Tablet, Brooklyn's diocesan newspaper. "It's has been a very difficult time because you cannot give all the families the amount of attention you would like to give them," Father Delendick said. "I have been burying those who are personal friends as well," the chaplain continued. "I had performed the wedding for one of the lost firefighters and I performed the marriages for his brothers as well. I baptized a total of nine children for this family. A priest needs time to grieve too. It has been an extraordinarily rough time."

### Turkey talk is more than just 'gobble, gobble'

WATERMAN, Ill. (CNS) — Let's talk turkey and take time to let the birds strut their stuff before 95 percent of Americans sit down to a Thanksgiving turkey dinner. Turkeys have a language of their own, said Robert Kauffman, president of HoKa Turkey Farm in Waterman. Since 1933, his family's business has been raising turkeys for consumption; now the largest turkey farm in Illinois raises about 80,000 turkeys annually. In an interview with the Catholic Explorer, newspaper of the Joliet Diocese, Kauffman explained that the birds voice their emotions much like humans do. The typical sound that he'll hear as he walks by a flock is not necessarily, "gobble, gobble," but a more high-pitched barking. The gobble is actually a way in which the males strut proudly or woo a potential mate, added Kauffman. He also said the birds hiss if they want to frighten a potential predator or whine if they want something.




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# OLC parishioner fuses heritage and faith into new endeavor

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Delores Manigo's childhood memories come to mind in waves at times, so deep and massive that they almost overwhelm her. Skating until the sun went down in and around Charlotte neighborhoods was her favorite childhood pastime, and she misses the days when children could stay outside all day without their parents worrying.

She was seventh of 11 children and watched from the sidelines as her older sisters cooked family garden food side-by-side with their mother. Manigo's life was filled with a rich Catholic heritage begun by her parents, who joined the Catholic Church before most of the Carr children were born.

"My parents were strong Catholics, and we would pray three times a day. They made sure we were at church on time every Sunday, and we walked there as a family," said Manigo, whose family belonged to the predominantly African-American St. Mary Church, formerly located on McDowell Street, and Our Lady of Consolation Church. "Everyone was involved in something at church, and I enjoyed it. The congregation supplied me with strength because they were like my family."

Her parents' desire to give their children a Catholic foundation sent Manigo and her siblings to Catholic schools: St. Benedict in Belmont, and O'Donoghue, Our Lady of Mercy and Our Lady of Consolation in Charlotte. Although her childhood parish home and schools have since been disbanded, her time spent there remains precious to her heart. The feel of



Photo By Alesha M. Price

**In honor of her late mother, Delores Manigo sponsored a fashion show, featuring clothing from her shop, at Our Lady of Consolation Church Nov. 17. Some of the proceeds will go toward her parish's St. Martin de Porres Society fund for the disadvantaged and underprivileged. "I believe if the Lord blesses you, then you should bless someone else," Manigo said.**

the blue woolen uniforms, beanie atop her head, her bow tie, and the strictness of the nuns who staffed the school remain fresh in her thoughts.

"I appreciate my parents' sending me to Catholic school," said Manigo, who graduated from public school in 1965. "Although I hated it at times, I know that they wanted the best for us, and I had another family at the schools. I was always surrounded by family wherever I went."

While working on an early childhood education degree at Central Piedmont Community College, the births of her son and daughter provided her with different priorities in life. She grew dissatisfied with hometown life and wanted to see the world. Her sister, Helen, to whom she felt closest, was living in Detroit, so she followed her in 1970. Her children remained with her parents, visiting her during the summers.

"Helen was really helpful in trying to guide me to where I needed to go. She took care of me as a child and always encouraged me. I looked up to her and wanted to be like her when I grew up," said Manigo, who says that all of her siblings were sources of comfort and support for her.

Her faith, the light in her life as a teen, grew dim as she faced single parenthood and braved a move far away from family and friends: "My parents had the faith for me at that time. I didn't start reading the Bible until I was 31."

After working in her field for five years in day care and at the Boys' Club, she moved to Atlanta into working in merchandising and promotions in the record industry. Her children moved with her to the growing city with a large African-American population. Unexpectedly, she

See HERITAGE, page 15


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# WEAVING ONE HEART:
## WELCOMING THE REFUGEE

**Saturday, December 8, 2001**
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

St. Gabriel Catholic Church
Ministry Center Rooms A, B and C
3016 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC

Please join us on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception for this educational conference and workshop on the call to welcome refugees in the Diocese of Charlotte.
The event begins with registration at 9:30 a.m. followed by the celebration of Mass at 10:00 a.m. The celebrant will be Rev. Mauricio W. West, Vicar General and Chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte.

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— Catholic Social Teaching on Ministering to Refugees
—The Church's Global and Local Response
— Individual Refugee Stories
— From Faith to Action: What You Can Do

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TEXT B: JOANN
ARTWORK BY STUDENTS: FROM OUR

## We recently asked students at Our Lady of the Assumption (OLA) School, "*How do you cook a turkey?*"

Their answers were diverse, entertaining, and enlightening. This Thanksgiving we share some of their thoughts on cooking the festive bird:

"Buy it and put it in the oven and wait 15 to 20 minutes, and that is it. You let it cool, and then you eat it." — ***Zachary Thomasson, 7.***

"You catch a turkey, pull all of the feathers off, cook him and eat him." — ***Madison O'Hara, 6 1/2.***

"You roast it and then cut it up and take it to the baking place and cut it up into tiny pieces and cut the bones out and the fat so it doesn't taste yucky." — ***Sarah Palasick, 5.***

"You go out in the woods and hunt for a turkey, and once you find it you kill it as quickly as you can so it does not run away. Then you catch it in a net and bring it home, and then you cook it and you take it out and get ready to eat it so everybody can have fun." — ***Leilani Johnson, 7.***

"When you go and cook it and you bake it and you go to the cooking place after noon and you get it and you cut it in half. When you cut it in half, you have to cut it in half again, and you eat it up." — ***Jessica Lee, 5.***

"You cut off the skin with a sharp knife, and then maybe you take all the guts out. They are gross. I think you take it to a hot oven and turn it to 60 or so and cook it in a big bowl, and when it is all done you might hear that beep sound and then it might mean it's done." — ***Anna Binkley, 7.***

"First you have to go out in the woods and kill a turkey and then bring it back to the house and put it in a big pan, and you put the top on it and you put it in the oven and cook it, and then after the turkey is done you take it out of the oven and then you can start eating it."
— ***Galvin Delaney, 7.***

"First you have to get it from the store. Then you take it home. Then you cook it. Then it is ready and I mean it tastes yummy. That is it."
— ***Allison Verdun, 6.***

"You catch it. My dad cuts it, and he brings it to the table. That's all you do. Eat it." — ***Joey Grouse, 7.***

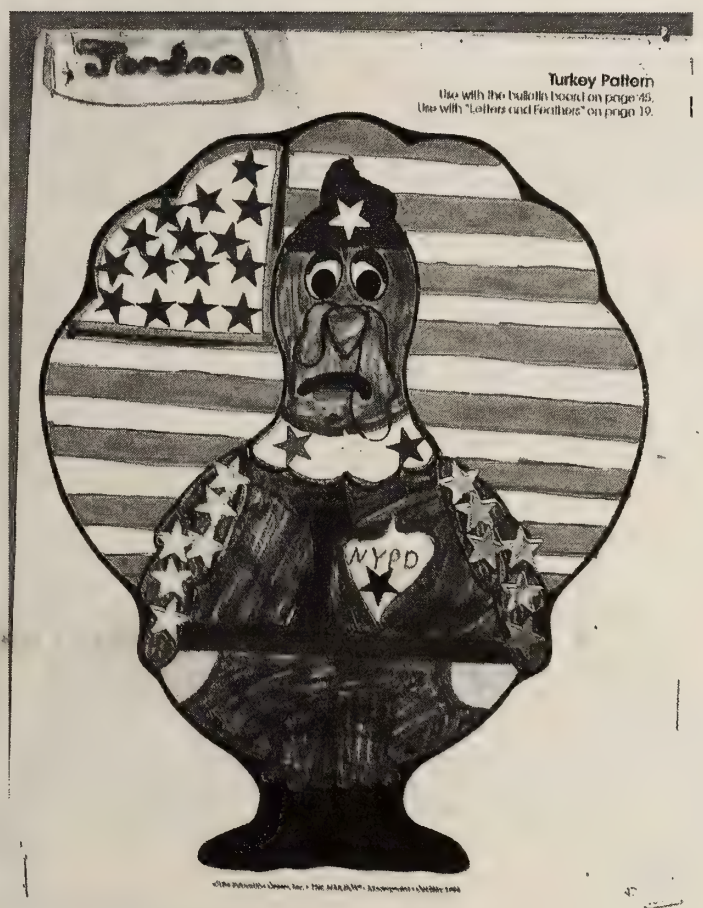


**Students at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School were quite busy readying themselves for Thanksgiving. In their words of thanks [see article to the right,] and as they pondered how to cook the bird [see article to left,] the students also decorated the school with various forms of turkey art. Pictured above are but a sampling of the artistic renderings prepared by OLA students. If some of the birds don't exactly look like turkeys, then lower-grade students can count themselves proud of their accomplishments; the assignment was to disguise turkeys.**

# SGIVING

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ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

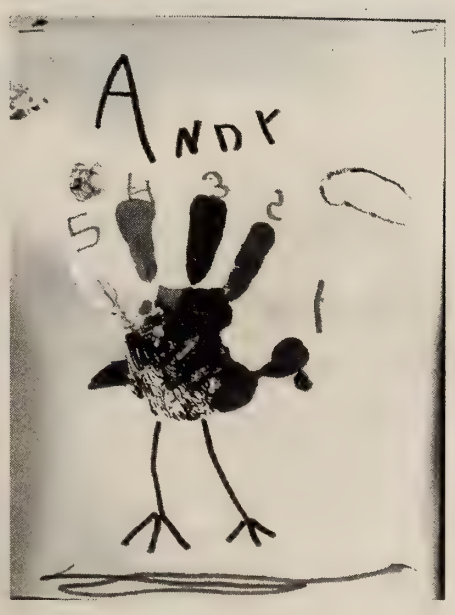









## We also asked OLA students what they are thankful for this year:

***Ahshanti Hare, 10,*** is thankful for "my family, the friends that I have and that God lets us stay free."

***Tina Nguyen, 8,*** gives thanks for "my families because they are the ones who give me care and love and make me feel comfortable when I am sad."

***Brandon Brown, 10,*** is "thankful for my teachers, my friends, my school, my family, my sister, and the food I eat" and "for my priests that teach me and share the word of God."

***Ashunti Mills, 8,*** said he is thankful for "my family, my whole big family."

***Samatha Osiecki, 10:*** "I am thankful for my parents because they are the ones who put me on this earth. They put me in this great school, they feed me, they give me shelter ... they give me their love and kindness."

***Kate Leone, 11,*** is also thankful for her parents: "They are always there for me whenever I need them. We do a lot of things together."

***Janie Wermter, 11,*** gives thanks for her family, friends, home and school, because "they have such wonderful teachers. I am also thankful for my cat, Matty. She helps me when I get upset. She always comes up and gives me an encouraging little meow and rubs me."

***Nicholas Rabiipar, 11:*** "I am thankful for my home, my friends, my family, my education, the school, and the teachers because they are really nice and they open up to you."

***Joseph Felts, 11,*** is thankful for, "my mom, my sister, my brother, my granddad, and my grandma. I am thankful for my mom because she gave me life. She takes care of me. She keeps me going and drives me places. I am thankful for my sister because she keeps me straight. I am thankful for my brother because he keeps me loose at home and plays with me at home."

**Book Review**

# New books make seasonal gifts

Reviewed by MAUREEN E. DALY
Catholic News Service

These two books are so beautiful you'll feel you have to buy them as gifts — and then you won't want to give them away!

Ronald M. Clancy's boxed set of "Best Loved Christmas Carols" is such a good idea it is a wonder no one has produced something similar. The set has three parts: a compact disc of the songs, a songbook with lyrics and sheet music, and an illustrated book about the history and messages of the songs.

***BEST LOVED CHRISTMAS CAROLS,* by Ronald M. Clancy. Christmas Classics (North Cape May, N.J., 2000). 106 pp. art book, 47 pp. songbook, 25-song CD., $39.95.**

***HOLY PERSONAL: LOOKING FOR SMALL PRIVATE PLACES OF WORSHIP,* by Laura Chester. Photographs by Donna DeMari, foreword by Thomas Moore. Indiana University Press (Bloomington, Ind., 2000). 199 pp., $29.95.**

The CD has 25 Christmas carols recorded by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, Philadelphia's St. Francis de Sales Boy Choir, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and others. It is 75 minutes of what I would agree are the best secular and religious Christmas songs — and by that I mean no repetitive, saccharine Rudolph and Frosty. In the songbook each carol's sheet music and lyrics are set on one page for ease in actually singing them with friends and family.

Last is the book of art and essays, which is a work of art itself. There are many full-color reproductions of Nativity and Epiphany paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens and lesser-known artists whose works you will recognize from holiday cards.

Clancy chose art works that were created at the same time as the songs. So "Lo How a Rose Ere Blooming," written in the 15th century, is illustrated with a page from the Salzburg Missal, a rare book in the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich, Germany. This 8-by-10 reproduction can be examined here more closely than would be possible even if you could hold the actual missal in your hand. Clancy chose the illuminated miniature painting "The Tree of Jesse," which shows the Madonna and Child as the flower at the tip of a swirling tree that sprouts from the chest of the sleeping Jesse. This book is full of such wonders.

The second book, "Holy Personal: Looking for Small Private Places of Worship," is also a feast for the eyes. Written by Laura Chester with photographs by Donna DeMari, it is a record of 26 private folk architecture chapels built by amateur architects all across the United States.

A chance encounter led Chester to the first homemade chapel she visited soon after she converted to Catholicism. That visit brought recommendations of more private worship spaces. Within a few weeks she had a list of private prayer spaces to visit, the outline of a book and a plan to build her own chapel on her New England property.

Chester's record of visits begins with the chapels in the East and Midwest, moves Southwest, then deep South, then far West. Her descriptions of the design, construction and ornamentation of these personal spaces and the people who created them is intercut with the progress of the construction of her own small stone chapel over a year. Chester is a precise writer with a gift for describing buildings, materials, landscape and how the three work together.

The book includes dozens of glowing color photographs — some two pages wide, others carefully placed alongside pertinent text. DeMari is a fashion photographer and shoots architecture like fashion, with an eye for color, texture and line and an awareness of how setting can tell a mood story. The pictures give off atmosphere so thick it is like weather — scorching hot pink and orange adobe under a piercing blue desert sky, moist dark wood log and shingle on a muffled pine needle ground in the shade of towering damp evergreens.

In a preface to the book Thomas Moore writes: "The ultimate effect of a worthy spiritual life would be beautiful lives in a beautiful world. This beautiful book is an excellent start." I agree.

# Word to Life

***Sunday Scripture Readings:***
**Dec. 2, 2001**

*December 2, First Sunday of Advent*
Cycle C Readings:
1) Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122:4-9
2) Romans 13:11-14
3) Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

By BOZENA CLOUTIER
Catholic News Service

The telephone rang as I was finishing breakfast. A tentative voice asked, "Is this Bozena?" and went on to tell me she was Deidre, Shirley's daughter. Then the voice broke, and there was silence.

"Deidre, do you have bad news?" I asked. "Yes," she answered "My mom has died." It was a freak accident. Shirley had driven her car into the garage, closed the door and then hurried into the house. Maybe she wanted to catch the phone or continue listening to the Texas Rangers' game — we shall probably never know the reason. Whatever it was, it seemed pressing, and she forgot that she had left the car engine running. Though she'd closed the door from the house to the garage, the carbon monoxide seeped in and killed her.

Shirley had been a good friend, and we kept in touch over the years. After her husband died, Shirley forged a new life for herself. A few months ago I went to see her in a theatrical production where she played the lead role. She was wonderful. Over coffee the next morning she told me that it had been her childhood dream to be an actress, but that her parents had objected. And here she was, decades later, fulfilling that dream. She was full of gratitude for her life.

"Sometimes I have to pinch myself just to be sure that all this is real," she said.

Now she was dead, and we were left to mourn and try to make sense of her passing.

My questioning thoughts were illumined by this weekend's Scriptures. These speak of the transience of life and of the shocking randomness with which death comes. That seemed so true in Shirley's case, yet I began to see a pattern of grace.

About a month before her death, Shirley visited her aging mother in California. Two weeks later she took the entire family on vacation to Florida. And on the day she died she had all her local family come to dinner at her house.

It is a grace to die when life is good and fulfilling. It is a grace to be spared the losses and infirmities which often accompany old age. It is an inestimable grace to leave this world in harmony with family and friends.

I don't think Shirley had any premonition of death, but I do believe she was prepared for the coming of the Son of Man and went "rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

Let us pray for the grace to do likewise.

QUESTIONS:

*Do you ever think about your own death? Have you thought about planning your funeral liturgy? Have you asked the Lord for the grace of a happy death?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Nov. 25 - Dec. 1**

**Sunday,** 2 Samuel 5:1-3, Colossian 1:12-20, Luke 23:35-43; **Monday,** Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20, Luke 21:1-4; **Tuesday,** Daniel 2:31-45, Luke 21:5-11; **Wednesday,** Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28, Luke 21:12-19; **Thursday,** Daniel 6:12-28, Luke 21:20-28; **Friday (St. Andrew),** Romans 10:9-18, Matthew 4:18-22; **Saturday,** Daniel 7:15-17, Luke 21:34-36

**Scripture for the week of Dec. 2 - 8**

**First Sunday of Advent,** Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:37-44; **Monday (St. Francis Xavier),** Isaiah 4:2-6, Matthew 8:5-11; **Tuesday (St. John of Damascus),** Isaiah 11:1-10, Luke 10:21-24; **Wednesday (Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 25:6-10, Matthew 15:29-37; **Thursday (St. Nicholas),** Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21, 24-27; **Friday (St. Ambrose),** Isaiah 29:17-24, Matthew 9:27-31; **Saturday (Immaculate Conception),** Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12, Luke 1:26-38

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**Movie Review**

# 'Shallow Hal'

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Brothers Bobby and Peter Farrelly tap into a gentler vein of humor than their usual gross-out fare in the mildly amusing romantic comedy "Shallow Hal" (20th Century Fox).

Propped up by the far-flung notion of Gwyneth Paltrow playing an obese woman whose svelte charms can be seen only by Jack Black, "Shallow Hal" is a goodhearted lesson in getting beyond superficial values and seeing people's inner beauty. But it is also basically an extended one-joke film, with the audience awaiting each predictable punch line. And the Farrelly brothers take a long time getting there, as the film's two hours easily could have been slimmed down to make it less laborious.

Paltrow plays 300-pound Rosemary, a warmhearted Peace Corps volunteer who starts an unlikely romance with a plumpy, aspiring Lothario named Hal (Black). Hal and his equally immature pal, Mauricio (Jason Alexander), neither of whom are remotely hunky, ineptly play the dance club scene and won't consider any woman who is not supermodel-perfect. Mauricio, who wears a toupee that looks like dark brown Velcro, is so choosy he breaks up with a gorgeous woman just because her second toe is longer than her big toe.

But then Hal has a chance meeting with self-help guru Tony Robbins (playing himself), who uses the power of suggestion to alter Hal's skin-deep perception of women. So when he meets Rosemary, Hal is temporarily blinded to her obesity. All he sees is her inner beauty, a funny gal with a great, toned body. But, inevitably, trouble makes its entrance. Mauricio, upset over the new Hal, tracks down Robbins and convinces him to de-hypnotize Hal for his own good, throwing a temporary monkey wrench into the romance.

The directors walk a fine line in their humor about female anatomy and fat people. But it is a far cry from the normal crass comedy moviegoers usually get from the Farrellys, such as "Dumb and Dumber." (However, as if they cannot resist, they throw in a gross-out joke involving an unusual appendage of Mauricio's.)

Intending their film to be positive, the Farrellys at least have not reduced their film to mean-spirited fat jokes. Yet they do sink to using stereotypes to choke laughter out of the premise. For example, Rosemary has two restaurant seats collapse beneath her, eats like a ravenous linebacker and manages to propel a little boy into a tree from the force of her cannonball dive into a swimming pool.

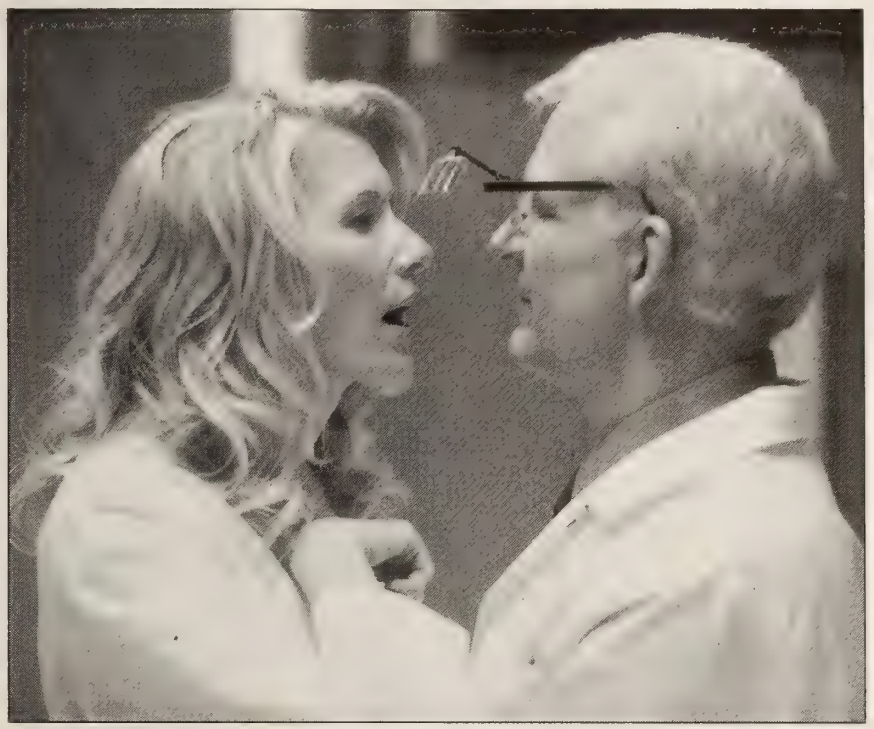
The film also relies too much on the idea of guys consistently playing "out of their league" (as the film puts it) to get laughs. Black and Alexander go a bit overboard in their renderings of aggressive over-compensators and both would have fared better had they toned it down a bit. Black's regular-guy image is a welcome change of pace for a leading man. Yet his glibness never gives way to the vulnerability that is seen from Rosemary.

Paltrow captures the character's shy sense of disbelief at being wooed so enthusiastically. Her performance is the key ingredient in making their romance sweet and appealing. Having worn her "fat suit" in public to find out what it was really like, Paltrow walks as if she had an extra 200 pounds on her even out of the suit, when filmmakers use every opportunity to emphasize her curvy, slim figure. However, the "fat" makeup itself looks way too fake to fool anyone.

Due to an implied sexual encounter, a few sexist wisecracks, fleeting rear nudity and some crass phrases and profanity with an instance of rough language, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

*Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

*Editor's note: Shallow Hall was filmed in and around the Charlotte area.*



CNS PHOTO FROM ARTISAN

**Scene from film 'Novocaine'**

**Laura Dern and Steve Martin star in a scene from the movie "Novocaine." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV— adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

## Video Reviews

NEW YORK (CNS) — *Following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

**"The Devil's Backbone" (Sony Classics)**

Set during the Spanish Civil War, the stylish horror movie tells the story of a 10-year-old orphan (Fernando Tielve), befriended by the orphanage's headmistress (Marisa Paredes) and a kindly professor (Federico Luppi), as he uncovers the ghost of a young boy who inexplicably vanished from the school some time ago. Effectively melding a tale of life in wartime with a standard ghost yarn, director Guillermo Del Toro is better at creating a mood than building suspense, especially in the final act, yet the film is consistently absorbing. Subtitles. A sexual encounter, some violence, a few gruesome images and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"In the Bedroom" (Miramax)**

Powerful story about a middle-aged couple (Sissy Spacek and Tom Wilkinson) coping with the death of their college-bound son (Nick Stahl) who is savagely murdered by his older girlfriend's (Marisa Tomei) ex-husband (William Mapother). Coaxing exceptional performances from the ensemble cast, Todd Field's accomplished directorial debut is subtly intense and deliberately paced as it tackles the spouses' grief and resentment which ultimately lead to vigilante justice. A few scenes of violence with some profanity and rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## As conflicts continue, pope calls for fasting, interfaith prayer days

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In response to the growing threat of global terrorism and other conflicts, Pope John Paul II called for a church-wide day of fasting in December and a prayer gathering of Christian and non-Christian leaders in January.

The pope said the interfaith meeting, to take place Jan. 24 in the Italian pilgrimage town of Assisi, would allow Christians and Muslims to proclaim to the world that religion can never be used to justify violence.

The Dec. 14 day of fasting among Catholics also was to be marked by prayers for peace. The pope suggested that in addition to limiting their food and drink on that day, Catholics find ways to transform their sacrifice into a contribution to the victims of terrorism and war.

The pope announced the two initiatives during his Sunday midday prayer at the Vatican Nov. 18. He said he was convinced that today's worried world "needs to see gestures of peace and hear words of hope."

Addressing a crowd from his window above St. Peter's Square, the pope spoke about the tensions and sufferings that have worried many people around the world.

He cited the thousands of innocent victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. In an apparent reference to the continued military campaign in Afghanistan, he said that "innumerable people have been forced to leave their homes to confront the unknown and sometimes to meet a cruel death," while "women, elderly and children risk dying of cold and hunger."

"In a situation rendered dramatic by the ever-impending threat of terrorism, we feel the need to raise our cry to God," he said. The prayers raised to heaven should be stronger today, because the threats to peace seem greater, he said.

The Dec. 14 day of fasting falls on a Friday, the church's traditional day for fasting and abstinence. The pope asked Catholics worldwide to "pray with fervor to God that he grant the world a stable peace based on justice and help people find adequate solutions to the many conflicts that torment the world."

He pointed out that Muslims had just begun Ramadan, their annual month-long period of daytime fasting, which ends Dec. 16.

The pope did not provide details of the Jan. 24 encounter in Assisi, the central Italian birthplace of St. Francis. Vatican officials said the pope was expected to preside personally over the prayer meeting there, as he did in 1986, when he convened a similar "prayer for peace" gathering in Assisi.

The pope said he wanted to invite representatives of all religions to "pray so that divisions can be overcome and for the promotion of an authentic peace."

"In particular, Christians and Muslims should meet together there, to proclaim before the world that religion should never become a reason for conflict, hatred and violence," he said.

"Whoever truly welcomes the word of the good and merciful God cannot help but exclude from his heart every form of rancor and hostility," he said.

He said that today, as in 1986 during the first interfaith encounter in Assisi, the world needs to hear a "choral invocation rise with insistence" to implore the gift of peace.



# Advent Reflection

FATHER MATHEW KAUTH
Guest Columnist

A parishioner recently approached me with the question: "How do I keep Christ in Christmas." I wryly responded that if you take Christ out of Christmas you are left with "mas." After that failed attempt at humor, I began to think about the veracity of that statement. The question is not so much how to keep Christ in Christmas, but rather how do we keep ourselves in Christ? The first way to keep ourselves in Christ, and therefore in Christmas, is to prepare for it by keeping ourselves in Advent.

In a world of instant food and instant information, we tend to live our lives with instant expectations. We have lost the ability to prepare for celebrations, and so have lost the ability to celebrate. Taking our cue from society, it would appear that Christmas begins sometime around Halloween, blossoms the day after Thanksgiving (when everyone goes to the secular church known as the mall) and comes to a deadly dried-up halt at around 3:00 p.m. on the 25th of December. The Church, whose nature is eternal, lives quite differently and so do those who attune themselves to her clock. She does not allow us to show up to a celebratory "feast" without first clothing us in the proper vesture of humility and grace. We would not want to show up to this great feast, the feast that grants us an audience with the King of Kings, without being properly attired. We remember all too well the parables our Blessed Lord offered about those who came to the wedding feast with less than adequate garb. While we may not "wail and grind our teeth" without proper preparation, we shall certainly not feast on the sumptuous grace of the Christmas season. The Church therefore gives us Advent. Advent (literally "to come") is the season of four weeks, which precedes the Christmas season. This is our time to prepare. How does the Church suggest we prepare?

The answer can be found in her sacred liturgy. Lively green is laid aside, and the priest dons the penitential and regal violet with the joyful rose marking the third Sunday *(Gaudete)*. Vesture alone reveals that we are entering into a time of prayerful and penitential (albeit not equivalent to Lent) preparation for the coming of the King. We are the recipients of a coming that so many prophets and kings longed to see, but did not see, and yearned to hear but did not hear. This coming punctuated our time and space and attunes our eyes and ears to His return in glory. The sacred liturgy also becomes slightly sober with the elimination of the *Gloria* in preparation of the angel's song and the elimination of excessive organ and floral flourishings.

Finally, the Sacred Scriptures given for our nourishment magnify two saints of unparalleled glory: St. John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary. St John makes straight the path, by inciting us to seek our Lord's grace to rid our lives of sin. The Baptist moves us to seek out the Sacrament of Penance where the baptismal waters once received wash over us again to make us clean. In short, our sinful lives decrease, so that His life in us might increase. Our Lady is high lighted as Virgin and Mother. These two inseparable titles ensure true faith in the Son. Her virginity reveals that the child in the womb is God, while her Motherhood reveals that He is also man. The "Virgin-Mother" reveals the "God-man."

This is a great mystery! This is the Divine exchange, *admirabile commercium*, where "God becomes man so that man might become like God." As Bishop Fulton Sheen once said, He who hurled the stars into orbit would not quite be able to reach the big head of the ox, which looked down at Him in the manger. This is not a mystery that we could exhaust were we to have an eternity (and hopefully we will) to explore it. The Church teaches us to prepare to celebrate it for four weeks, and then gives us from Christmas to Epiphany feast on such sublimity. Advent should strip from us our world-weary eyes and prepare them to behold the King of Kings. Gazing as we should for four weeks upon the Baptist and the Virgin-Mother, we shall be prepared to bend our heads and stoop under the threshold to behold the Almighty clothed in humility.

*Gloomy night embrac'd the place where the noble infant lay. The babe look'd up and show'd His face; In spite of darkness, it was day. It was thy day, sweet! And did rise not from the East, but from thine eyes. Welcome, all Wonders in one sight! Eternity shut in a span. Summer in winter. Day in Night. Heaven in earth, and God in man. Great little One! Whose all-embracing birth lifts earth to heaven, stoops heav'n to earth. — excerpts from Richard Crashaw, "The Nativity"*

# The Bottom Line



ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

## Are There Evil People in the World?

As 2001 comes to a close, we will look back at its final months as a sad time when we heard much about how evil had attacked us at the hands of terrorists. It became almost a mantra from President Bush that we would defeat "the evil ones." Any of us who have been victims of crime — and the destruction of thousands of people in New York's World Trade Center was certainly a crime have truly been touched by evil. After my son and his wife were murdered by an 18-year-old who snuck into their home with a 9mm semiautomatic gun, I went to that room of death. I felt the chill and reality of destructive, powerful evil. Yet, I could not label the killer an "evil one." He was a person who had done terrible evil, but wasn't he, as I and all of us truly are, a child of God? If I denied him his humanity by calling him the "evil one," wasn't I demonizing him, dehumanizing him and thereby saying he was doomed to hell?

I agonized over this, prayed for light and had an answer. I am to pray for him, that he would someday ask God to forgive him for his sin, so that he could find redemption and one day be reunited with the Source of his life.

As I prayed, I understood that none of God's children are "evil ones." They can be deceived ones, taken over by the evil one, seduced for whatever reasons to destroy others, to do great evil. They need to be stopped from carrying out their evil deeds and must be punished. But we must not demonize them and in our hearts and heads send them to hell.

Many have expressed confusion about how a good God, an omnipotent God, all-wise, all-seeing, could let such evil exist in this world. Philosophers and theologians have pondered that question for centuries, and no one ever has come up with a truly satisfactory explanation. I think that old question of why God permits evil is not really relevant today. I think we have to look at the terribly unequal and unfair distribution of the world's resources to get at the root of why so much hate has surfaced in certain countries. In a powerful book written 25 years ago — "Jesus Before Christianity," just re-released by Orbis Books — Dominican Father Albert Nolan, serving in South Africa, anticipated "catastrophe" and the "escalation of violence." He wrote:

"More than 1 billion people experience hunger for at least part of every year. They also lack clean water, elementary education and basic health care. Only God knows how many millions die of starvation. The system was not designed to solve such problems. It can produce more and more wealth, but it is incapable of ensuring that even the bare necessities of life are evenly distributed. This is because it is geared to profits rather than to people."

Father Nolan shows brilliantly that Jesus is "the true picture of God" sent to show us how to "understand the structures of evil in the world as it is today." To believe in Jesus, Father Nolan reminds us, is to let go of the hate and fear that keep wars and violence going and "to believe that goodness can and will triumph over evil." Can we Christians, observing Advent in this time of terror, awaiting the coming of Jesus, hold to that belief.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE,
GUEST COLUMNIST

### A Christopher Company

It's not unusual to spot "Christopher moments," those times when people make a difference by acts of kindness, compassion or charity which reflect the goodness of God. And wonderful as it is to see the effects of such goodness performed by a single person, it's especially encouraging when whole companies or organizations get involved in making the world a better place. Which brings me to Christmas.

Each year, on Christmas Eve, our parish has a Mass for children and their parents, which is beyond jammed! Our Church seats about nine hundred people, but on this night, no fewer than fifteen hundred folks show up. Happily, we have a lower church that can handle the spillover. This Mass has an absolute flavor of joy. The music soars, and everyone sings out in a way they rarely do during the rest of the year. Little children's anticipation of the birthday of Jesus adds a crackle of energy.

At the end of the priest's homily, a special visitor is introduced — it's Santa Claus himself. Santa engages in a brief dialogue with the priest celebrant. Santa reminds everyone that the reason for the season is Christ, that it's far better to give than to receive and that communal prayer is important. He then stays for the rest of the Mass. The wonder in the eyes of the children (and their parents) is thrilling to see.

A few years ago, the Muller family attended this very special Christmas Eve Mass. They felt the contagious joy and thought it should be shared even more widely. So they stopped me outside church and asked, "How many people in the parish can't get to Christmas Mass because they're homebound, disabled or unable to get out and about?" My guess at that time was that at least a hundred people were unable to come to church, most of them elderly parishioners fighting illness or disability. Richard, the father of that family, said that he thought missing such a wonderful Christmas celebration was a sad thing. I agreed, but what could be done?

Richard and Mary Muller went home and found a way. They own a thriving photography and videography studio. Their job is saving and sharing joyous moments in people's lives. So they made a proposal and then made good on it by donating their work. On Christmas Eve, they would bring their camera crew, including their two teenage sons, Gregory and Keith, and film that joyous and uplifting Mass with Santa and the children. They'd then return to the studio, edit what they'd shot and reproduce a hundred videocassettes. Our job was relatively simple: to see that each of the homebound parishioners got a copy and had a VCR to watch it. Our eucharistic ministers gladly acted as delivery agents.

*Msgr. Jim Lisante is the director of the Chrsitophers.*

# Looking Around



BY FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ
CNS COLUMNIST

### Think About the "Isms" in Your Life

Everyone can remember being introduced to prefixes and suffixes in grammar school. That's the kind of thing grammar school is supposed to do. It was fascinating to see how a prefix shifted the direction of a word and how a suffix gave it a special emphasis or tilt.

Take the Latin root of the English word for fold, "plic" (the verb would be "plicare"), and notice what different prefixes can do to its meaning: explicate, replicate, duplicate, implicate. Similarly, the word "unite" gets a massage at the hands of different prefixes: reunite,

disunite.

And consider how the suffix "ism" has a way of throwing a noun into italic or bold print. It introduces a bias, a tilt, an imbalance. "Terrorism" has been on everyone's lips since Sept. 11. Even without the help of a suffix, "terror" grabs your attention and makes you think. Add an "ism" to that dread word, and you can almost feel the shivers working their way up your spine. Put the prefix "bio" in front of "terrorism," and wait for your stomach to start churning.

We've been working to eliminate or at least contain racism, sexism, consumerism and materialism in society. We were happy to see what we welcomed as the collapse of communism in 1989. Capitalism has its excesses that we want to check in order to keep markets and people really free. Individuals are great to have around (we couldn't stay sane without them), but individualism is an aberration that makes living together difficult.

You can run out your own list of additional "isms" and reflect on how they affect you, your family and the world in which you live. Atheism, socialism, militarism, pacifism, patriotism, globalism, isolationism, liberalism, conservatism. Fans congregate in ballparks, but fanaticism has no place there. Commercial activity keeps the wheels of the economy turning, but commercialism kills the spirit.

What, then, about "Catholicism"? Does that word connote a bias or convey an undesirable imbalance? Are we Catholics partial? If so, to what? Do we overemphasize anything or assume too much when we speak of our Catholicism?

I would argue that Catholicism is the one tolerable "ism" that cannot be carried to excess if we let that little suffix make the following point: We are lower-case "c" catholic in our outlook. We find God in all things. We are worldwide in our love. (That assertion is, of course, easier made that achieved. If we were put on trial for our universalism, our knowledge and love of all, where would the verdict come down?)

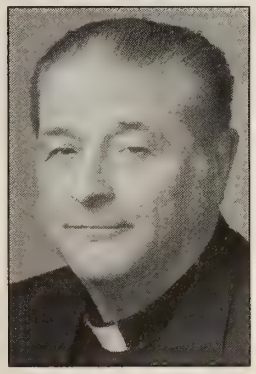
Knowledge has to come before love. Many Catholics are insufficiently catholic in their knowledge of other faiths, languages and cultures. We have time to think about that now in the aftermath of Sept. 11. We have time, too, to do some catch-up studying.

Knowledge and love first, unity later. That path has to be taken if we are to be part of the answer, as God surely wants us to be, to our High Priest's prayer "that they may be one" (Jn 17:11).

"If you're looking for the key to the universe," wrote a young friend to me the other day, "I've got some good news and some bad news for you. The bad news is, there is no key. The good news: The universe has never been locked."

To which the humble might reply, "I hope we can say the same for our minds."

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### On Yearly Confession

*Q. Many of us older people, close to 80 and beyond, faithfully attend Mass and receive Communion. But we don't see the absolute need for yearly confession.*

*Does the precept to confess at least once a year, which we learned in grade school, still apply? We pray regularly, including the act of contrition. Doesn't that suffice? (Texas)*

A. Let's break your question into two. Does church law say you must receive the sacrament of penance once a year? And second, is it good to do so?

Despite the absolute way the precept was usually stated, confession once a year has never been a church law for everyone, only for those who have a serious (mortal) sin to confess.

Even when this "obligation" first appears (in the year 1215 at the Fourth Lateran Ecumenical Council) it is clear that only confession of mortal sins was required once a year.

Confession of serious sins would be necessary, of course, to fulfill another requirement of that same council, to receive the Eucharist at least once a year, during the Easter time.

This was the teaching of the old Baltimore Catechism, and present canon law continues that tradition. All who have reached the age of reason must confess any serious sins once a year (Canon 989). The Catechism of the Catholic Church (No. 1457) says the same.

Thus, you and your friends can be confident that church precepts do not require annual confession for everyone.

Is it good to go that often or even more frequently? Obviously the various limitations of old age will always be factors to consider. It seems to me, however, that any Catholic who understands how the sacrament of reconciliation heals our spiritual weaknesses, and how it reconciles us with God and our brothers and sisters, will try to receive it with at least some regularity.

How often? The Rite of Penance, the official guide of the church for this sacrament, mentions only Lent, obviously an appropriate time. Advent and other occasions in life that invite us to re-examine our life with God would also be fitting.

You need not feel obligated, therefore, to yearly confession. But insofar as physical and other abilities allow, it is good not to conclude that the sacrament of penance is no longer a desirable and important part of your lives.

*Q. Friends of ours belong to the Greek Orthodox Church. Are Roman Catholics permitted to receive holy Communion in their church? (New Jersey)*

A. A close relationship in matters of faith exists between the Roman Catholic Church and the Greek Orthodox and other Eastern churches. This includes Catholic recognition that these churches have the true Eucharist and other sacraments.

Thus, whenever necessary or if genuine spiritual advantage suggests, a Catholic may receive Communion in a Greek Orthodox liturgy. In such instances Catholics should be physically or morally unable to receive the sacrament from a Catholic minister. Judgment would be up to the individual (Catholic ecumenical norms 1993; 122-124).

Most Eastern churches have their own regulations regarding intercommunion. Out of respect for these traditions, it is prudent and courteous to inquire about those regulations before receiving the Eucharist in these churches.

# Benedictine monk stresses spiritual life and Divine Office to diocesan deacons

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — Just one way to pray?

Not according to Benedictine Father Samuel Weber, who told the Charlotte diocese's deacons that there are six steps in a growing prayer life.

The Nov. 3 program at St. Thomas Aquinas Church covered two areas: applicants for the diaconate and Father Weber's session, part of the diocesan continuing education program for deacons.

After morning prayer Rev. Mr. Bernard W. Wenning Jr., the diocesan coordinator for the permanent diaconate, said that the new group of applicants for the diaconate would be starting nine aspiratory sessions on Jan. 9.

The aspiratory phase takes place before applicants are accepted as candidates for the diaconate. It's a period of reflection and prayer, not academics. During the sessions, those conducting the training evaluate the applicants. The applicants also evaluate themselves to decide whether or not the program is right for them. Candidates and their wives are required to attend classes every other weekend, and during the aspiratory phase, they must decide, among other things, whether they can make the four-year commitment. Additionally, it's a time for team building since the candidates must work together for four years.

The first rite for those accepted into the program will be the Rite of candidacy in September 2002.

Rev. Mr.Wenning said that all deacons assigned to the Charlotte diocese are required to attend at least two of the three scheduled classes offered each year; attendance figures in their yearly evaluations. Classes are held on the first Saturdays in February, August and November. Father Francis Cancro, pastor of St. Eugene in Asheville, will present a session on homiletics at St. Francis of Assisi in Lenoir on Feb. 2.

Father Weber, this month's presenter, works with a spiritual-formation program in the Wake Forest University Divinity School, founded in 1999. He is the first Catholic priest to develop such a program in this Baptist university. His talk on spiritual life and the "Divine Office" ("Liturgy of the Hours") detailed six steps to a fuller prayer life: formula prayer, conversation, discussion, prayer beyond words, contemplation and constant communion.

The praying person connects with God in much the same way people connect with one another, Father Weber said. Human relationships begin with formula words and phrases such as "Hi" or "How are you?" A prayer relationship starts in the same way, with formula prayers like the "Our Father," guardian angel prayers and morning and night prayer.

These progress to actual conversations with God. They are like facing one another and telling your personal story in your own words, Father Weber said. The Psalms are records of conversations with God that give people permission to express all of their feelings, for the Psalms are about troubles, sorrows, and anger, as well as praise and thanksgiving. Father Weber said that without the Psalms, religion becomes sweet and easy; there is no challenge. He stressed that sanitizing religion just doesn't work.

Next comes the discussion prayer, a prayer in which one party or the other must "break" or give in. Keeping in mind that when one gets everything wanted, the relationship is not one of love but of fear. Therefore, the praying person must always try putting the pieces together. When we do, we "come to accept God's will as our very own," Father Weber said.

From there the person moves to prayer that goes beyond words. This encompasses the "sighs, tears and groans" that lead to "holy sadness" or "good guilt," Father Weber said. This good guilt leads people back to God and, therefore, is healthy. It is guilt without depression, for depression, according to Weber, doesn't allow one to accept God's loving and ever-present forgiveness.

Contemplation, that "long, loving look," is that sacred silence in which one pours oneself out to God. It is the prayer in which "I gaze at God and he at me," Father Weber said.

All of which culminates with constant communion, wherein the praying person become one of many holy people standing together.

"We should never say 'I can't pray'; you can at least repeat the formulas," Father Weber said. Through the six steps of prayer "you come to an awareness that repentance brings God's forgiveness."

"Perfection" is another aspect of spirituality that Father Weber brought to light. Those who accept only the "either-or" concept of life are always heading into trouble, while those who can see the "both-and" concept are generally in good shape. Weber stressed that the Gospel meaning of perfection is "to make progress" at every stage of one's life.

For instance, Father Weber said, a seed is "perfect in that it is everything God wanted it to be." When planted, it is still perfect because it is still what God wanted it to be; and when harvested and made into bread, it is still "everything God wanted it to be."

In our own lives, each of us is exactly what God wants us to be, Father Weber said; therefore, exclude no one from your love. In that way, "we will be like God, for he accepts us even in our sinfulness." In this respect, each must "use at least a 40 percent mess-up factor for those we encounter because Jesus used a 100 percent mess-up factor for everyone on the cross of salvation.

Father Weber suggested that if people make budgets for their daily lives, they could also make emotional budgets for those times when their loved ones and friends "mess up," remembering that the love with which we keep the law is that which makes us better.

Rev. Mr. Frank Aversa said he thoroughly enjoyed the presentation, and it was both enlightening and inspiring. His wife, Lisa, said she liked Father Weber's appreciation of the "Liturgy of the Hours" and the experience of praying the "Divine Office" with him.

Donna Marie Carl, wife of Rev. Mr. J. Daniel Carl, said that this session was "very uplifting." It was an "epiphany of sorts because it brought us to a higher level of prayer and understanding than we came with."


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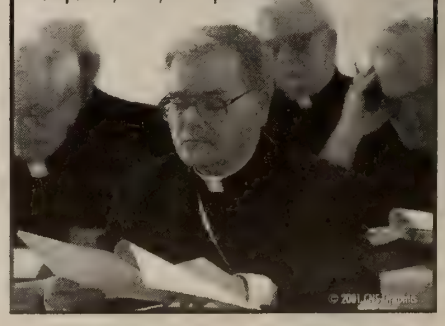
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## Decisions at a Glance

During their November meeting, the U.S. Catholic bishops...

- Issued a pastoral message "Living With Faith and Hope After Sept. 11."
- Adopted a revised, updated Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities.
- Approved "A Call to Solidarity With Africa," increasing the U.S. church's commitment to Africa.
- Approved norms implementing general church law on lay preaching and on Catholics teaching doctrine on radio and television.
- Revised special liturgical norms for U.S. dioceses.
- Approved a $53.3 million budget for 2002.
- Heard a plea from Catholic Relief Services to raise $50 million to aid Afghan refugees.
- Had an extensive discussion of new Vatican translation rules for liturgy.
- Elected Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., as conference president and Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., as vice president.



# Charlotte residents remember native country in turmoil

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — It wasn't Sept. 11, but times earlier in his life were for Dr. Cris Villapando, diocesan director of faith formation, and his father, those of living on the edge.

"I share this knowing that the source of all goodness is from God," he said. Much of what he and his family experienced had to do with bad times rather than goodness, but was certainly living on the edge. For he and his family, it was ultimately about miracles.

His father worked with American soldiers on Corregidor in the Phillipines, where his nine older brothers and sisters were born. When the Japanese overran the island, they rounded up everyone who had worked with the Americans.

Surviving the infamous Capaz-and-Bataan Death March, Villapando Sr. and other prisoners survived on an insect-and-water soup diet in the concentration camp where they were imprisoned.

"One day they put my dad against the wall of the church, and they were ready to execute him," Villapando said. "Just then a cloud darkened the sky, and rain came down. The Japanese, who were superstitious, let my dad go. That was in 1944, and I'm the son who was not supposed to be here."

Later, married just six months, Villapando and his wife, Guia, had to flee their country when Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972. Villapando's nephew was politically active against the government, so the government blacklisted the Villapando name. In addition to teaching theology, Villapando owned a printing company that published election literature and candidates' political stances.

The miracle this time was that Mrs. Villapando had submitted a visa request five years before. She'd forgotten about it, but it came through when she needed it most. She had a passport because she'd just returned to the Philippines from the United States to get married. Her sister's best friend was the daughter of the secretary of foreign affairs. She helped Mrs. Villapando get her passport amended, so her husband's name could be included. The Villapandos arrived in Richmond, Va., with two suitcases and $29.

He has learned, he said later, about giving back and how he's still trying to understand the mystery of it all.

"My life, basically, isn't just for me," he said. "I have been gifted. I would be lying if I said I have completely unpacked the meaning of this."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*



Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**Dr. Cris Villapando, right, talks with Father Louis Cameli, guest speaker, at Fire in the Mountains 2001 held at Lake Junaluska Nov. 10.**

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## Heritage, from page 7

was laid off from the job that she loved. With little money and no income, Manigo painfully sent her children back with her parents while she worked to regain some of what she lost.

While Manigo was staying at a boardinghouse, her mother, her main source of strength and inspiration, came to check on her and assured her everything would be fine. She encouraged Manigo to pray and to ask God for help, but Manigo was in despair. Her mother's answer came in the form of a building — St. Anthony Church — around the corner from Manigo's boardinghouse.

"God placed me in the right place at the right time," Manigo said. "I started going around the corner and would sit on the back pew and cry. I didn't know how to handle problems. God didn't exist in my life at the time. I knew he was there, but I didn't acknowledge him. However, slowly, the tears disappeared. It was the first time in my life that God started to click."




Photo by Alesha M. Price

**Delores Manigo stands in front of her store, The African Lady Shop, 632 N. Graham St., in Charlotte.**

With her faith life back on track, Manigo's professional life turned around with new jobs at Polygram and Atlantic Records and a new home. Her children finished school in Atlanta, and she was transferred from Atlanta to Charlotte. She credits her parents for helping her raise her children. "My father and mother helped me to be a good parent to my children and told me to raise them the best way I could. They were also my children's parents."

She later began working again with disabled children, her first love, and had the idea to sell African items. From a humble start, selling items in the back of her car, she eventually opened The African Lady Shop, the culmination of her vision to sell authentic African clothing, jewelry, household decorations and other items to her community and to educate people about her heritage and culture. She wishes that her father, oldest brother and mother were alive to see what she has achieved but believes that they are always with her in spirit.

The grandmother of five says that the road had been rough since her shop opened in August, but God had helped her through everything.

"I have survived on faith," Manigo said. "God opened my doors, and the winds blew in customers and objects to sell. My faith is so strong, and I know that God is supplying all of my needs. I cannot believe how my faith is now. I never thought I would be praying like I do now. I never thought I would be this close to God."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

# Pope urges Catholic communicators to help raise media standards

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged an international organization of Catholic communicators to help raise worldwide media standards, especially given the media's huge influence.

People, particularly children and adolescents, "spend enormous amounts of time absorbed in media consumption," the pope said Nov. 20. "An important part of your work, therefore, is to teach wise and responsible media use."

The pope made his remarks to members of Unda, the International Catholic Association for Radio and Television, and OCIC, the International Catholic Organization for Cinema and Audiovisuals.

The two media groups held a joint assembly in Rome before officially merging Nov. 26, with the new name of Signis, the World Catholic Association for Communication.

The pope said working for responsible media use "means setting high standards, not for the general public alone, but also for the leaders of the communications industry."

"It means bringing people to a keen awareness of the great influence that the media has in their lives. It means monitoring the quality of content and promoting constructive dialogue between media producers and consumers," he said.

The pope said the merging of the two Catholic media associations at the beginning of the new millennium "seems particularly appropriate" because of new opportunities and challenges presented by technology advances and globalization.

# Deacon's early faith struggles lead him closer to God

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

FOREST CITY — With rosary beads tinkling in his hand, young Eugene McGuirk would gather his family together to pray the rosary. His "rosary crusades" were in response to the strong Catholic background his parents instilled in him.

His father was a daily communicant, and McGuirk, the third of five brothers, frequently accompanied his father to daily Mass in their Long Island, N.Y., neighborhood. His childhood consisted of Catholic grammar school, choir rehearsals and altar serving.

College proved to be a test of his faith as McGuirk was exposed to different ideologies, faith traditions and people. He found himself caught up in a time when young adults preached a free-for-all attitude about sex, drugs, life and love.

"I struggled for a few years looking for reasons not to believe in my faith, and I was trying to figure out why I should continue to believe," Rev. Mr. McGuirk said. "When I was at Queens College in New York City, I began seeing the lifestyles of kids of other faiths. I felt left out but didn't feel I could join them because of my religion."

For several years, he grappled with his confusion about Catholicism while majoring in physical education (PE). A track and cross country team member, McGuirk wanted to teach PE and coach. He met Catherine, a transfer student and PE major, who set his pulse racing. They met during a group assignment and began dating.

His wife-to-be tried to reintroduce him to the church he had loved for most of his life. "She would come over early in the morning to wake me up to go to 6:30 a.m. Mass," he said. "We often went to Mass, confession and prayer meetings together."

After graduation in 1973, McGuirk had the opportunity to attend the University of California at Santa Barbara to earn his master's degree in PE. Living with other students of various faiths also led him to continue to question his own beliefs. He enjoyed his time in the sun, and he was also able to decipher in which direction he wanted his faith life to go. A personal retreat with prayer, fasting, Scriptures and conversations with priests led him to the decision that Catholicism was right for him.

"I made up my mind that my parents had been right after all, and I decided that the Catholic Church was right for me. I started going to Mass more regularly," said Rev. Mr. McGuirk, who credits Mary with keeping him close to God.



Rev. Mr. Eugene McGuirk

He moved back to New York after graduate school, began working as a physiologist in a research facility, and married Catherine in 1977. After finding that many school PE departments had been consolidated or closed, he decided to work on his master's degree in business administration to be more marketable. In 1980, Avis Rent A Car hired him as a financial analyst: "I went from measuring blood to measuring days of length of car rentals."

His late start in his new career caused him to believe that he should work harder and longer hours to compete with younger employees hired out of college and to prove his worth to the company. Three promotions in two years helped him to do this, but his four children's response to his frequent absences from home made him reevaluate his office time. He reduced his workload and spent more time at home.

While his family and career grew, his faith life also expanded. He had known a little about the permanent diaconate from a parishioner at his father's church. He says he liked the idea of the diaconate and asked one priest about applying. That priest felt that he was too young, but another priest said he would be old enough by the time he finished taking classes.

He entered the four-year program with his wife's full support and began attending the 12-hour Saturday classes. "My wife was and still is very spiritual and prayerful," Rev. Mr. McGuirk said. "She had some questions in the beginning but was with me all of the way. Cathy would come out for the afternoon Masses and dinners. She didn't attend all of the classes but knew everyone."

He was ordained in 1988 in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, Long Island, and began serving as youth minister and working with marriage preparation. After 20 years of working for the car rental company, he was laid off in 1999. The McGuirks left Long Island to come to North Carolina after debating between Virginia and its neighboring state. "We liked it (New York) but decided we needed a little elbow room," he said "We had friends in Rutherford County, N.C., so we settled here."

Friends started a charter school in the area, and Rev. Mr. McGuirk began teaching seventh- and eighth-grade math and science, coaching teams and supervising the newspaper. He was finally doing what he had originally dreamed when he began his academic career. "It was welcomed change after working like crazy for Avis for 20 years," he said.

Rev. Mr. McGuirk settled at Immaculate Conception Church and began ministerial work with faith formation, marriage preparation and the Knights of Columbus. While currently training to become a personal financial planner, he said he works wherever he is needed and enjoys his diaconate work.

"It (the permanent diaconate) has made our family more prayerful and more aware of what is important," Rev. Mr. McGuirk said. "Since I made the decision that the Catholic Church was correct, it has helped me to formalize my faith and provided a way for me to share my newfound zeal, understanding and love of God to help others see joy. I want to be an agent of strength for other people's faith."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

# CCHS softball whiz to attend Belmont Abbey College in the fall



Cameron Greene

CHARLOTTE — Cameron Greene is a senior at Charlotte Catholic High School. For the past three softball seasons, Greene has been the starting pitcher for the varsity softball team at one of the two Catholic high schools in the diocese. Greene was also the 2001 Rocky River Player of the Year, the 2001 member of the All Mecklenburg First Team and defensive player of the year for 2001. Greene recently signed to play NCAA Div. II with Belmont Abbey College.

Belmont Abbey College is the only Catholic college in the Atlanta province which includes the dioceses of Charlotte, Raleigh, Charleston and Savannah and the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

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We must strive to construct together a present and a future more in line with Christ's will for the unity of all his disciples.

— Pope John Paul II
Insegnamenti VIII, 1, 1997

# Vatican censures cloning of human embryo by U.S. scientists

BY JOHN NORTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican condemned the cloning of human embryos by U.S. scientists, rejecting claims that the research produced simple cells and not human individuals.

Despite the scientists' stated humanitarian aims, the research represents a new form of discrimination against defenseless people, the Vatican said in a Nov. 26 statement.

Scientists at Advanced Cell Technology in Worcester, Mass., announced Nov. 25 in the online journal E-Biomed: The Journal of Regenerative Medicine that they had cloned the first human embryo.

The researchers said they would use the technique, known as therapeutic cloning, to develop genetically compatible replacement cells for patients with illnesses like diabetes and Parkinson's — not human clones.

But the Vatican, noting that the scientists referred to what they produced as an "early embryo," rejected the claim that no human had been cloned.

It is "beyond doubt, as indicated by the researchers themselves, that here we find ourselves before human embryos and not cells, as some would have (people) believe," the Vatican said.

The Vatican said the determination of when human life begins cannot be fixed by convention to a certain stage of embryonic development, but instead was found "in the first instant of existence of the embryo itself."

Though in this case recognizing human life was more difficult because researchers created the embryo in a "dis-human" way — without uniting sperm and egg — the resultant being had the same dignity as any other human life, the Vatican said.

The scientists' justification on the grounds of fighting illness "sanctions a true and proper discrimination among human beings based on measuring the time of their development — so an embryo is worth less than a fetus, a fetus less than a child, a child less than an adult," it said.

This overturns "the moral imperative that instead imposes maximum care and maximum respect precisely for those who are not in a condition to defend or manifest their intrinsic dignity," the Vatican said.

# Church officials condemn human cloning experiment, calling actions dangerous

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic leaders and pro-life organizations strongly condemned the actions of Advanced Cell Technology following the company's Nov. 25 announcement of success in cloning early-stage human embryos.

"Cloning is not an isolated incident; it is further illustration of our country's downward spiral of moral principals," said Bishop William G. Curlin, bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Roe vs. Wade permitted the legal killing of innocent lives in our nation. That legislation opened a Pandora's box of immoral acts," said Bishop Curlin. "It brought an open season for attack on all humanity. Abortion, assisted suicide and now cloning ... all these atrocities disregard the sanctity of human life."

Scientists of Advanced Cell Technology, a privately held biotechnology firm based in Worcester, Mass., reported Nov. 25 that after more than 70 attempts they recently produced cloned human embryonic cells, two of which divided to four cells or more. It was the first public announcement of human embryonic cloning in the world.

They said they also induced parthenogenesis in not-fully-mature human eggs, getting several to divide for up to five days, reaching the blastocyst stage.

The company's officials say they oppose reproductive human cloning — aimed at producing a baby — and they sought to obtain human embryonic stem cells solely for experiments aimed at eventually turning such cells to thera-

SEE CLONING, PAGE 11

## Maggie Valley Christmas Parade



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

**Gloria Minniti (left), Jim Donovan, Leahbelle D'Anna, and Joan Donovan fill baskets with chocolate "coins" to distribute to parade watchers.**




CNS PHOTO BY LIZ QUIRIN, THE MESSENGER

**Protesters march at Fort Benning Gates**

**Bill McNulty of Long Island, N.Y. marches in the annual peaceful protest at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation at Fort Benning in Columbus, Ga., Nov. 18. The institute was formerly known as the School of the Americas. Crosses with terror victims' names were raised as each name was called during the protest. The events were sponsored by SOA Watch.**

### Jesuit says Christian response starts with understanding terrorists

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The truly Christian response to the terrorist attacks on the United States would be to first seriously try to understand the motivations of the people responsible and then try to hold them accountable through the United Nations and the World Court, according to peace activist Jesuit Father Daniel Berrigan. Speaking Nov. 19 at Georgetown University, Father Berrigan said every war in the history of mankind has presented itself as just, God-approved or noble, just as supporters justify the current U.S. military action against Afghanistan. But Jesus, who time and again counseled his followers against violence, even in response to violence done to them, would encourage another way of reacting to the attacks, he said. "To work one's way through that justification and sense of nationalism is the Christian task," Father Berrigan said.

### Pope says Catholics, Anglicans must witness shared faith, values

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics and Anglicans must show the world the faith they share, working together to defend human dignity and to promote peace, Pope John Paul II said. "In these troubled times the world needs more than ever the common witness of Christians in every area, from the defense of human life and dignity to the promotion of justice and peace," the pope told Catholic and Anglican bishops Nov. 24. The bishops, members of the new Anglican-Roman Catholic Working Group, met the pope at the Vatican after meeting in London with Archbishop George C. Carey of Canterbury, head of the Anglican Communion.

### Women religious call for Dec. 7 prayer and fasting for the world

SILVER SPRING, Md. (CNS) — Plans have begun for a Dec. 7 national day of contemplation and fasting for the world. Members of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, based in the Washington suburb of Silver Spring, and the congregations of sisters it represents have been participating in a year of prayer and fasting for the church and the world. The "rolling fast" means at least one congregation around the country is praying and fasting each day of the year. Now, LCWR leaders are inviting people of faith to join them Dec. 7 for prayer gatherings in parishes and at convents and motherhouses across the country.

### Second edition of U.S. Sacramentary is dead, liturgy official says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The revised English-language Sacramentary for the United States awaiting approval in Rome will never be published in its present form, said Father James P.

K OF C

***Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of December:***

| | |
|---|---|
| *Rev. Msgr. Francis M. Smith* | *1983* |
| *Rev. Vincent M. Stokes* | *1979* |
| *Rev. Thomas McAvoy* | *1978* |
| *Rev. Michael J. Hoban* | *1995* |

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**For information on specific programs, please call your local office.**

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**December 8 — Feast of the Immaculate Conception**
2:30 p.m. Mass and holy hour with prayers for world peace for
Knights and Dames of Malta and public
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**December 9 — 8 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.**
Celebrating parish Masses
St. Aloysius, Hickory

**December 12 — 4 p.m.**
Dedication of renovated chapel
Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, Belmont

**December 15 — 10 a.m.**
Ordination to priesthood of Rev. Messrs. Adrian Porras and Christopher Roux
St. Patrick, Charlotte

## Diocesan planner

**December**

**3** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight and every first Monday at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Dec. 4 and every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**3** CHARLOTTE — Christians in Career Transition is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meeting will take place tonight and Dec. 17 from 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

**5** CHARLOTTE — Hospice of Charlotte will facilitate "Grief as Rehabilitation" from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., in the ministry center. Larry Dewalt will discuss differing impacts of loss, ways to make a grief rehabilitation plan and setting realistic goals for the grief process. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

**6** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Ladies' Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

**6** MINT HILL — Instead of the monthly meeting, the 50+ Club of St.

Moroney, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Liturgy. The text had been intended for U.S. use as the second edition in English of the Roman Missal, refining and updating the first edition, which has been used in the United States since 1971. In an interview with Catholic News Service Nov. 20, Father Moroney said, "Since it was announced by the Holy See about two years ago that a third typical edition of the `Missale Romanum' (the Latin version of the Roman Missal) was about to be issued, it has not been the view of the Committee on Liturgy that a second edition would be published." There was never a formal announcement to that effect, but "to publish a second edition of the `Missale Romanum' now would be a waste of printers' ink," he said. "The next English-language Roman Missal to appear in this country will be the third edition."

**Thousands participate in annual protest march at Army school**

COLUMBUS, Ga. (CNS) — A river of people — almost 10,000 — streamed into Columbus during the Nov. 16-18 weekend to participate in the 12th annual School of the Americas Watch peaceful protest rally and march against the U.S. Army school at nearby Fort Benning. The crowd called for closing the school, formerly known as the School of the Americas and now named the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. It trains military personnel from Latin American countries. According to SOA Watch, graduates of the school have been implicated in murder and torture in their own countries, including El Salvador, Guatemala and Colombia. The school's commandant, Col. Richard Downie, said the school has changed since it was closed and reopened under its new name Jan. 17. Its 35 classes were reduced to 24 and human rights was introduced as a topic in all of them. The human rights element is taught in the context of international law by military officers, some from different countries, he said. Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois, founder of SOA Watch, said the school may have a new name "but it's still about guns; it's still about combat; it's still about soldiers we train with U.S. taxpayer money, who go back to their home countries — El Salvador, Guatemala, Colombia — and cause a lot of terror, suffering and death."

**Leaders say church in eastern India more vibrant after persecution**

BALESHWAR, India (CNS) — The church in Orissa has become more vibrant, despite the killing of missionaries and other anti-Christian attacks in the eastern Indian state, church leaders said. Christians' initial feeling of insecurity soon "gave way to a new commitment and spirit of sacrifice among our priests and people," said Bishop Thomas Thiruthalil of Baleshwar. "The sufferings and pain have not gone in vain," Bishop Thiruthalil told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. He said the events "precipitated a change in the mode of evangelization" in all five dioceses in the state. In the past, priests went to the people, but "now people literally troop into our churches to pray or get healed or implore for conversion," said Bishop Thiruthalil, head of the Orissa regional bishops' council.

**Global charity movement could overcome fear, violence, pope says**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At a time when fear and violence have become globalized, the need is growing for a worldwide movement for charitable activities, Pope John Paul II said. The pope, addressing members of Italian Caritas at the Vatican Nov. 24, said the situation in Afghanistan was one of several crisis zones in the world that require international mobilization in favor of innocent civilians. The church's increasing social and humanitarian aid activities in many countries are part of its effort to face the challenges of modern globalization, he said.




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John Neumann Church will be having its annual Christmas party including a chicken dinner and entertainment at 11 a.m. at Pine Lake Country Club on Lebanon Rd. For more information about the December 1 call Bobbe Conlin at (704) 643-1376 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

**7** BELMONT — The Abbey Players and Belmont Community Theatre will present "An Abbey Players' Christmas" at 8 p.m. in the Haid Theatre, located at 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. On Dec. 15, the Festival Singers of Charlotte, the classical/chamber choir of Carolina Voices, will present "Wolcom, Yole," six centuries of choral music, at 8 p.m. in the Belmont Abbey Basilica. All are invited to attend the free events. For more information, call (704) 825-6891 for the Dec. 7 event and (704) 374-1564 for the Dec. 15 event.

**8** CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo community will meet at 7:30 p.m. for a school of leaders at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For further information, call Ky Do at (704) 532-9094

**8** CHARLOTTE — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., is presenting a new Advent musical filled with music, drama and dance in preparation for Christmas. The presentation entitled "Like Winter Waiting" will feature a cast of 50 child and adult musicians from the church choirs and a small professional orchestra. For ticket and other information, call Marti Dushak at (704) 545-1224.

**8** CHARLOTTE — Carolina Pro Musica, in residence at Belmont Abbey College, will be performing Christmas concerts at St. Mary Chapel, Kings Dr. and 3rd St., Dec. 8 at 7 and 8:30 p.m. The concerts will feature medieval and Renaissance music for voices and various instruments; chant and composed music in French, German, Spanish, Scottish and English with carols for the audience to sing; and narration with seasonal Scripture readings and poetry. For tickets and other information, call (704) 334-3468 or (704) 333-5239.

**9** CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

**11** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Arthritis Support and Education Group will meet this morning from 10-11 a.m. in Room D of the parish ministry center located at 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**12** CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will host a Christmas party today at 4 p.m. in the parish center. Members and non-members are welcomed to attend for refreshments and a musical program. For further information about the party or bingo held every Monday at 7:30 p.m., call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**17** CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

**17** CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. Father John Hoover from New Creation Monastery will be the celebrant. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on Feb. 4. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

### U.S. Cardinal Baum retires as head of Vatican office

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — U.S. Cardinal William W. Baum, former archbishop of Washington and a Vatican official since 1980, has retired as head of the Vatican office that deals with matters of conscience. The Vatican announced that Pope John Paul II had accepted the resignation of Cardinal Baum Nov. 22, the day after the cardinal turned 75. The cardinal has suffered from eye problems for many years. As head of the Apostolic Penitentiary since 1990, Cardinal Baum administered a special court that can absolve individuals from sins or from censures reserved to the Holy See. It is an ancient office in the church that deals primarily with the internal problems of conscience and procedural matters concerning indulgences.

### German church leaders divided over support of U.S. actions

BERLIN (CNS) — German Catholic leaders have been divided over the current U.S.-led military action in Afghanistan, especially over the German government's decision to deploy 3,900 German troops for the conflict. While most have spoken about the difficulty of judging and making decisions, the head of Germany's military diocese, Bishop Walter Mixa of Eichstatt, came out against the current operation. Bishop Mixa described Germany following the United States into the war as "blind loyalty" and insisted on his right to criticize. "The church cannot simply rest content with reminding people of general moral principles," he said.

### Pax Christi honors three as 'teachers of peace'

COLUMBUS, Ga. (CNS) — Pax Christi USA, the U.S. arm of the international Catholic peace movement, honored three longtime activists with the Pope Paul VI Teacher of Peace Award in a Nov. 16 ceremony in Columbus that coincided with the annual School of the Americas protest. The Erie-based organization gave awards to former priest Phil Berrigan; his wife, Elizabeth McAlister, herself a former nun; and Franciscan Father Louis Vitale of San Francisco. The awards were presented on the eve of a massive protest outside Fort Benning, Ga., which is home to the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, formerly known as the School of the Americas. Berrigan was not able to accept his award in person. He has been in prison since Feb. 2 on a parole violation for participating in a Plowshares anti-war activity. Berrigan earlier had been imprisoned for his role in a 1997 disarmament action.

### Attorney for Brazilian bishops' land agency presented with RFK award

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Darci Frigo, an attorney and human rights advocate with the Brazilian bishops' Pastoral Land Commission, was presented the 2001 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award in Washington. Frigo received the award, which includes a cash prize of $30,000, Nov. 20. Frigo, who has received numerous death threats because of his work on behalf of Brazil's landless peasants, said the award would "reinforce support and recognition at the international level for the importance of the cause of Brazilian rural laborers. This will, in turn, help keep the issue of land reform as a central item on the Brazilian political agenda." Judges said that by honoring Frigo, they were shining "a spotlight on the fate of the rural poor in Brazil and their struggle for human rights and dignity." The Pastoral Land Commission, an ecumenical arm of the Brazilian bishops' social ministry, documents human rights violations, produces information on and supports landless workers. In 2000, Brazil had 4.8 million landless families. About 1 percent of Brazil's landowners control 46 percent of the country's rural land.

### Slovak church seeks beatification of girl who resisted advances

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Slovakia's Catholic Church is seeking the beatification of a 16-year-old girl killed for rejecting the advances of a Russian soldier. Meanwhile, a church spokesman urged the pope to "set an example for ordinary people" by beatifying more lay martyrs from the communist period. Anna Kolesarova, who lived from 1928 to 1944 in the eastern town of Pavlovce, was murdered during Slovakia's occupation by the Soviet army occupation after refusing sexual favors to a Russian soldier. A spokesman for Slovakia's Kosice Archdiocese, Father Tibor Seman, said information on Kolesarova's case was being collected by local youth chaplains for referral to a diocesan beatification tribunal.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Pope greets 'Sister Web' at Vatican**

**Franciscan Sister Judith Zoebelein is greeted by Pope John Paul II at the Vatican Nov. 23. The U.S. nun, known as "Sister Web," has handled Web issues for the Vatican. The pontiff distributed the document "Ecclesia in Oceania" over the Internet Nov. 22.**


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# Mission reaches out to community with evangelization

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

WADESBORO — African-American ministers and other community and civic leaders met at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Nov. 18 to discuss works of evangelism and empowerment.

Abbot Patrick Shelton and Father David Draim, Benedictine monks who serve Sacred Heart Mission in Wadesboro as well as St. James Catholic Church in Hamlet, recently received a $5,000 grant from the Foundation of the Diocese of Charlotte that will help fund an outreach project to Wadesboro's African-American community. The grant is from income earned by four unrestricted and general-purpose endowments the foundation manages. Last year, the foundation made nine grants to other Catholic entities.

The monks have a strong background in evangelization in Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Florida, where they fostered healthy relationships among the multicultural and interfaith communities. With the large Hispanic and African-American populations in the Wadesboro area, they felt compelled to reach out in a similar manner.

According to Father Draim, there has been little evangelical interaction between the local Catholic Church and these two communities: "This is an opportunity to bring us together to create a better working relationship." In his opening prayer, Abbot Shelton said, "We are all made to love one another. We do this by helping each other."

Having the meeting on that Sunday was most significant as the second collection was taken for the Campaign for Human Development (CHD), which offers grants and funds various projects. "Dollars from this collection go back to the community for projects that give people a hand up," Father Draim said. "You are the people who see what is going on in these counties; you know the needs. We gather here to find out about programs and grants available to improve the lives in these areas."



Photos by Mary Marshall

**Pictured left to right, Father David Draim, Gerald Taylor from the Industrial Areas Foundation, the parent organization of H.E.L.P; Paulette Higgins and Chris Baumann, organizers of H.E.L.P.; and Abbot Patrick Shelton encourage participants to build a future through the assistance of H.E.L.P.**

One of the goals of the meeting was to make attendees aware of the CHD and grant opportunities it offers to those outside the Catholic Church. Literature, including requirements and instructions for application, was available on grants ranging from $500 to $5,000.

Guest speakers provided an overview of all available options. Speakers were Gerald Taylor, Industrial Areas Foundation, the parent of Helping Empower Local People, (H.E.L.P.); and Chris Baumann and Paulette Higgins, organizers of H.E.L.P., who are both headquartered in Charlotte. The CHD provides seed money for H.E.L.P. to begin the process of making communities better living environments.

H.E.L.P. involves and teaches local people on issues that concern them. Their ironclad rule is, "Never do for others what they can do for themselves!" H.E.L.P. is a broad-based organization of more than 50 congregations, neighborhood associations and parent-teacher organizations representing nine traditions with black and white members from Charlotte and Huntersville, and from Mecklenburg and Union counties. Their mission is to build a powerful organization so that poor, working and middle-class people can be involved in political and economic decisions affecting the whole community.

As representatives from three counties absorbed the possibilities presented, they were asked what issues concerned them in their communities. Comments included medical assistance and social services for the elderly, facilities for youth programs, playgrounds and prison ministry.



**Abbot Patrick Shelton, pastor of St. James and Sacred Heart Catholic Churches, offers the invocation.**

Linda Sellers, representing Sacred Heart Catholic Church, sees a need for tutoring in the educational system. "Language classes are too large; students fall through the cracks," she said. "There's a real need for a tutoring program to enable these students to pass the classes."

Baumann related previous successes, such as teaching citizens about sewer systems, enabling them to be well represented at government meetings as they struggled for sewers and paved roads in rural areas. "We unite and educate average people that want to make a difference by working together," he said. "We teach people how to stand up for themselves. They become the experts at what goes on in their community, such as how the government works, who controls the money, who gets it and who doesn't, and where tax dollars go."

Taylor, a former NAACP state president, asked, "Do you feel a burning in your own spirit for a need for something to happen here? There are so many resources that rural areas never see because they don't know how to access them." There are choices, he said.

"We reach out to people; we give them hope."


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**Book Review**

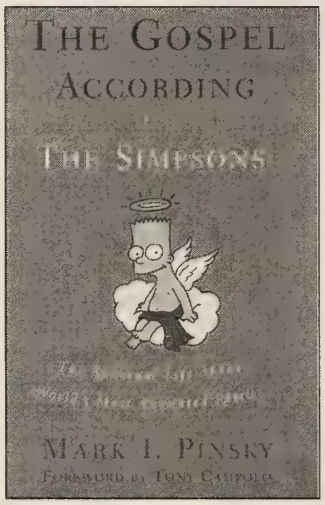
# Cartoon stars spout spirituality

REVIEWED BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I confess: I love "The Simpsons." Always have, even when they were just minute-long vignettes on "The Tracey Ullman Show." One year I made it my mission to watch back-to-back reruns every weekday after work and, mostly, I succeeded. No brag, just fact: "The Simpsons" was the last show I watched on my late sister's old black-and-white TV before I gave it to a women's shelter.

I'm not alone. "The Simpsons" is the longest-running prime-time entertainment series on commercial broadcast TV. When a show stays this popular for so long, some want to scratch beneath the celluloid surface to find out why.

***THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE SIMPSONS: THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE WORLD'S MOST ANIMATED FAMILY,*** **by Mark I. Pinsky. Westminster John Knox Press (Louisville, Ky., 2001). 164 pp. $12.95.**




Mark I. Pinsky, religion writer for the Orlando Sentinel, believes he's detected a moral order within the universe of "The Simpsons" in his book, "The Gospel According to the Simpsons." He's gotten endorsements for his unusual endeavor from an unlikely bunch: Ted Baehr, head of Hollywood's Christian Film & Television Commission; Frederica Mathewes-Green, the pro-life feminist; and the Rev. Robert Short, the Presbyterian minister whose book "The Gospel According to Peanuts" jump-started the trend to find spiritual meaning in popular culture.

The concept of Charles Schulz's "Peanuts" comic strip was that children, even without grown-ups appearing in any panel, could express the full range of adult emotions. In "The Simpsons," suggests Pinsky, adults and kids alike have the capacity to do the wrong thing but generally do the right thing, albeit kicking and screaming at times. Sound familiar?

"I am not so sure that when it comes to religion, faith, and prayer that 'The Simpsons' shapes, reflects, or copies our attitudes; it may simply portray our practice," Pinsky writes.

Pinsky, who makes no bones about his Jewish heritage, saw about half of the series' 270 episodes to date, interviewed many of the writers, talked with clergy from several faiths, and examined everything from fan Web sites to master's theses to research the book.

He gets a few facts wrong — it was Bart, not Homer, who mistakes three Hasidic Jews on a New York City street corner for rockers ZZ Top — but Pinsky's heart is in the right place.

He notes that since animation is the biggest expense for any cartoon, the writers can take the Simpsons places where it would be prohibitively expensive to go regularly in a live-action series — even to Springfield Community Church. How many other churches do you see in prime time? Since the "Nothing Sacred" set-to a few years back, darn few.

"Simpsons" fans will love the book if only for the way it retells plot developments of favorite episodes, like when Bart sells his soul for $5, or when Job-like misfortune befalls Ned Flanders. Believers may find the book valuable for collating so many references to faith and religion in the show while disclosing the perspectives of its creators, writers and voice actors.

There's a chapter devoted to the series' treatment of Catholic belief. "The way Catholicism is represented in 'The Simpsons' is complicated and subtle, like much of the show's humor, but it has an undeniably hostile, sometimes gratuitous edge to it," Pinsky writes. "In 'The Simpsons,' the Catholic Church is the sum of its least popular stands, such as opposition to birth control. Still, the ubiquitous figure (in one episode) of the small, mute pontiff, moving through the scenery, acknowledges John Paul II's longevity and — by not attacking or satirizing an otherwise perfect target — his popularity."

That may be the show's, er, redeeming feature when looking at it from a faith perspective. Institutions and systems get poked fun at, but people are neither mocked for the spiritual tenets they hold nor for how tightly they hold them.

One point Pinsky neglects is that, thanks to the conceit that the Simpsons never age, even when they behave badly, the slate is wiped clean with the next episode.

And isn't that a wonderful example of a merciful God?

*Pattison is media editor for Catholic News Service.*

# Word to Life

**Sunday Scripture Readings: Dec. 9, 2001**

*December 9, Second Sunday of Advent*
Cycle A Readings:
1) Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
2) Romans 15:4-9
3) Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I'm thinking her jacket might have been camel's hair. Her food may not have been exactly John the Baptist fare locusts and wild honey but Tanya's definitely had been a hand to mouth existence lately.

She sat with her husband, shivering in the November night air, on a flattened cardboard box in the middle of a downtown parking lot. It was the city's Homelessness Awareness Night, and she was telling her story to a group of about 10 teen-agers who gathered around her.

She told how the two of them, both in their late 20s, had left the ranks of the homeless only a month earlier.

She told how, as a teen, she was sure she'd never be homeless and, in fact, had believed homeless people "got what they deserved."

"Let me tell you, nobody deserves that," Tanya said softly.

She explained that they had spiraled into debt when her husband became unemployed because of health problems, and she worked for barely more than minimum wage. When they no longer could pay their rent, they found shelter in an abandoned house.

"You find out how much you've taken the little things for granted," she told the rapt kids, "like running water and electricity."

Then Tanya leaned forward to emphasize the most important thing she wanted to tell them. "Never, ever abandon your faith. I'll be honest; there were times I was ready to give up. But God was with us. We just knew that," she said, as she gratefully related how a local social service agency found them and helped them lift themselves out of debt and back to self-sufficiency.

Later, one of the teens expressed a sense of awe and guilt as he sat with the couple and listened to their experience. "I feel so materialistic," he said. Indeed, barely 18, Jeff widely and confidently had made known his ambition to become a financial wizard, merrily purchasing and merging companies to build a business empire. Suddenly, though, he could no longer be oblivious to the lives of people like the woman he'd just met.

His guilt was assuaged somewhat, as the conversation turned to the possibility that talented, strong business leaders with a Christ centered conscience are the very people who can bring social change that may eliminate homelessness.

Tanya had been a messenger preparing a way for the Lord. Jeff already was choosing a path of repentance to follow the Spirit of the One greater than she, calling him out of the wilderness.

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Dec. 2 - 8**

**First Sunday of Advent, Isaiah 2:1-5,** Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:37-44; **Monday (St. Francis Xavier),** Isaiah 4:2-6, Matthew 8:5-11; **Tuesday (St. John of Damascus),** Isaiah 11:1-10, Luke 10:21-24; **Wednesday (Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 25:6-10, Matthew 15:29-37; **Thursday (St. Nicholas),** Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21, 24-27; **Friday (St. Ambrose),** Isaiah 29:17-24, Matthew 9:27-31; **Saturday (Immaculate Conception),** Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12, Luke 1:26-38

**Scripture for the week of Dec. 9 - 15**

**Second Sunday of Advent,** Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12; **Monday (Second Week of Advent),** Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 5:17-26; **Tuesday (St. Damasus 1),** Isaiah 40:1-11, Matthew 18:12-14; **Wednesday (Our Lady of Guadalupe),** Zechariah 2:14-17, Luke 1:26-38; **Thursday (St. Lucy),** Isaiah 41:13-20, Matthew 11:11-15; **Friday (St. John of the Cross),** Isaiah 48:17-19, Matthew 11:16-19; **Saturday (Advent Weekday),** Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11, Matthew 17:10-13

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# Video Review

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

**"The Age of Innocence"**

Screen version of the Edith Wharton novel about a wealthy young lawyer (Daniel Day-Lewis) torn between his sweet, socially acceptable fiancee (Winona Ryder) and her independent-minded cousin (Michelle Pfeiffer) who has left her faithless husband behind in Europe to face the chilly embrace of New York's disapproving elite in the 1870s. Director Martin Scorsese's visually opulent work skewers the shallow pretenses of high society while delicately exploring the emotions simmering beneath the fragile facades of the three protagonists. Mild sexual references. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Columbia TriStar)

**"Cool Runnings"**

Coached by a disgraced former Olympian (John Candy), four feisty Jamaicans (Leon, Doug E. Doug, Malik Yoba and Rawle D. Lewis) who have never even seen snow arrive in Calgary, Alberta, in hopes of representing their country in the 1988 Winter Olympics by qualifying as a bobsled team. Jon Turteltaub directs a high-spirited, loosely fact-based underdog story that never loses its sense of good, clean fun as the foursome practice on junkyard parts under a tropical sun, ignoring ridicule and impossible odds. Fleeting violence. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Disney)

**"The Fugitive"**

Having escaped while being transported to prison, a Chicago surgeon (Harrison Ford) convicted of murdering his wife must evade the ever-tightening net of a relentless U.S. Marshall (Tommy Lee Jones) while desperately tracking down the one-armed man (Andreas Katsulas) who actually killed her. Director Andrew Davis knits together a strong narrative, crackerjack performances and taut editing for a fine thriller not dependent on constant, glorified violence for mounting suspense. Brief, sporadic violence. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Warner Home Video)

**"The Joy Luck Club"**

A San Francisco bon voyage party becomes the occasion for four immigrant Chinese mothers (France Nuyen, Lisa Lu, Kieu Chinh, Tsai Chin) to reflect on their past lives and present prickly relationships with their Americanized daughters (Rosalind Chao, Lauren Tom, Tamlyn Tomita, Ming-Na Wen). Wayne Wang directs the adaptation of Amy Tang's novel with considerable sensitivity, insightfully exploring the love and pain that go into nurturing mother-daughter bonds complicated by each having grown up in vastly different cultures. Brief violence including a suicide, a restrained sexual encounter, much sexual innuendo and minimal rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Hollywood)

**"Mrs. Doubtfire"**

Limited by court order to seeing his three children only once a week, a resourceful father (Robin Williams), disguises himself as a matronly British housekeeper, gets hired by his estranged wife (Sally Field), then tries to dissuade her from romance with a wealthy former beau (Pierce Brosnan). Directed by Chris Columbus, the sweet but one-joke comedy is carried by Williams, who manages to make the zany situation both hilarious and heartfelt. Frequent though mild sexual innuendo. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Fox Home Video)



CNS PHOTO FROM 20TH CENTURY FOX

**Scene from "Behind Enemy Lines"**

**Actor Gene Hackman confers with the commander of NATO forces in a scene from the film "Behind Enemy Lines" The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV -- adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

**"The Pelican Brief"**

With her life in grave danger after figuring out who was behind the assassination of two Supreme Court justices, a New Orleans law student (Julia Roberts) turns to a investigative reporter (Denzel Washington) to get her incriminating brief in print. Abetted by exceptional performances from a fine supporting cast, director Alan J. Pakula's spiky thriller maintains suspense despite a convoluted plot. Some restrained violence and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Warner Home Video)

**"The Remains of the Day"**

Having utterly sacrificed his personal life in the service of an English lord (James Fox) who ended up as a disgraced Nazi sympathizer, an aging English butler (Anthony Hopkins) journeys to the West of England in 1958, hoping to rehire and possibly risk romance with the spirited housekeeper (Emma Thompson) whose love he dutifully spurned decades earlier. James Ivory meticulously directs a splendid portrait of personal tragedy as a selfless man sadly comes to realize in his unquestioned devotion to his master he has missed out on the all the best things in life. A few emotional confrontations. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Columbia TriStar)

**"Rudy"**

Earnestly portrayed true story of Daniel Ruettiger, (Sean Astin), a youth so determined to play football for Notre Dame in the '70s he overcame his slight physical stature, mediocre athletic ability, poor grades and lack of emotional or financial support from his family to gain admission to the university and wear the uniform of the Fighting Irish. David Anspaugh's narrowly focused direction results in an inspirational but overly sentimental story in which one can admire the young man's bulldog tenacity yet find the movie rather humorless. Numerous football field skirmishes. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Columbia TriStar)

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## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Pope critiques biomedical research on prenatal selection

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, in a strongly worded critique of current biomedical research, condemned the growing practice of prenatal selection and discrimination.

He said it was time that legislators and political authorities took steps to curb abuses that have emerged along with the "dazzling advances" in biological science.

The pope made the comments in a message to a church-run conference on biomedical issues near Paris Nov. 23-25. A copy of his statement was released at the Vatican.

The pope said recent progress in biological research, particularly at the earliest stages of human life, had led some scientists to act as if they could manipulate human beings.

"There is no person, no human authority, no science, and no medical, eugenic, economic or moral indication that can exhibit or provide a juridical right that allows the direct and deliberate disposal of a human life," the pope said.

He said he was concerned especially about the growing tendency to weed out embryos through prenatal detection of defects and disease or through diagnostic techniques in the pre-implantation phase of embryos created outside the womb.

He also condemned the creation and destruction of embryos in order to obtain embryonic cells, a reference to the emergent scientific field of stem-cell research.

"Numerous countries are already engaged in the process of selection of babies to be born. Tacitly encouraged, this represents a real example of eugenics and leads to a certain anesthesia of consciences," the pope said.

He said the acceptance of prenatal selection also ends up harming people born with physical handicaps and those who care for them by promoting an attitude that the disabled should not have been born. In this way people are discouraged from welcoming the physically disabled and integrating them into social life, he said.

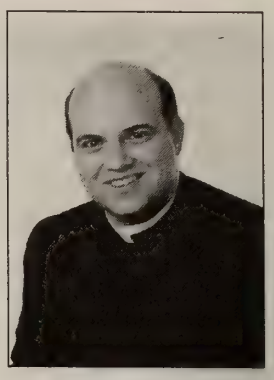
The pope said selective and manipulative practices involving embryos are unacceptable, even when undertaken in view of theoretical benefits for society as a whole.

"Biomedical experimentation that does not have as its objective the well-being of the subject involves unacceptable selective and discriminatory aspects. In effect, the entire process of therapy or research must have as its objective the human being on which it is carried out," he said.

"Hypothetical benefits for humanity and for the progress of research can in no way constitute a decisive criteria of moral goodness," he said.

The pope said legislation was needed to protect human life at all its stages from arbitrary actions that would deny human dignity and fundamental rights.

## Advent Reflection



Rev. ANTHONY MARCACCIO
Guest Columnist

### Envisioning the peaceable kingdom during Advent

The Peaceable Kingdom of the Prophet Isaiah made me think of a friend whose dog and rabbit are great playmates. It's really something to see. However humorous, it's at the same time strange because it's unnatural.

The rabbit, according to the natural order, is prey for the dog. In the natural order, which we call the food chain, the rabbit is dinner, not a friend. There would be some animal rights activists who would say having pets like this disturbs the natural order. Animals are born and should remain free. But, please don't say this to my friend's rabbit and dog; they are quite content with their status quo.

I wondered, "Why is it that these two animals get along and co-exist in such a pleasant and peaceful way?" I speculate that it's because neither sees himself as rabbit or dog, but as members of my friend's family. Feeling that we are members of a family, feeling that we belong can do that to us. It can give us a vision we might not otherwise have and encourage us to live in a supernatural way.

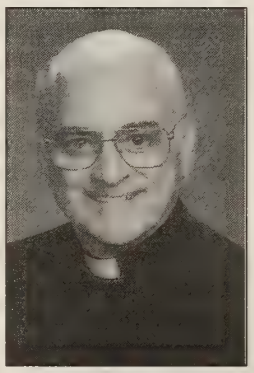
I am not naive enough to believe if the dog were really hungry, the rabbit wouldn't be in trouble. But I am romantic enough to believe that as long as there is contentment, the peaceable kingdom can come. Would the nations rage, would violence prevail if we used the resources of the world to shelter and fill the bellies of the poor? I am not certain, but it sure would be a good start. For us humans, true contentment is more than a full belly. What we thirst for most of all is quenched only by supernatural love.

To know we are loved, radically and really loved, fills those hollow parts of our lives. To know that we have a place where we belong lets us start to see things differently. Like the dog and rabbit, when prey becomes playmate. Enemies, aliens and orphans become family. Debtor nations become our brothers and sisters down on their luck. The spouse you've been arguing with becomes Christ.

When we try to envision the peaceable kingdom, we do well to remember that it is a child that leads them. The advent challenge for us may be to put on the simplicity of a child and a spirit that knows no prejudice, has no preconceived notion of justice or with whom we are supposed to play.

I pray that simplicity and contentment, supernatural hallmarks of the peaceable kingdom may reign in household of God this advent, so there will be room for us all, lions and lambs, rabbits and wolves when the Christ comes to lead us home.

*Father Anthony Marcaccio is the pastor of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro.*



## Spirituality for Today

By FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

### Advent's Joy Begins Now, Not When the Terrorism Ends

Advent brings with it an "invitation to joy." "Gaudete" is the first word of the Latin text of the entrance antiphon. It is taken from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, Chapter 4:4-5. The translation is compelling: "Rejoice, delight yourself in the Lord, yes, find your joy in him at all times.... Never forget your nearness to him."

In a time of terrorism and germ warfare, we need to be reminded of the call to joy. "The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and blossom, they will soon see the glory of the Lord" (Is 35:1).

Pope John Paul II wrote: "It is the joy of Advent which, in the faithful, is accompanied by the humble and intense invocation to God: Come! Lord come and save us!"

The liturgy presents these eternal truths to us year after year, but we need them now more than ever. The Lord comes to save us. Jesus is the source of our joy. He comes to bring us joy. He tells us to "seek first the kingdom of God, and everything else will be given to you" (Mt 6:33); and again, "I have told you all these things that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete" (Jn 15:11).

These truths of faith do not enable us to brush aside all the terrible suffering that is going on in the world. The war against terrorism is anything but joyful. We are caught up in fear for our own safety. Yet the liturgy helps us to focus on eternal truths.

Certainly Jesus was not rejoicing during his passion and death. His blessed mother was not happy when she stood beneath the cross. In times of trouble we are not free enough to experience the fullness of joy. But when you think about it, the alternative to joy is disaster. We cannot enter into despair or hopelessness.

We are challenged to "delight ourselves in the Lord." He is the only thing we have that gives us certainty and stability. Our faith is comforting. We cannot wait until perfect justice is achieved before we give ourselves permission to rejoice. We cannot delay our need to experience the consolations of our faith.

Let the liturgy lead you out of the doldrums. Rise up to enjoy your precious life. Count your blessings, and refuse to give in to sadness.

It was Karl Barth who said that Christians should not become "melancholic owls." In a more contemporary translation of his original German text, one might say, "Don't become a television addict or a couch potato glued to the gloom and doom of the latest news reports."

Jesus died to bring us joy, and it is up to us to claim it. We have to cultivate as much joy as we can muster. This undoubtedly will take a strong act of the will, but it is possible.

The joy we seek is from the Holy Spirit. He empowers us to see the silver lining in every dark cloud. Ask him to help you to receive the gift of joy.

In order to enter the joy of the Lord, all you need to do is turn to the Spirit of Jesus for help. He invites you to take strength from him: "Come to me all you are burdened, and I will refresh you."

If you have been away from church for any length of time, reconsider your position, and pray with us. Come, and enter into the joy of the Lord.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Great Guests, All

Father James Keller, founder of The Christophers, was a visionary who determined to use the media — print, radio and television — to spread his message: each one of us can make a difference for the better and each of us uniquely matters. These ideas resonated strongly in the minds and hearts of countless people.

Starting in 1952, Father Keller used television in a particularly powerful way. Through interviews with interesting and accomplished persons, famous and less so, he encouraged viewers to see that each life counts, that none of us is an accident or a mistake, that as long as we live, we possess the possibility of improving the world. Since 2002 will mark fifty years of Christopher television, we decided to go back to Hollywood, a place Father Keller visited often, to produce new Christopher Closeup programs.

Our guests were twelve people we've come to admire and appreciate through the years. Let me tell you some of the outstanding stories they had to tell.

Comedian and author Dom DeLuise is one of the funniest people alive. He spoke of the hope laughter brings. Dom believes that you don't have to do amazing things for people in need, that small things matter more. The ability to draw laughter or a smile can be a great gift to those who are sad or disheartened. His words reminded me of Mother Teresa's famous lesson: "Peace begins with a smile." In so many ways, joyous Dom DeLuise is a true peacemaker.

Lou Ferrigno, known to most as The Incredible Hulk, was a poignant and inspiring guest. He told us about losing most of his hearing as a child. For years, his disability made him feel embarrassed and ashamed. But his parents, a gentle mother and a strong-willed father, would not allow Lou to give in to emotional paralysis. Instead, they sent young Lou to a school that would strengthen and empower him. Lou came to know, as he told us, "that every one of us is disabled or handicapped in one way or another. For some that disability is physical. For others emotional. But no disability needs to make us give up on living life fully." Now starring in the TV series The King of Queens, he lives that lesson each day.

Chrystee Pharris is a beautiful young African-American actress. Formerly on the inspiring WBTV series 7th Heaven, she now stars in the NBC series Passions. But it almost didn't happen. Early in her career, Chrystee was offered a major movie role at a time she badly needed employment. This would be her big break. Finally she'd be able to pay her rent! Then she read the script. As a person of faith and morals, Chrystee was crestfallen. The part called for nudity. Believing that was wrong, she decided not to accept this part. Her agent warned her that a chance like this might not come again. In tearful prayers, Chrystee Pharris promised the Lord that she'd hold fast to her promise. No part was worth her dignity.

Two days later, another script appeared at Chrystee's doorstep. It was an equally important opportunity and she would not need to compromise her beliefs and values. Chrystee had been true to her God. She felt God was faithful to her as well.

Whatever our role in life, we are all asked to be faithful to God and to our best selves.

Next week, I look forward to introducing you to more of our Christopher Closeup guests.

# Coming of Age



BY CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS COLUMNIST

### The Best Gift Teens Can Give to Their Older Relatives

Thanksgiving having come and gone, this is the high season for gift buying. No doubt you've got a list of people to buy gifts for. You know your little sister's favorite CDs, Mom always likes books and Dad may be set on golf stuff. Those are the easy ones. Then there are the real tough gifts to select.

Teens often have a hard time finding gifts for older relatives, especially those who don't get out much or live in a care center. Most kids have no idea what to get for Grandma or Grandpa or dear Aunt Edna.

Actually, your elderly relatives will be so delighted to hear from you that whatever gift you send will be just fine with them. In fact, if you sent Aunt Edna your brother's computer game by mistake, the dear woman probably would be puzzled, but she'd smile anyway, happy that you remembered her.

On the other hand, if you'd like to really shine a little light on a older person's life, you can be a real star. All it takes is a bit of thought and a couple hours of your time.

The best way to deliver a gift to an older person, especially one who doesn't get around very well, is in person. Truthfully, your visit may be the best part of the gift.

You'll want to bring three things. Each is part of making this Christmas gift special.

First, bring a card with a personal note you wrote yourself. Older folks love the old-fashioned sort of card, with flowers and angels. Don't go for modern or clever. They sell millions of those traditional, old-fashioned, cards because traditional, old-fashioned people love them.

Write a couple of lines inside. A long letter is not required. All it takes is a sentence or two of your own handwriting inside the card. Trust me, that will be enough to fill Grandma's heart. Your card will be displayed on a shelf and will stay there for weeks. When other friends come over, your card will be taken down and passed around with pride.

Second, bring a gift that is personal, either a small gift you made yourself or something from your life. You might make a scrapbook of events in your family or at school. A real favorite is always a photo of yourself, perhaps with your friends. Put it in a nice but inexpensive frame, and you've come up with a gift that will be treasured.

There's a third thing to bring that will make the visit — and your Christmas gift — complete in every way. Bring readiness to listen to some stories.

One of the most valuable things in an older person's life is a sense that others still care, that their lives and experiences still matter. In earlier times families spent long evenings together, and it was natural that the older ones would tell family stories. Those times of sharing are now rare indeed.

When you go to bring your card and your gift, plan to spend an hour or so. Sit down in a comfortable chair, and ask the following question:

"Aunt Edna, what was Christmas like when you were a little girl?" Then stay and really listen to the answers. Letting an older person share remembrances says, "I love you, and you are still an important person to me" in the clearest possible way. Listening may be your greatest gift.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Validity of Baptisms by Protestant Clergy

*Q. I am concerned about my two daughters' children. Two children of one daughter (she is a nonpracticing Catholic, her husband is a nonpracticing Lutheran) were baptized in the Lutheran church.*

*The other grandchild's mother (also a nonpracticing Catholic married to a nonpracticing Baptist) plans to have her son baptized Baptist to comply with the father's wishes.*

*When children are baptized in a Protestant church by Protestant clergy, does the Catholic Church recognize these baptisms as valid sacraments? (Illinois)*

A. The sacrament of baptism embodies us into Christ and his church, and gives us a rebirth to share in God's life. According to Catholic teaching, baptism is conferred with water and with a formula which clearly invokes the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

If baptism is ministered this way, with either immersion or pouring of the water and a Trinitarian formula, that baptism is recognized as valid by Catholics, regardless of where or by whom the baptism takes place.

Since the ritual books or customs of most, certainly all major, Christian churches prescribe baptism in this manner, the assumption of the Catholic Church is that all baptisms conferred by these communities are true sacraments, with all the effects of the sacrament.

In fact, Catholic Church law prohibits routine "rebaptism" or conditional baptism of children or of converts to the Catholic faith. Their previous baptism in another denomination or church community is to be accepted as valid unless, after thorough examination, serious reasons exist to doubt the validity of the baptism.

If it is determined that a conditional baptism is prudently called for, the ceremony should be celebrated privately, for ecumenical reasons and to avoid misunderstandings about the nature and meaning of this sacrament.

The question sometimes arises, Does the intention or beliefs or holiness of the person ministering baptism affect the validity of the sacrament? Proper intention on the part of the minister is always to be presumed unless serious grounds exist to doubt that the minister intended to do what the church does.

Last year, for example, on June 5, 2000, after long study, the Vatican ruled that baptisms conferred by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) cannot be considered valid.

As I explained more fully in a previous column: While Mormon baptismal rites refer to Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Vatican sources explained, the Trinity in Mormon belief is "not three persons in whom the one divinity subsists, but three gods who form a divinity." In Mormon teaching, baptism is not a Christian sacrament established by Christ.

No such doubts, however, exist about Protestant churches, at least the vast majority of them. You need not worry about your grandchildren's baptism. The church communities you mention are among those whose baptism is always presumed to be valid.

*(These Catholic regulations may be found in the 1993 norms on ecumenism, Nos. 92-96; Canon 869; and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Appendix on Receiving Baptized Christians Into Full Communion with the Catholic Church.)*

*(A free brochure outlining basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

# Pope encourages attention to vocations

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Faced with low numbers of priests and religious, the church cannot lower standards but should instead give greater attention to the selection and formation of candidates, Pope John Paul II said.

To overcome the current shortage, Catholic communities must make the promotion of vocations a central pastoral issue, the pope said in his annual message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, scheduled for April 21.

While all the church's members are called to holiness, vocations to the priesthood or the religious life are still "precious and necessary gifts," he said. Those who dedicate their lives to Christ in chastity, poverty and obedience are following "privileged paths" toward spiritual fullness, the pope said.

"The small number of candidates to the priesthood and consecrated life reported in some situations today must not lead us to expect less and settle for a mediocre formation and spirituality," he said.

"Rather, it should urge greater attention to the selection and formation of those who, once constituted ministers and witnesses of Christ, will be called upon to confirm with holiness of life what they announce and celebrate," he said.

For that reason, vocations must be "continuously at the center of spirituality, of pastoral action and of the prayer of the faithful," he said.

Bishops, priests and religious should lead the way in awakening new vocations, but families also are called upon to play a decisive role so that their children can "listen to the divine call and make a generous response," he said.

The pope noted that the World Day of Prayer for Vocations in 2002 will coincide with the Third Continental Congress for vocations in North America, to be held in Montreal. He sent his best wishes for the congress and said it would confront "one of the pivotal problems of the church in America and of the new evangelization of the continent."

"I invite everyone to pray so that this important gathering may produce a renewed commitment to the service of vocations and a more generous enthusiasm among the Christians of the 'New World,'" he said.

# Priest's unique role vital to parish life

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II warned it would be a "fatal error" to think that the current shortage of priests means tomorrow's church would have to make do without ordained ministers.

He said priests alone can serve as pastors of parishes because of their unique representation of Christ in church communities.

"The church community absolutely needs the ministerial priesthood to have Christ, head and pastor, present in it," the pope said Nov. 23 to participants in the plenary assembly of the Congregation for the Clergy.

"Other faithful certainly can work with (the priest) actively, even full time, but they cannot substitute (for) him as pastor because they have not received the ministerial priesthood," he said.

Because of this, the word "pastor" should be used only for priests, he added.

The pope said the difficulties created in parishes by priest shortages in some regions should lead to more fervent prayers for vocations.

"It would be a fatal error to resign to the current difficulties and de facto act like one must prepare for a church of tomorrow (that is) envisioned almost without any priests," he said.

The pope said the priest's main role in the parish was to celebrate the Eucharist, "the source and summit of church life" and Christ's privileged presence in the church.

"Without eucharistic worship — as its beating heart — the parish dries up," he said.

The priest's "sacramental representation" of Christ also includes a special "efficaciousness" as a minister of Scripture, the pope said. This is why only ordained clergy can read the Gospel and preach at Mass, even if some lay members of the parish are better orators, he said.

Nor can the priest abdicate his function as the parish's guide, in which he has a "special relationship with Christ, head and pastor," the pope said.

He said the participation of lay people in running the parish was "to be wished for and often necessary," but they could not "be surrogates in any way for the priest's role as pastor."

Parish councils were useful aids to the pastor but must not overstep their strictly consultative role, he added.



Courtesy Photo

**Three of Charlotte's newest seminarians, pictured with Msgr. Michael Burbidge, rector of St. Charles Borremeo Seminary in Philadelphia, PA. From left, Joseph Klinker, Msgr. Burbidge, Justin Grosnick, and Patrick Toole**


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# CLONING, from page 1

peutic uses.

Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, urged a federal ban on human cloning "without delay."

"Human cloning violates fundamental ethical and moral norms and is to be condemned unequivocally," he said in a Nov. 27 statement. "Human cloning does not treat any disease but turns human reproduction into a manufacturing process."

Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington warned that it "has dangerous implications" of playing God and devaluing human life.

At a Nov. 26 press conference on Capitol Hill, a variety of political, religious and pro-life leaders called for immediate legislation to ban all cloning of human embryos.

Cardinal McCarrick called the first creation of human clones "deeply disturbing."

"While we must encourage the scientific community to continue cutting-edge research, it must occur within ethical boundaries that respect all human life and the role of God as the creator of that life," the cardinal said.

"The arrogance that leads someone to believe he can take on the role of God and reduce humans to mere 'spare parts' is an arrogance which has dangerous implications that we cannot fully anticipate," he said.

Bishop Gregory said, "The cloning procedure is so dehumanizing that some scientists want to treat the resulting human beings as subhuman, creating them solely so they can destroy them for their cells and tissues."

Noting that the House of Representatives voted to ban human cloning last July, he urged the Senate "to do the same without delay."

President Bush also condemned the company's actions.

"The use of embryos to clone is wrong," he said Nov. 26 in response to a reporter's question at a White House event. "We should not as a society grow life to destroy it. And that's exactly what's taking place."

Bush added that "to grow an embryo in order to extract a stem cell, in order for that embryo to die, is bad public policy. Not only that, it's morally wrong in my opinion."

The House of Representatives passed the Human Cloning Prohibition Act July 31 by a vote of 265-162, banning cloning of human embryos for any purpose.

"This corporation is creating human embryos for the sole purpose of killing them and harvesting their cells," said Douglas Johnson, legislative director of the National Right to Life Committee. "Unless Congress acts quickly, this corporation and others will be opening human embryo farms."

Along with the Catholic bishops' conference, other organizations urging quick Senate action to ban all human embryo cloning included the United Methodist General Board for Church and Society, the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, the Knights of Columbus, the Family Research Council, Focus on the Family, the Christian Legal Society and the Christian Coalition of America.

A spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said Nov. 26 that the senator did not plan to speed up Senate consideration of the bill.

Advanced Cell Technology first reported its work in the online version of Scientific American, a lay science journal.

An embryo is cloned by removing the nucleus from an egg and transferring the nucleus of a stem cell into it. The egg's own nucleus has only half the chromosomes of human body cells and normally receives the other half from fertilization by a sperm. The nucleus of a somatic stem cell — a body cell capable of dividing and producing other body cells — has a full complement of chromosomes.

The company's scientists said they had no success with transfers of adult fibroblasts, stem cells taken from human skin, into enucleated human eggs. But they obtained two dividing embryos when they injected such eggs with cumulus cells — egg-nurturing cells from the ovary which often remain attached to the egg during ovulation.

"Of the eight eggs we injected with cumulus cells, two divided to form early embryos of four cells — and one progressed to at least six cells — before growth stopped," they reported.

Mature eggs and sperm, or germ cells, have only half the chromosomes of body cells. But the scientists said they used immature eggs, before the chromosomal halving, to induce parthenogenesis, or reproduction without fertilization.

Of 22 human eggs chemically prodded to begin dividing and reproducing, they said, "after five days of growing in culture dishes, six eggs had developed into what appeared to be blastocysts, but none clearly contained the so-called inner cell mass that yields stem cells."

Accompanying the Scientific American report on the Advanced Cell Technology research was a sidebar by Ronald M. Green, director of the Ethics Institute at Dartmouth College and chairman of the company's ethics advisory board, discussing the ethical considerations behind the work. It said most advisory board members "did not agree" with the view "that the organism produced in human therapeutic cloning experiments is the equivalent of any ordinary human embryo and merits the same degree of respect and protection."

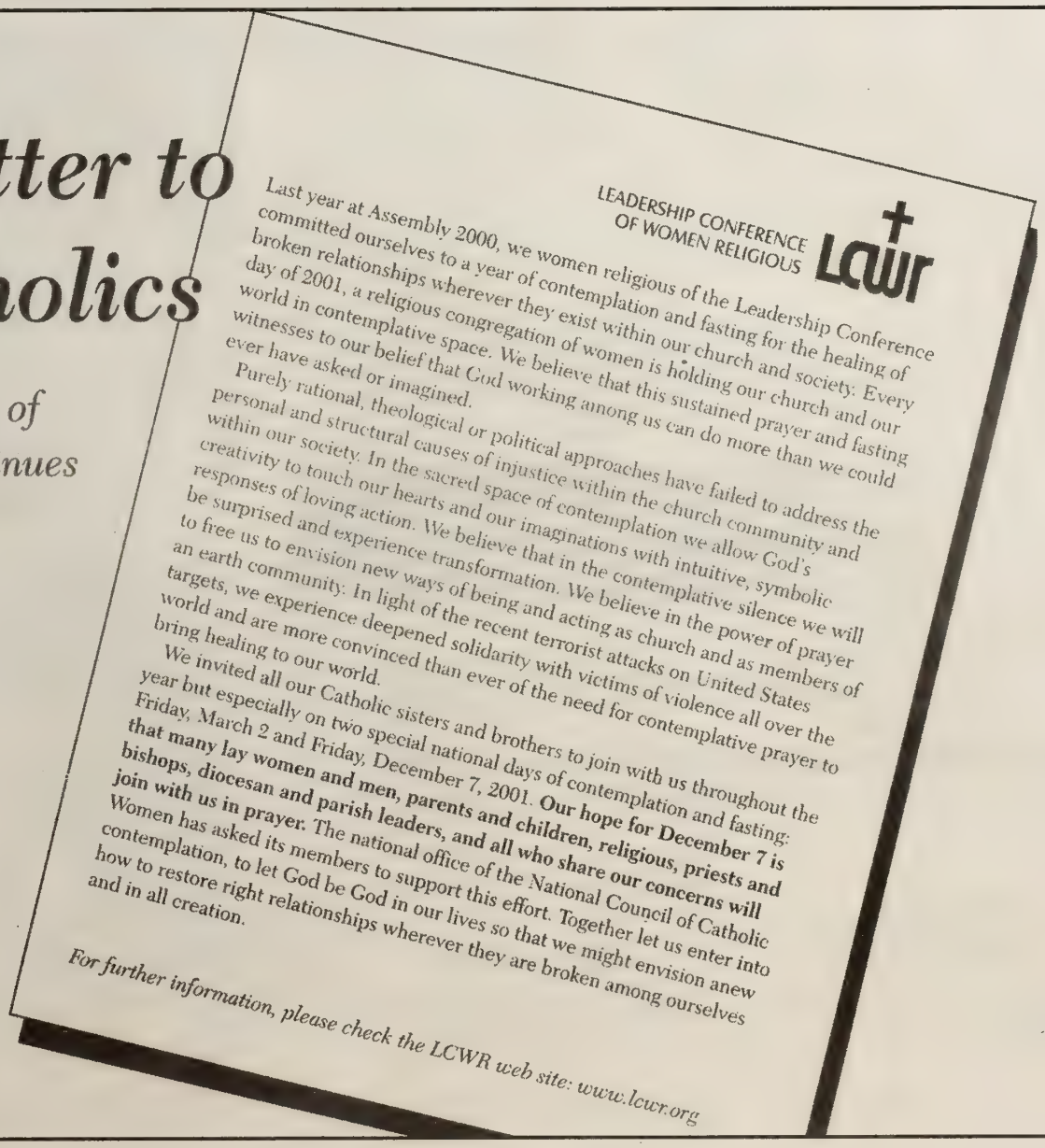
The sidebar acknowledged that "those who believe that human life begins at conception — and who also regard activated eggs as morally equivalent to human embryos — cannot ethically approve therapeutic cloning research. For them, such research is equivalent to killing a living child in order to harvest its organs for the benefit of others."

*Editor Joann S. Keane contributed to this story.*


*Open Letter to U.S. Catholics*

*Leadership Conference of Women Religious Continues Year of Contemplation and Fasting*

LCWR


LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS

LCWR

Last year at Assembly 2000, we women religious of the Leadership Conference committed ourselves to a year of contemplation and fasting for the healing of broken relationships wherever they exist within our church and society. Every day of 2001, a religious congregation of women is holding our church and our world in contemplative space. We believe that this sustained prayer and fasting witnesses to our belief that God working among us can do more than we could ever have asked or imagined.

Purely rational, theological or political approaches have failed to address the personal and structural causes of injustice within the church community and within our society. In the sacred space of contemplation we allow God's creativity to touch our hearts and our imaginations with intuitive, symbolic responses of loving action. We believe that in the contemplative silence we will be surprised and experience transformation. We believe in the power of prayer to free us to envision new ways of being and acting as church and as members of an earth community. In light of the recent terrorist attacks on United States targets, we experience deepened solidarity with victims of violence all over the world and are more convinced than ever of the need for contemplative prayer to bring healing to our world.

We invited all our Catholic sisters and brothers to join with us throughout the year but especially on two special national days of contemplation and fasting: Friday, March 2 and Friday, December 7, 2001. **Our hope for December 7 is that many lay women and men, parents and children, religious, priests and bishops, diocesan and parish leaders, and all who share our concerns will join with us in prayer.** The national office of the National Council of Catholic Women has asked its members to support this effort. Together let us enter into contemplation, to let God be God in our lives so that we might envision anew how to restore right relationships wherever they are broken among ourselves and in all creation.

*For further information, please check the LCWR web site: www.lcwr.org*

*Sisters of Mercy of the Americas*
*Regional Community of North Carolina*

# Deacon travels country, serves community through ministry

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

HICKORY — Hugo May and his family were sitting on their front porch listening to Sunday radio programs per their usual routine when they heard the breaking story that changed the face of a nation. The bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, sent the May family into shock and disbelief.

"It is amazing that one or two things in your life always stick out in your mind," Rev. Mr. May said. He equates his shock over the event that led to America's entry into World War II with the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"It was a very severe experience because our neighbors' two sons were stationed in the Navy at Pearl Harbor. We immediately stopped and prayed the rosary."

Faith and work were May family traditions at their farm in the rural coastal town of Riviera, Texas, near Corpus Christi. May and his brother, Don, would wake up at dawn for chores before school. May, the oldest of eight children, fed the hogs and chickens, milked the cows and carried a rifle to frequently hunt for the family's supper.

He helped his father, a jack-of-all-trades who worked long hours to support his family and was an inspiration to May spiritually and socially.

"Daddy didn't attend church much but reminded us to say prayers every night and led prayers at the table. He came back to the church later in his life," Rev. Mr. May said. "I relied on my dad's advice because I felt he had a lot of wisdom and was a very loving man."

The church, school and convent were near each other and close to May's grandfather's mercantile store. "Mom and dad really didn't worry about sending us to church or anywhere because everything was so nearby," Rev. Mr. May said. "We would all walk sometimes or ride in a buggy. Everything centered around our little church."

Graduation in 1945 led to his attendance at the local university, now known as Texas A&M at Kingsville. Even though constant work on the family farm and in the town focused his attention away from school for much of his high school career, he was determined to be the first grandchild in his family graduate from college. To pay for school through the GI Bill, he decided to enter the Air Force. His post-war service sent him to an Arizona base and to his future partner in life.

Bobbie, raised in the Southwestern state, met May at a USO dance. The two good-naturedly debated their way to friendship and courtship. With matchmakers at every turn, the two became engaged. May was sent to a Las Vegas base in 1946. Bobbie, however, moved reluctantly into the next phase of her life.

"I wasn't ready to get married, but he was," remembered Mrs. May, whose receipt of her future mother-in-law's letter about being a proper Catholic wife prompted inquiry about receiving instruction. Bobbie had grown up Baptist but had not attended Sunday services regularly.

Boarding in the home of an Irish Catholic woman in Phoenix since being orphaned at 16, Bobbie was not unfamiliar with the religion. After talking with her landlady, Bobbie sought the help of a priest. "Within two classes, I fell in love with the church and liked what it stood for. I thought it was a loving discipline," she said.

The couple married in 1949, the same year Bobbie joined the Catholic Church. They spent their honeymoon driving to Texas, where he resumed his college work. The Mays lived on campus, while he attended classes and worked odd jobs to support he and his wife. He graduated in 1953 while continuing to acquaint his wife with the faith.

"I was proud to be a Catholic, and, by the grace of God, I remained Catholic," Rev. Mr. May said, "There is nothing as wonderful as the Catholic Church."

He began working for General Electric in marketing and sales as a sales engineer and moved to New York. They found a church and immediately became an integral part of their parish, thus setting the trend for their later faith lives. Arrival in San Antonio, Texas, via Bloomington, Ill., led to the couple's involvement in the construction of a new parish and the establishment of faith formation programs.

Their next move, to Shreveport, La., was a surprise to the couple, who thought they were relocating to an area with a Catholic concentration. Learning the northern part of the state was heavily Protestant did not stop the Mays from finding a Catholic church and founding a Holy Family Guild similar to the group in their last parish.



Rev. Mr. May

"We have been the hospitality folks all of our lives," Rev. Mr. May joked.

"We have a knack for starting things," said Mrs. May. "We were catalysts being used by God and didn't even know it."

Dallas was where the couple first heard about Cursillo, but they were all Spanish-spoken at the time. Intrigued by the spiritual and ministerial aspects of the movement, which began in Spain in 1949, they found one where English was the primary language and in 1965 made the 13th English-speaking Cursillo in the country. True to form, the Mays became Cursillo leaders and gave presentations to later groups.

The charismatic renewal movement was waiting for their input and development when they moved to Massachusetts. They read about it and began a group of six that swelled to more than 500 participants.

Their final relocation, to Hickory, N.C., in 1975, was their most challenging. "We had come into Charlotte before our move and were listening to a religious radio program. We didn't like what we heard," said Rev. Mr. May with a laugh about the large number of Protestants that live in North Carolina.

"It was traumatic for us because we were walking away from the cocoon we had helped to form," Mrs. May said. "We had a 'Camelot' as far as we were concerned."

Despite their reluctance to adjustment in their new city, they found the charismatic renewal had begun to form in their new diocese. "The charismatic renewal kept us alive down here, and it was a time of purification for us," Mrs. May said.

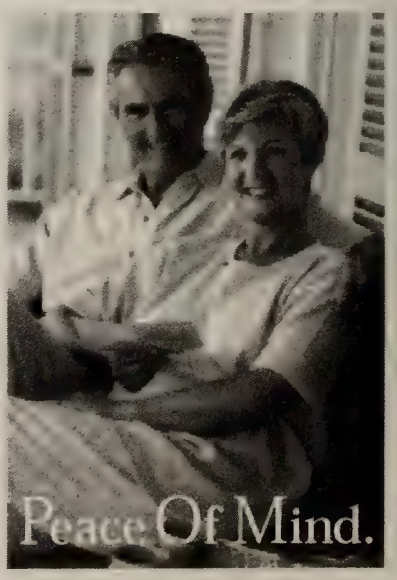
She went to a charismatic renewal retreat and met a deacon who informed her about the permanent diaconate. "Knowing Hugo's spirit, I thought that it was for him."

May, a parishioner at St. Aloysius Church, applied for the diaconate and was accepted. They both enjoyed the classes and dug into the subject matter. The couple continued to be heavily involved with parish and community work, including RCIA, spiritual direction, and hospital and other ministries.

He retired from General Electric in 1991 and retired from full-time diaconate work also in the early '90s. Medical problems and other ailments keep him at home more these days, but the father of nine and grandfather of 26 continues to serve. "Whatever someone needs, I try to be there."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price at (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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December 7, 2001
Volume 11 • Number 13

# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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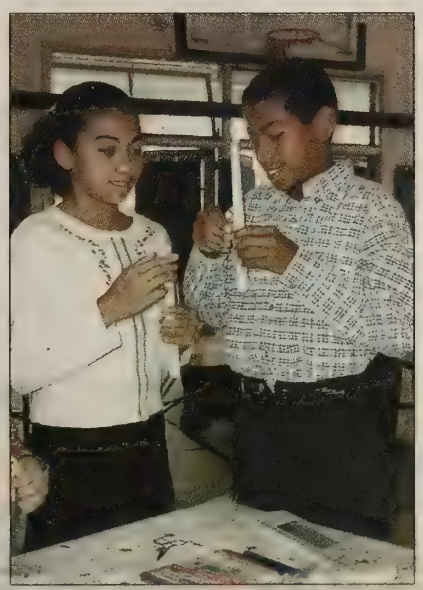
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A Christian who has not learned to see and love Christ in his neighbor is not fully Christian. We are our brothers' keepers; we are bound to each other by the bond of love

— Pope John Paul II
Insegnamenti IV, 1, 476-77

# Advent Festival

## Our Lady of Mercy Parish — *Winston-Salem*











Photos by Barbara S. Baker

Our Lady of Mercy parish held an Advent Festival Dec. 2. The second annual festival invited children and families to learn about Advent, while making Advent crafts. Pictured clockwise from top: Alina and Andrew Lue make candles; Alisa Ortman helps her daughter, Amanda, make a Christmas wreath; members of the parish youth group, Chris Irons, Kelsey Redmond, Kristen Raliski, Emily Dillard, Phil Berry, D.J. High and Michael Metzbower work on crafts; Charles Sangueza applies glue on an Advent project; and Jacob Miller wears the Advent chain he's preparing.

### Catholic Daughters of Americas build sixth Habitat for Humanity home

DILWORTH, Minn. (CNS) — Six years ago, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas were challenged to become one of the first women's organizations to build a home for Habitat for Humanity. The group took up the challenge in Oklahoma City and has since helped build six other houses across the country, including their most recent home in Dilworth, in the Crookston Diocese. The Minnesota home was built this fall for a Kurdish and Muslim family who fled their home in Iraq and then spent four years in a Turkish refugee camp. Hundreds of volunteers helped build the home, including the family for whom it was built, family members and friends of the Catholic Daughters and student volunteer groups from local colleges. Volunteers from local parishes and businesses provided meals. The Catholic Daughters' Minnesota state court sponsored the project.

### Bishop calls for prayerful support for all who live with HIV/AIDS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a statement marking Dec. 1 as World AIDS Day, the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on African-American Catholics urged people to give prayerful support to those living with HIV/AIDS. "The actions of each one of us can make a difference," Bishop J. Terry Steib of Memphis, Tenn., said. "Let us pray that we find words and actions, faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that will prevent the spread of HIV." The bishop noted the "painful reality" that African-Americans account for 38 percent of total AIDS cases nationwide and make up 57 percent of total AIDS cases among women, 59 percent of new AIDS cases among children, and 39 percent of new cases among men.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Schoolboys look over nativity scene in Bethlehem church**
**Palestinian Christian schoolboys look over a Nativity scene in a church in Bethlehem Nov. 29. Christmas activities in the town this year will be limited to religious services. The town announced that it will forgo the other usual yuletide trappings apart from a few lights and a tree in Manger Square. Bethlehem has been a flash point for violence since the Palestinians began an uprising 14 months ago.**

### Churches have a role in preventing spread of AIDS, priest says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The nation's religious denominations have a role to play in preventing the spread of AIDS, says a priest who is co-chair of the AIDS task force for Caritas Internationalis, the Vatican's umbrella agency for international relief. "We need to do education for prevention," said Father Robert Vitillo, who is also head of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty arm. "All churches need to be more sensitive to the impact of HIV/AIDS." On World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, an educational initiative was unveiled by the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, a group of 62 church-related organizations. Catholic representatives in the alliance, according to Father Vitillo, include Franciscans International and CIDSE, a France-based association of Catholic development agencies.

### Pope tells AIDS sufferers that church prays for them, will help

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II promised the millions of people suffering from AIDS in the world that the Catholic Church prays for them, will help them and supports the search for a cure. "Dear brothers and sisters ill with AIDS, do not think you are alone. The pope is near to you with affection and supports you in your difficult journey," the pope said Dec. 1, the U.N.-declared World AIDS Day. Pope John Paul made his remarks during a Vatican meeting of Catholics who volunteer in various areas of health care.

### 'Here I Am, Lord' named Unity Awards' song of the year

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dan Schutte's 20-year-old hymn "Here I Am, Lord" won the song of the year award at the Unity Awards sponsored by the United Catholic Music and Video Association and held Dec. 1 in Washington. The Benedictine monks of Santo Domingo de Silos in Spain won awards for two albums released in 1994 — "Chant" and "Chant Christmas," both of which were recorded in the 1970s. Dana Scallon, who records under the name of Dana, won seven Unity Awards and Vince Ambrosetti won five, in results announced during the ceremony at The Catholic University of America. Schutte, once a member of the singing group known as the St. Louis Jesuits, also won with "Here I Am, Lord" as liturgical song of the year. An association spokeswoman said older songs were being "grandfathered" for consideration in the initial years of the awards, which are just in their second year.

### Pope says he hopes days of fasting, prayer help cool world situation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said he hoped a church-wide day of fasting in December and an interreligious summit in January would help cool down the international situation, marked by multiple wars. Meanwhile, the Vatican announced it was collecting donations that on Christmas Day the pope would allocate to victims of terrorism and war. Speaking Dec. 2 to pilgrims in St. Peter's Square during a midday blessing, the pope noted the day's liturgy contained Isaiah's Old Testament prophecy that the nations "shall beat their swords into plowshares" and renounce warfare.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**December 12 — 4 p.m.**
Dedication of renovated chapel
Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, Belmont

**December 15 — 10 a.m.**
Ordination to priesthood of Rev. Messrs. Adrian Porras and Christopher Roux
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**December 24 — Christmas Eve**
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**December 25 — Christmas**
11 a.m. Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

2 p.m. Mass
Holy Angels, Belmont

**Dec. 31 — New Year's Eve**
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

## Diocesan planner

**December**

**11** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Arthritis Support and Education Group will meet this morning from 10-11 a.m. in Room D of the parish ministry center located at 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**12** CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will host a Christmas party today at 4 p.m. in the parish center. Members and non-members are welcomed to attend for refreshments and a musical program. For further information about the party or bingo held every Monday at 7:30 p.m., call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**16** CHARLOTTE — A Festival of Carols and Lessons will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., at 2 p.m. The adult choir, youth ensemble and children's choir will present music and songs featuring the works of Handel, Dawson, Martin, Victoria and Pergolesi. The Women's Guild will host a reception following the concert in the activity center. For further details, call the church office at (704) 554-7088.

**16** CHARLOTTE — No ultreyas will be held during the month of December. All Charlotte-area Cursillistas are invited to attend a Christmas party from 4-7 p.m. at the home of Dan and Lynne Hines, 4601 Pineland Place. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665.

**17** CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

### Aid agencies returning to Afghanistan, but security still risky

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Taliban may have been all but eliminated as a political force in Afghanistan in a matter of weeks, but the humanitarian crisis left by decades of war, years of drought and a harsh winter will pose a much longer-term challenge, according to aid agencies. The most critical issue for the immediate future will be simple security — for aid workers and for the stocks of food and relief supplies, said representatives of Catholic Relief Services, the U.N. World Food Program, Oxfam America and the Council on Foreign Relations. But they also want the international community to pay attention to other issues, such as canceling Afghanistan's foreign debt and helping create small, local banking structures.

### French law allowing gay couples to adopt draws church criticism

PARIS (CNS) — French church representatives have criticized proposed law changes that would give homosexual couples the right to adopt children. "The church isn't against homosexuality and helps those affected," said Genevieve Vigne, secretary of the French bishops' family commission. "But a child needs a father and mother — in today's society, fractured by divorce and family break-ups, this new measure will merely fuel confusion." Vigne spoke as debate continued over amendments to France's 1999 Social Solidarity Pact; the amendments would extend marriage-style rights to gay couples. She said Catholic groups would urge parliamentarians to vote against the proposed measures.

### Postulators unsure when new canonization dates will be set

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The people most closely involved with the processes for declaring Blessed Padre Pio and Msgr. Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer saints said they have no idea when their canonizations will be. The postulators of the causes — those responsible for presenting information about the potential saints to the Vatican, its theologians and physicians — must wait for each step in the process to be completed. For Italian Capuchin Padre Pio and the Spanish founder of Opus Dei, Msgr. Escriva, as well as for Blessed Juan Diego, the indigenous Mexican to whom Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared, the process may end in late December.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**New York's patriotic Christmas tree**

**The Rockefeller Center Christmas tree glows in front of 30 Rockefeller Center in New York Nov. 28. First Lady Laura Bush and New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani had the honor of lighting the tree, strung in a patriotic spirit with 30,000 red, white and blue bulbs.**

### Nuncio says knowledge, ethics needed in approach to global warming

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The dangers of global warming should be approached with a combination of knowledge and ethical concern, the Vatican nuncio to the United Nations said in a statement Nov. 28 in New York. Speaking to a committee of the U.N. General Assembly reviewing efforts to deal with climate change, Archbishop Renato R. Martino called global warming "the great equalizer" that recognized no boundaries, nationalities or cultural divides. But directing attention especially to potential effects on the poor, the vulnerable and future generations, he called for a change from a "resource intensive" economy based on fossil fuel to one that would be "knowledge intensive." He said, "Knowledge is the only true inexhaustible resource that assures a sustainable environment and development."

### Poll links frequent Mass attendance with support of church teachings

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The first of a planned ongoing series of polls on "Contemporary Catholic Trends" shows that Catholics who attend Mass at least weekly are more likely to support the church's teachings on moral issues. The poll by Zogby International in conjunction with LeMoyne College in Syracuse, N.Y., asked 1,508 adult Catholics nationwide a series of questions about their religious beliefs and practices, their thoughts on various moral issues and their opinions about people of other faiths. It was released in Syracuse Nov. 16. A majority of those polled agree with Catholic teachings against abortion, euthanasia and the destruction of human embryos in stem-cell research, but those who go to Mass at least once a week were even more likely to agree with the church.

### Erie Catholic schools use bully prevention program

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) — The Catholic Schools Office of the Erie Diocese has issued a warning: Bullying in schools will not be tolerated. And to back that up, the office is asking Catholic schools to implement a bullying prevention program by the end of the 2003-04 school year. "We're looking at this day and age when bullying has become acceptable to people," said Janice Whiteman, director of curriculum of the Catholic Schools Office. "We wanted to get the message out there that we don't accept bullying." Roberta Bucci, director of government programs for the office, added that any form of violence in schools is not accepted. She said the bullying prevention curriculum is being endorsed in kindergarten through 12th grade in the Erie Diocese.

**17** CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. Father John Hoover from New Creation Monastery will be the celebrant. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on Feb. 4. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

**24** CHARLOTTE — Volunteers will be needed for the St. Patrick Cathedral annual Christmas dinner held on Dec. 25 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. People are needed to: transport people to and from the dinner or deliver meals; help decorate, distribute gifts or carve turkeys; help cook or clean up; or donate gifts, warm clothing, monetary help or baked goods. Each year over 1,800 meals and gifts are distributed, and about 1,000 meals are delivered. For further information about volunteering or helping the group from Dec 24-26, call Tamara DelGrosso, pastoral coordinator, at (704) 334-2283, Ext. 29, with name, phone numbers and number of people volunteering by Dec. 21.

**Ongoing**

CHARLOTTE — For anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, a bereavement group meets every Monday evening from 6-7 p.m. in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Ruth Posey, facilitator and CSS counselor, at (704) 370-3238.

CONCORD — St. James Church, 251 Union St. North, invites anyone needing a special favor, healing, petition or thanksgiving to the Our Mother of Perpetual Help novena every Monday at 7 p.m. For further details, call the church office at (704) 720-0600.

HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr., celebrates two Masses in other languages every Sunday. The Spanish Mass is held at 12:30 p.m., and the Korean Mass is held at 6 p.m. For further details, call Susie Romanowski at (336) 885-8435.

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ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., hosts eucharistic adoration on the following days: Friday mornings immediately following the 9 a.m. Mass until noon, Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:15 p.m. and every first Friday from 9:30 a.m.-8:45 p.m. For more information, call the church at (828) 684-6098.

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., hosts daily adoration from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information, call Jane Sorrells at (828) 298-0334.

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CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas, 1400 Suther Rd., hosts eucharistic adoration every first Friday from 1:15 p.m.-midnight, and eucharistic holy hour takes place every Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Aquinas Hall is open everyday from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.

HIGH POINT — Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., hosts perpetual adoration in the chapel. For volunteer and other information, call Theresa Hansen at (336) 273-1507.

SYLVA — Eucharistic adoration takes place every first Saturday at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., following 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For more information, call Annette Leporis at (828) 497-7464.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# Greccio re-enactment held at Catholic Conference Center

By ELLEN SIGMON
Correspondent

HICKORY — Stories about St. Francis of Assisi are still being told. Some 250 people learned about two of the saint's accomplishments while they watched a re-enactment of the Nativity scene at Greccio, Italy, in 1223 and the events leading up to it. The Fraternity of Brother Francis of the Secular Franciscan Order organized the re-enactment, held at the Catholic Conference Center on Dec. 2.

Francis and some of his friars made a 100-mile journey over mountainous terrain from Assisi to Rome, where Pope Honorius III approved the third Franciscan Rule on Nov. 29. (Pope Innocent III approved the first Rule in 1209). While he was with the pope, Francis asked permission to recreate the story of Jesus' birth for the people of Greccio so that they could see and feel the conditions in which he was born.

John Velita, lord of Greccio and a friend of Francis, owned a hill complete with caves near the town. Velita agreed to help Francis stage the re-enactment and gather the local people and animals that they needed.

Following Francis' example, the Fraternity of Brother Francis gathered local people and animals for their event. The youth group at St. Joseph Church played most of the parts, while Denny Schell was St. Francis and Jerry Burke portrayed the pope. Three-month-old Sean Aberle was the baby Jesus.

Dennis Cook of Newton, Scott Beam of Lincolnton and Ken Hilderman of Claremont supplied the cow, donkeys, sheep and goats. Some of Beam's children portrayed shepherds.

The combined choirs of St. Joseph in Newton and St. Aloysius Church in Hickory provided the music for the event. After the re-enactment, the audience and choir sang Christmas carols, heard Luke's Gospel account of the birth of Jesus, and recited the "Our Father," with comments according to St. Francis. Then the group processed into the conference center for refreshments, singing carols as they walked.

Members of other secular Franciscan fraternities also attended from the Franciscan Family of Greensboro; St. Clare, Winston-Salem; St. Maximillian Kolbe, Charlotte; and St. Clare of Assisi, Aiken, S.C.

The Fraternity of Brother Francis dedicated this year's event to Herman Thoni, its former minister (president). Thoni had wanted the group to do the live Nativity, but illness prevented his attending the first re-enactment, held last year. He died of cancer on Dec. 29.

"I know that this year Brother Herman has a much better perspective of this crib at Greccio," said Bill Brockhoff, the group's formation director.

"We hope our Franciscan spirit has spoken to your heart today," said Ruth Thoni, Herman Thoni's widow and the fraternity minister. "If you are lucky enough to have family, hold them especially close to your heart during this holiday season. The family unit is the spiritual army of our nation, and its leader is the Lord Jesus Christ."







**Pictured top right: Joseph, played by John Robinson, leads a donkey carrying Mary, played by Maria Schell, to start the re-enactment of the Nativity.**

**Pictured to the left and right: Local "villagers" of Greccio gather with their animals for the re-enactment of the Nativity.**

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This year, as your family celebrates the blessings of the Christmas Season, please remember our seminarians in your prayers. Should your family wish to extend Christmas greetings, the following provides the names and addresses of the men in formation for the Diocese of Charlotte.

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**Cahill, John Patrick**
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**Cesar, Julia**
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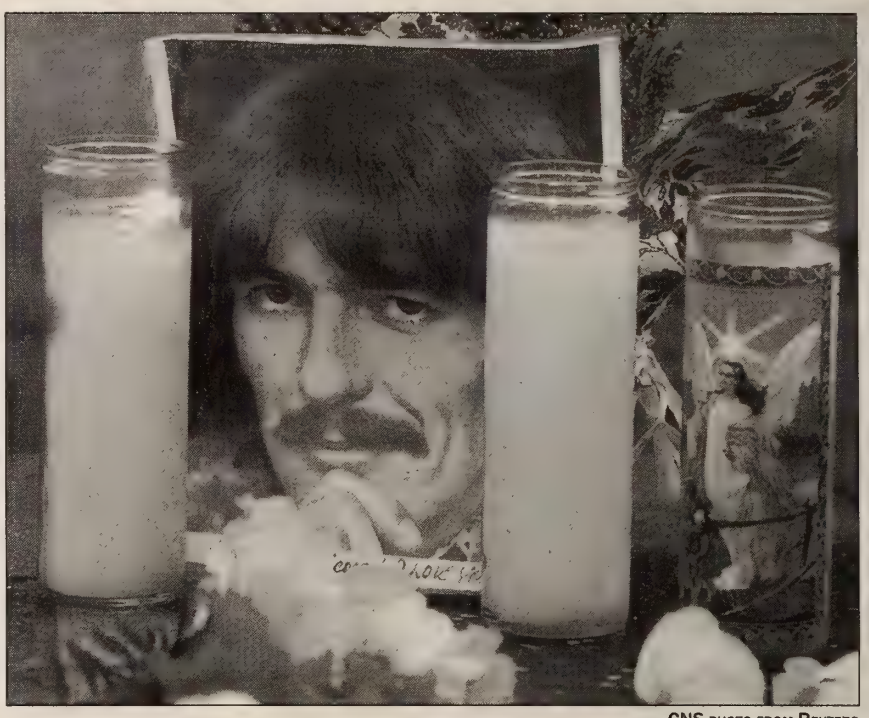
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### Don't blur parent-child distinction, Jesuit educator says

TUKWILA, Wash. (CNS) — A clearly defined and enforced distinction of the roles of parent and child is the key to a healthy family structure, according to a Jesuit priest and child psychologist. And that structure is not a partnership, he said. "There is a general parenting philosophy that says somehow there is a democratic process in the family as though there is nothing over which a child should not have a say," Father Michael J. Garanzini said. He spoke to pastors, pastoral life directors and principals at a meeting sponsored by the Catholic Schools Department of the Archdiocese of Seattle in early November. "The boundaries between being a child and being a parent are blurred" in some instances, said the Jesuit, who is president of Loyola University of Chicago.

### Bush asked to honor New York fire chaplain with Medal of Freedom

NEW YORK (CNS)— Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., has asked President Bush to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously to Franciscan Father Mychal F. Judge, the New York Fire Department chaplain who died at the World Trade Center Sept. 11. Schumer announced his action Nov. 18 at Engine Co. 1, the firehouse directly across the street from St. Francis of Assisi Church, where Father Judge lived. He said New York's other senator, Hillary Rodham Clinton, was joining him in the request. "On that tragic day in September, Father Judge died as he lived — serving others," Schumer and Clinton said in a letter to Bush. "When the firefighters entered the building, Father Judge was at their side, where he remained offering comfort and absolution until the end."



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Candles left for Harrison, Beatles star**

**Candles and flowers are left on the Beatles star on Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles Nov. 30 following the announcement of the death of George Harrison. The Beatles guitarist died Nov. 29 at age 58 after a long battle with cancer. Although raised in a Catholic household, he embraced Hinduism later in life. Harrison wrote the Beatles' hit song "Here Comes the Sun." Later, his song "My Sweet Lord," from a solo album, topped the charts**

### West African bishops ask Senegalese priest to leave rebel group

ROME (CNS) — The bishops of Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde and Mauritania called on a priest to leave a regional rebel group he heads, reported Fides, the Vatican's missionary service. The priest, Father Augustin Diamacoune Senghor, is secretary-general of the Democratic Forces of Casamance Movement, a rebel group that has fought since 1982 for independence for Senegal's Casamance region. "We understand a priest committing himself to justice and peace, but this can never be through a political party and even less through a movement that uses armed conflict," the bishops said.

### Nun dies in car accident after begging officials to pay school grants

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — A nun died in a car accident on her way home from begging provincial government officials to pay grants they owed her cash-strapped school for disabled children in one of South Africa's poorest provinces. German-born Precious Blood Sister Maria Patrick Resing, 57, was driving back to Umtata from the Eastern Cape capital of Bisho when her car collided with another vehicle. She had confronted welfare department officials in Bisho about a monthly grant that had been paid to Ikhwezi Lokusa (Morning Star) school for years before it "suddenly dried up with no warning a few months ago," said the provincial superior, Precious Blood Sister Hermenegild Makoro. Sister Resing was principal of the school for eight years.

### Supreme Court Justice Scalia lectures on religion and Constitution

ST. LOUIS (CNS)—U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia received hearty applause and a few "amens" in a lecture at the St. Louis archdiocesan pastoral center where he explained his views on the religion clauses of the Constitution. "We had never forbidden the government from favoring religion over nonreligion," he said. "Innumerable traditions in our society reflect that constitutional principle." Thanksgiving proclamations have been issued by every president, starting with George Washington. Chaplains are in both houses of Congress and the Supreme Court opens with the marshal saying "God save the United States," he noted.

### Sudanese priest killed in latest rebel-led ambush in Uganda

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In an ambush in Uganda, the Lord's Resistance Army killed a Sudanese priest, the latest of several church workers killed by the rebel movement. Father Peter Obore died Nov. 24 when the rebels attacked a pick-up truck in which he and other passengers were riding in northern Uganda, the Vatican missionary news agency Fides reported. His body was taken to his parish in Nimule, in the southern Sudanese Diocese of Torit. Officials in the Torit Diocese said Father Obore had been returning to Sudan from a visit to a seminary in Kampala, the Ugandan capital. He was the third Sudanese priest to be killed along the border with Uganda.


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# Legendary Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda tells teens never to give up on their dreams

By SHEILA OJENDYK
FOR THE MISCELLANY

GREENVILLE S.C. — Tommy Lasorda had no problem catching the attention of students at St. Joseph High School. The first thing he said was, "Fifty-two years ago I stole a girl from here and took her to many places." Lasorda and his wife, the former Jo Miller of Greenville, came to town for a fund-raising dinner on Nov. 15 and dedication of the school's Lasorda Family Field on Nov. 18.

Lasorda, a baseball player with the Brooklyn Dodgers and later the legendary manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers for two decades, is now in great demand as a motivational speaker, and he talks at many schools. On Nov. 18, he spoke to the Upstate students in the event billed as "An Afternoon With Tommy Lasorda."

He began by urging students to get a good education. "Education is something no one can take away from you.... You have the opportunity to be anything you want to be."

Lasorda told a story of three fathers at their sons' graduation. Each father was very proud of his son and told him so. The first father gave his son the keys to a new car, and the second father gave his son a check for $10,000. The third father did not hand his son a gift, and the son asked why he received nothing when the other two sons received such lavish gifts. His father then told him, "I'm giving you the world. Go out and earn it!"

Lasorda shared an event from his own life. He was the third-string pitcher for his high-school baseball team. One day, he told his coach that he and the first and second-string pitchers would pay money to see him play in the major leagues within 10 years. Nobody believed him at the time, but his prediction came true. He added, "It happened, but nobody handed it to me."

Lasorda has spoken at the U.S. Air Force Academy eight times and twice each at West Point and Annapolis. He had a memorable story from a visit to the Air Force Academy. He and his wife had been assigned a cadet to take them around. The cadet told him he had entered the Air Force because he wanted to be a pilot. The young man never learned how to fly, however, because he had been hit by a line drive during a baseball game and spent three weeks in the hospital. His doctor told him he could never fly. At this point in the story, Lasorda interjected, "Because God delays does not mean that God denies." After the cadet heard Lasorda's speech, he decided to pursue his original goal of becoming a pilot. That cadet, now a general, became a decorated fighter pilot in Operation Desert Storm.

Lasorda stressed to the teens, "You can be whatever you want to be.... If you dedicate yourself to it-and you want to pay the price -you can reach it. It's up to you."

Lasorda credits a nun who taught him at parochial school in East Liverpool, Ohio. The nun believed in him, and to this day he carries her picture in his wallet. He told the students, "Teachers dedicate their lives to all of you. The guys who pick up the trash make more," but teachers love what they do. "Take advantage of it."

Lasorda then spoke about parents. "When you're sick, they take care of you. When you're hungry, they feed you.... What do you do for them?" He urged the teens to give their parents love and respect. "Don't ever do anything to embarrass them or hurt them." He also added that parents owe their children a good education.

Lasorda managed the Dodgers for 20 years and took them to the World Series four times. He said he had reached the top of the mountain, but he wanted another mountain to climb: he wanted the United States to win an Olympic gold medal for baseball because "baseball is America's game."

He had never met 23 of the 24 players when he began coaching the American team, but he told them, "When this is over, the whole world is going to know who you are." They won the gold medal at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

Lasorda opened the floor to questions. One person asked him what he would say to teens to change their lives. He replied, "You've got to believe in yourself." He spoke of dreaming about pitching in Yankee Stadium with the legendary players. He had this dream quite often, and it came back to him vividly when he was called to pitch against Yogi Berra for the first time.

Another person asked him who were the greatest baseball players. Lasorda named Willie Mays, Mickey Mantle, and Ted Williams. He added that Williams was the best hitter.

Somebody asked who was the greatest player he had ever coached. Lasorda said he coached many great players including nine National League Rookies of the Year. He stressed to his players that they were role models and what they did had a huge impact on young people. He said he believed in them and gave them opportunity, but they made themselves stars.

After Lasorda finished his talk, Bishop Robert J. Baker processed into the chapel with a Knights of Columbus honor guard.

Father Hayden Vavarek, pastor of St. Philip Benizi in Moncks Corner, read an except from St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. "Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race, but only one wins the prize? Run so as to win. Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we win an imperishable one. " (1 Corinthians 9:24-25)

Bishop Baker thanked Lasorda for his contribution to the world of sports and stressed the importance of integrating athletic ability with the mind and soul. "We should run our spiritual race as we run other races in life." He urged the teens to make each day count and reminded them that a coach only looks at today's game, not next week's game. "The race is run here and now.... Let tomorrow take care of itself. Take it one day at a time."

After the brief prayer service in the school chapel, Bishop Baker blessed the four new athletic facilities: the tennis court and the soccer, softball, and baseball fields.

A dedication ceremony followed the blessing of the athletic fields. Margaret Ann Moon, president of the board of trustees, and Keith Kiser, headmaster, honored Steve Francis and Kenneth Padgett for their service to the school. Each was named a Knight of the Round Table, and organization founded to recognize supporters of St. Joseph High School.

Lasorda was named an honorary Knight of the Round Table, and he and his wife were presented with letterman's jackets. Lasorda shared his wife's comment about the school needing a gymnasium. Jo Lasorda has issued a challenge to the school to build a gym and will donate $25,000 from her foundation to help fund it.

The last event of the day was a softball game between the St. Joseph High School All Stars, coached by Tommy Lasorda, and a team of local celebrities and dignitaries, coached by U. S. Congressman Jim DeMint. Jo Lasorda threw out the first pitch of the two-inning game. The All Stars won 10 to 4.



COURTESY PHOTOS

**Diocese of Charleston Bishop Robert Baker and Tommy Lasorda**



COURTESY PHOTOS

**Tommy and Jo Lasorda holding a letterman's jacket.**

## Catholic-Methodist dialogue group looks at nature of church

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic and United Methodist scholars and leaders met in Washington recently to discuss the nature of the church, both universal and local.

The second meeting of the sixth round of the United Methodist-Catholic Dialogue took place Nov. 9-12 at St. Paul's College in Washington on the theme, "The church universal and local."

The co-chairmen of the dialogue — Methodist Bishop Walter Klaiber of Frankfurt, Germany, and Catholic Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash. — reported to the participants on the recently completed Bishops' Council (Methodist) and Synod of Bishops (Catholic).

"Debates in both the council and synod over questions of subsidiarity, collegiality and the relationship of universal and local dimensions of church decision-making, though different in the Methodist and Catholic churches, drew on the same theological roots and addressed the same questions of mission and pastoral care," Christian Brother Jeffrey Gros, associate director of the U.S. bishops" Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, said in a statement issued after the dialogue session.

The dialogue group also heard talks by Dennis Doyle of the University of Dayton and Bruce Robbins of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns of the United Methodist Church on the theological understandings of "koinonia," or communion, in the two traditions.

"The fruitful discussion enabled the members of the dialogue both to appreciate one another's traditions and identify some common ground; and also plan for the next set of papers which enable us to get to know one another's understanding and practice of church life even more deeply," Brother Gros said.

Led by Richard Gaillardetz of the University of Toledo and Jarrett Gray of the St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo., the dialogue group also studied "Speaking the Truth in Love," a document on the question of teaching authority that was produced by an international commission sponsored by the World Methodist Council and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

"This discussion explored both theological issues, like the prophetic character of the church's teaching authority, which are important in the U.S. context, and also the style of text to be developed that can contribute to the worldwide theological discussion and the concrete, practical situation of our churches together in America," Brother Gros said.

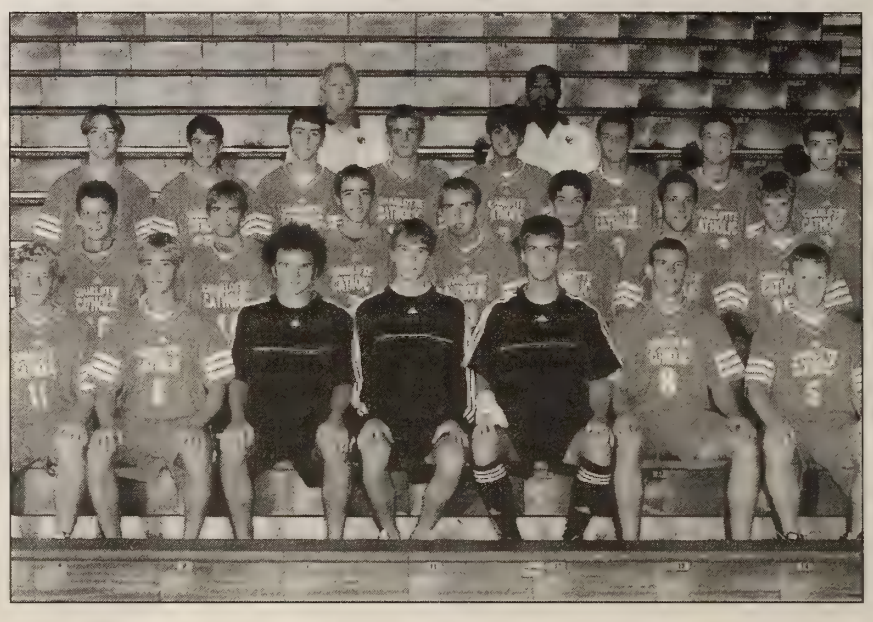
Practical matters both locally and worldwide made up the third area of discussion for the Catholic-Methodist dialogue group.

Bishop Klaiber talked about the development of the Carta Ecumenica of Europe, approved by the Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican churches of both Eastern and Western Europe. Bishop Skylstad talked about the work of the Catholic bishops of the Northwest on the pastoral on the Columbia River as an example of a local environmental concern which has both global and local implications.

The next meeting will take place May 6-8 in San Pedro, Calif., with discussions expected on the structure of each church in order to identify areas of convergence and challenges.

# CCHS champ teams play with mind, heart and soul

CCHS BOYS' SOCCER TEAM



CCHS GIRLS' TENNIS TEAM



CCHS GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM



By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — With mounting tension, cheering crowds and anxious coaches as a backdrop, three Charlotte Catholic High School (CCHS) teams scored winning seasons this year. The girls' volleyball and tennis and boys' soccer teams all earned the title of North Carolina Division 2-A state champions for the 2001-2002 school year. Augustinian Father James Cassidy, CCHS principal, said that the wins are characteristic of the students' dedication and drive; however, sports are but one aspect of the students' lives at one of the diocese's two Catholic high schools.

"The hard work, teamwork and cooperation that our kids have learned and are sharing with one another are clearly evident and manifests itself in their team sports," said Father Cassidy, who noted that along with individual service projects that each team additionally performs a group project. "Our kids are really hardworking and do a good job in all of their endeavors. To have three championship teams in our school shows what we are about, and I am proud of that."

### Getting their kicks

Men's and women's major league soccer has been gaining popularity in the United States for several years. It is primarily what comes to mind when many Americans think of the sport where it is illegal for anyone except the goalie to touch the ball with the hands. In a country defined by baseball and football, soccer has had to carve its own niche in sports' society. The sport is played in high schools and colleges everywhere, and CCHS is no exception.

The boys' soccer team won the state championship game against Swansboro High School down to the penalty-kick phase of the game. Throughout the season, a loss to one of the team's biggest rivals, Myers Park High School, actually prepared the team for the playoffs, senior Aaron Blais said: "We felt like we dominated them in the first half. Our coach stresses that we were ready for the playoff run because we saw our potential."

In regular play, there are two halves per game — one 40 minutes and the other 80 minutes. If no team scores or the score is tied during this game, then two 10-minute halves are played. If the same thing occurs, then two five-minute halves are played until one team scores. In the case where the score is still tied or no team has scored, then it is time for the penalty kick, said senior Kevin Benfield, who was named 2-A all-state conference player of the year.

The penalty kick consists of five players trying to score a goal. The best of five kicks wins the game. In the final

game of the playoffs, CCHS scored the winning goal under the direction of Coach Gary Hoilett and with the help of Benfield and Blais. The last game of their high school careers will be etched in their memories for years to come. Blais was the last player to kick in the final game and said that he could barely watch his teammates because of the intensity of the final minutes of the match.

"There were four of us on the field, and we were all praying the whole time," said Blais, who was named most valuable player in the finals match. "We had a freshman goalie this year, but we were pretty confident in his ability. We thought it would come down to one team getting tired and kept thinking about last year's 2-0 loss to them. We wanted to make sure that didn't happen again. To know that we had finally beat them felt awesome."

### Home-court advantage

The girls of the CCHS tennis team are serious about their sport. For many of the teammates, it is the only extracurricular activity listed on their roster of high school events. Though not a requirement of Larry McLaughlin, their coach and CCHS algebra teacher, several of the teens play tournaments in the off-season. Their love of the sport was displayed in their winning matches this year.

This team consisted of Michelle Alexander, sophomore, who placed first in the state in the singles tournament, Kate Tans, junior; and Natalie Rossi, senior, who placed second in the state in the doubles tournament. The team who wins five of the six singles and three doubles matches played wins the state tournament. Out of 32 teams, CCHS rallied until the end and was victorious.

"I believe these girls could have been state champs last year, but they had to believe it," McLaughlin said. "I always like to see young people achieve what they think they can achieve. Each girl had a tough struggle in every match, and they came to the forefront. The team as a whole was very young, and I think we did well."

Rossi and Tans played against a team from Shelby who were three-time state champs and had been playing together for four years. The teens were at a disadvantage, teamed up for doubles matches for a year or less. "We had never seen that type of competition before," Rossi said.

"It is quite an honor to be No. 2 in the state," their coach said, "and the girls should be proud of that."

Alexander played against the returning state champion from Lexington for her state finals match: "I beat her three times in the season. I was very focused, and I just wanted to play. I love competition and the fact that we are playing for ourselves and the team."

Prayer and teamwork are the two qualities that all of the girls said were part of their recipe for success. "This made us realize how hard we worked, and we had a really close and supportive team," Rossi said.

Tans said that prayers in the huddle before a match or during a close match or particularly intense time have always helped her. "I ask God to give me the strength to do my best."

### Second to none

The girls' volleyball team spiked its way to a third state championship when it defeated Southern Vance High School on Nov. 3 in Raleigh. The Lady Cougars are not only state champs; they are 78-0 — undefeated for the past two seasons. After the team broke the old 76-0 record at the semifinals, it could not be stopped and reached its goal in the finals against Southern Vance.

"Talent is not something that can be coached," said Tim Leary, part-time coach and full-time chef. "An undefeated record happens if you have kids who can play. It takes a lot of dedication, and a lot of the kids accepted what I asked them to do. After they won the first season, they became really driven; this group really cared."

The team faced challenges in and out of this season: daily practices after school and on Saturday mornings, lifting weights and exercising, key players under 5 feet, 3 inches, and several key players who graduated last year. Leary said defense, skill and perseverance are what led his team to its third state title.

"During the season, we play one of the hardest schedules, with Providence High School twice and West Charlotte High School, both 4-A schools," the coach said. "We try to serve hard for points, and this group took it upon themselves to play good defense. They gave effort after effort,"

Erin Street, senior; and Brittany Zahn, junior, added to some of that effort for their team. Both have been playing the sport for several years and said that there was much pressure to come back this season with a 58-0 record, but through teamwork, they were able to bring home the championship.

The "Great 8" Tournament with runner-up and returning state champions proved to be the impetus they needed for their winning season. After placing first, their season opener against Providence and the semifinal action against West Henderson High School, near Raleigh, were significant games for the team.

"We really pulled together that game against Providence," said Zahn. "It showed us that we could do it if we kept our heads on straight and stayed focused on the goal."

Street spoke about their semifinal game: "The semifinals are always harder, and the teams have always been really competitive. West Hendersonville was really a tough team, really strong athletically."

Both of the teammates said that prayer and teamwork are important for them. "We pray the 'Hail Mary' before every game, and it gives us a sense of confidence before a big game to quiet down, especially during intense moments," said Zahn.

"They have to put forth the effort every single day," said Leary. "We spend as much time on team unity as we do on practices. I encourage them to be a part of each others' lives."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

# Pastoral Center staff reaches out to community

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — The diocese knows a thing or two about the generosity necessary to sustain its ministries. It takes funding from many to ensure outreach provided by diocesan ministries.

On Nov. 27, Pastoral Center employees opened their own wallets to help others in the greater community. During the annual drive to support the United Way Campaign of the Greater Carolinas, diocesan individuals who help others on a daily basis gave a boost to their nonprofit neighbor.

"Last year, 80 percent of the employees gave," said Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development, and this year's Pastoral Center United Way coordinator. "We know about the need for support to get things done. Likewise, the United Way does life-changing work in the community. With our work here in the diocese, we ask our parishioners (to give). The United Way turns to the greater community to support their works."



Photo by Joann S. Keane

**Programa Esperanza Supervisor Teresa Villamarin talks about the United Way funded program.**

There is certainly a great partnership between the Diocese of Charlotte and the United Way of the Carolinas, Inc., said Les Fout, campaign manager with the United Way. Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor of the diocese, recently completed service as volunteer treasurer for the United Way of Central Carolinas Inc.

And the United Way-diocesan connection goes even deeper: Programa Esperanza is a diocesan program funded by the United Way.

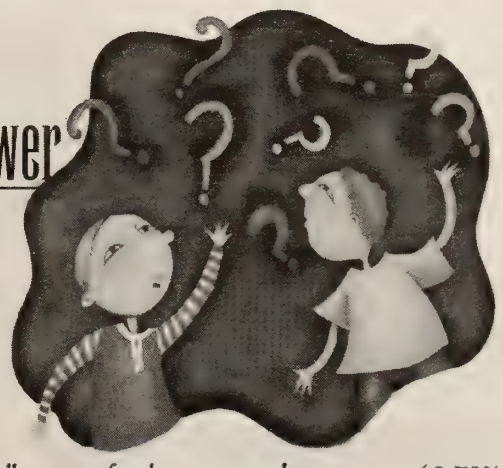
Programa Esperanza Supervisor Teresa Villamarin took the opportunity to share information on the partnership that allows outreach largely to a growing Hispanic population. In four years, Program Esperanza has helped with 3,174 cases. Sometimes, the agency is called on to "inform the English-speaking community about our culture, to learn to differentiate that we come from different parts of the continent, that we are not all alike."

"In the Spanish community, we encounter [issues of] the laws of this country; what are the rights, regulations, the laws that will protect them, the laws they should not infringe," Villamarin said.

To the pastoral center staff, Fout said, "It's because of you, because of the good people that believe in making our community a better place. You do that not only through your gift to the United Way, but every day that you are here."

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org*


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*To receive a free booklet "Better Estate Planning" contact Gina Rhodes, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203, gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org*

**Book Review**

# Books focus on St. Francis

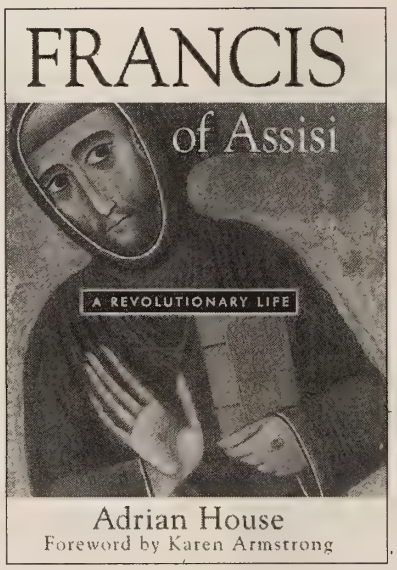
REVIEWED BY FATHER GILBERTO CAVAZOS-GONZALEZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Giovanni de Bernardone, better known as Francis of Assisi, is probably the most popular medieval person in our day. Five new books about Francis join the writings about him that already abound in many languages and disciplines.

So why do authors continue to write about him?

Probably many writers are like James Cowan. In his book "Francis: A Saint's Way" (Liguori/Triumph, $19.95), Cowan says he was drawn to Francis' fascinating persona. Unfortunately, Cowan's musings distract the reader from Francis' life story.

***FRANCIS OF ASSISI: A REVOLUTIONARY LIFE*, by Adrian House. Hidden Spring Books, Paulist Press (Mahwah, N.J., 2001). 352 pp., $28.00.**




Novelist Valerie Martin in her marvelous book "Salvation: Scenes from the Life of St. Francis" (Knopf, $24.00) says Francis calls out to contemporary people, "This is what I made of my life! Now go out and change your own!" Inspired by the Gozzoli frescoes in Montefalco, Martin writes scenes of Francis' life that can easily be used for both private and communal reflection on a variety of themes.

Gerard Thomas Straub has written a pilgrim journal on the saint, his friends and his home, "The Sun and Moon Over Assisi: A Personal Encounter With Francis and Clare" (St. Anthony Messenger Press, $29.95). A theological reflection by Leonardo Boff — "The Prayer of Saint Francis: A Message of Peace for the World Today" (Orbis Books, $9.60) — has just been published in English translation.

But if you read only one book this year about Francis of Assisi it should be the enthralling historical novel "Francis of Assisi: A Revolutionary Life" by Adrian House.

House does a great job of situating Francis in his time and place. He admits he is not a scholar, yet his book demonstrates that he researched the writings of a number of ancient and contemporary scholars. As a result his book has just enough well-written social, political, economic and religious information to help the reader understand Francis as a man of his time. At the same time, House demonstrates that Francis also can transcend time and speak to the hearts of present-day men and women.

Most readers will find House's work to be enjoyable and thought-provoking reading. Franciscans and Franciscan scholars, however, will be frustrated by his lack of footnotes. It is obvious that he did his research, but it would be nice to know exactly where he got some of his information and why he highlights certain events and not others. The Franciscan family need not write off House's book, however. Quite the contrary, House's Francis could very well call contemporary Franciscans, men and women alike, to a renewed love for their founder and his interpretation of the Gospel way of life.

*Father Cavazos-Gonzalez, a Franciscan, is assistant professor of spirituality at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.*

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings: December 16, 2001*

**December 16, Third Sunday of Advent**

Cycle A Readings:
1) Isaiah 35-1-6a, 10
Psalm 146:7-10
2) James 5:7-10
3) Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

For a little while, here at the Catholic Center where I work, we had a prophet among us. He was the sort of whom the Scriptures speak today. He didn't dress in fine clothes. He didn't have any assurance of the fulfillment of his hopes and dreams, except the sense that God was in them.

The dream that took him from us was a sense he felt he had from God that he should move to Memphis to assist his former wife in the care of their son, who has multiple handicaps. She had been raising their child, now a teen, by herself.

And so Ron resigned from his job as handyman and general helper here at the diocesan offices. But before he could make his move, word came that his wife had had a stroke involving both hemispheres of the brain. She was paralyzed and unconscious. And Ron was in the process of making his move.

Ron came back for us to say goodbye to him with a little party. He stole the show, offering witness to God's faithfulness to him and to his wife and son, describing her as his best friend. He had been spending his time in Memphis at her bedside, reading her the Scriptures and other spiritual materials.

Recent e-mail from Ron indicates his wife is making good progress, responds to family members and attempts to speak. Perhaps she will someday be well again.

But as for Ron, he's been faithful to following God in all this and inspires us all.

As the psalm says today, "The Lord protects strangers: the fatherless and the widow he sustains." And in Isaiah: "Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared." And in James, "As your models in suffering hardships and in patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord."

As for me, I take courage from my friend Ron, who had the courage to seek out his responsibilities toward his family, was met with a heavier burden than he'd bargained for and took it all as a sign of God's blessing on him. If I learn to be that submitted to God's will by the time I die, I think I'll have learned all there is to know of love.

**QUESTION:**
*Is there some act of courage, service or sacrificial love God is calling you to?*

# Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Dec. 9 - 15**

**Second Sunday of Advent,** Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12; **Monday (Second Week of Advent),** Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 5:17-26; **Tuesday (St. Damasus 1),** Isaiah 40:1-11, Matthew 18:12-14; **Wednesday (Our Lady of Guadalupe),** Zechariah 2:14-17, Luke 1:26-38; **Thursday (St. Lucy),** Isaiah 41:13-20, Matthew 11:11-15; **Friday (St. John of the Cross),** Isaiah 48:17-19, Matthew 11:16-19; **Saturday (Advent Weekday),** Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11, Matthew 17:10-13

**Scripture for the week of Dec. 16 - 22**

**Third Sunday of Advent,** Isaiah 35:1-6, 10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11; **Monday (Late Advent Weekday),** Genesis 49:2, 8-10, Matthew 1:1-17; **Tuesday (Late Advent Weekday),** Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-24; **Wednesday (Late Advent Weekday),** Judges 13:2-7, Luke 1:5-25; **Thursday (Late Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 7:10-14, Luke 1:26-38; **Friday (Late Advent Weekday),** Zephaniah 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-45; **Saturday (Late Advent Weekday),** 1 Samuel 1:24-28, Luke 1:46-56

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*6:00 p.m.* *Children's Mass*
*Midnight* *Bishop William G. Curlin, Celebrant*

*Christmas Day Masses*
*8:00 a.m.*
*9:30 a.m.*
*11:00 a.m.* *Bishop William G. Curlin, Celebrant*

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# Television programming of note

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — *Here are some television programs of note for the week of Dec 16. They have not been reviewed and therefore are not necessarily recommended by the Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

Sunday, Dec. 16, 7-8 p.m. EST (ABC) **"Winnie the Pooh and Christmas Too."** Animated tale of how Pooh must set off to the North Pole by foot to deliver a letter to Santa.

Sunday, Dec. 16, 9-10 p.m. EST (PBS) **"Merce Cunningham: A Lifetime of Dance."** From the "American Masters" series, a profile of one of the great 20th-century choreographers, acclaimed for his abstraction, innovation and imagination.

Sunday, Dec. 16, 9-11 p.m. EST (CBS) **"A Town Without Christmas."** Holiday drama about a TV reporter and a novelist who meet and fall in love as they search for a child who has written a disturbing letter to Santa; starring Patricia Heaton and Eric Roberts.

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 10-11 p.m. EST (A&E) **"Healing and Prayer: Power or Placebo."** An exploration of the role a person's religious beliefs play in the healing process in light of the fact that 80 percent of Americans believe that spirituality can help people recover from sickness and/or trauma.

Wednesday, Dec. 19, 8-9 p.m. EST (A&E) **"Tony Blair."** From the "Biography" series, a profile of the British prime minister, a 48-year-old Scot who rapidly rose to power and has forged a strong relationship with the U.S. since the terrorist attacks.

Friday, Dec. 21, 8-9 p.m. EST (CBS) **"A Home for the Holidays With Mariah Carey."** Special presents inspirational stories about adoption to raise awareness of this social issue, plus performances by Destiny's Child, Charlotte Church, Enrique Iglesias and Mandy Moore.

# "The Sons of Mistletoe," seasonal TV program may call for family time

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A foster home for boys faces closure when its benefactor dies and his daughter decides to sell off all his assets in the sweet but contrived "The Sons of Mistletoe," airing Wednesday, Dec. 19, 9-11 p.m. EST on CBS.

The TV movie has its heart in the right place, but its constant predictability is a definite drawback. Nonetheless, the cast is an appealing group of performers and the holiday theme is uplifting.

Millionaire Mr. Radke, the founder and sole support of the Mistletoe foster home, has died and left all to his estranged daughter Helen (Roma Downey).

Jimmy (George Newbern) grew up in Mistletoe and now serves as father figure to seven boys in residence. The latest arrival, Wylie (Scott Terra), is a sullen, motherless child who's hoping the local sheriff (Doris Roberts) will locate the dad he's never met, but in the meantime he wants no part in helping out as the other boys all do.

Jimmy tries approaching the attractive but stern Helen about continuing to support the home as her father always had, only to learn she still resents growing up with an absentee dad after her parents divorced. Now a savvy businesswoman, she arranges to sell her father's department store and other real estate to a pair of "New Yorkers" (read "villains") and move on.

However, the personable Jimmy persists, dragging her to Mistletoe to see how the boys need their foster home and she begins to melt. Wylie as well is won over by Jimmy's patience and how the other boys welcome him in their midst. Just as things begin to fall into place, Helen learns she cannot exclude the sale of the foster home from her contract with the buyers. As she looks at a Christmas scene of Christ in the manger, she realizes the boys, too, will soon have nowhere to go unless she opens her home — and maybe her heart as well.

Smart performances from the sulky child, the father figure, and the kids at the home make the frequently contrived situations less irksome. But the chirpy music is quite annoying in trying to program viewers' emotions. Nor is the assumption that the New York buyers are automatically ruthless thieves justified or appreciated. And the narrative gets increasingly syrupy as Jimmy, Helen and Wylie draw closer to an entirely foregone conclusion. At least Jimmy convinces Helen it is never too late to forgive someone, a good message in any season.

The visuals are quite nice, Downey is easy to look at, and except for a very discreetly implied love affair, it may qualify as somewhat pleasant family viewing.

*Pare is director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*



CNS photo from 20th Century Fox

**Scene from "Black Knight"**
**Actor Martin Lawrence appears before the court in a scene from the film "Black Knight." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of American ratings is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

## Classifications

By Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — *The following are classifications of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

**"Behind Enemy Lines" (20th Century Fox)**

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification, A-IV — adults, with reservations. Motion Picture Association of America rating, PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

**"Black Knight" (20th Century Fox)**

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification, A-III — adults. Motion Picture Association of America rating, PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

**"Out Cold" (Touchstone)**

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification, A-IV — adults, with reservations. Motion Picture Association of America rating, PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

**"Spy Game" (Universal)**

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification, A-III — adults. Motion Picture Association of America rating, R — restricted.

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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Pops calls for end of 'useless spiral of death' in Middle East

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The international community must act to help Israelis and Palestinians stop the "useless spiral of death" resulting from new attacks in early December, Pope John Paul II said.

"I feel the need to express my deep condolences for the new victims of the absurd violence which continues to stain the Middle East with blood," the pope said Dec. 5 at the end of his weekly general audience.

"With a sorrowful spirit, I repeat once again the fact that violence never resolves conflicts, but only increases their dramatic consequences," he said.

Three Palestinian suicide bombings Dec. 1-2 led to the deaths of more than two dozen people in Jerusalem and Haifa. The Islamic group Hamas claimed responsibility for the attacks, and the Israeli government responded by firing missiles on Palestinian targets in Ramallah, Gaza City and other towns; two people were killed and more than 100 were reported injured in the attacks.

Hours before the pope spoke Dec. 5, another suicide bomber blew himself up in Jerusalem, injuring three bystanders.

Pope John Paul called on the international community to work with "greater determination and courage" to help the Israeli government and Palestinian leaders "to break this useless spiral of death."

"May negotiations be restarted immediately so that the long-desired peace may finally be reached," he said.

Greeting English speakers at the audience, the pope said, "In these days of Advent as we look to the birth of the Prince of Peace, I ask you to join me in praying for peace in the world."

In his main audience talk, the pope said Psalm 118 reminds believers of the truth that even in their darkest hour they must keep their faith and trust in the Lord.

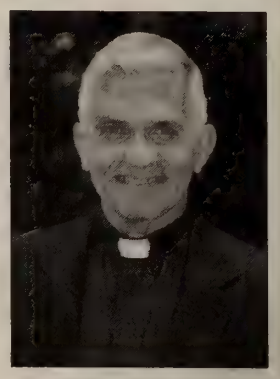
"Even when one is in anguish, the flame of trust must be held high because the powerful hand of the Lord will lead his faithful to victory over evil and to salvation," the pope said.

The images in the psalm are strong, he said.

"The cruel adversaries are compared to a swarm of bees or a wall of flames reducing everything to ashes," he said.

But the victory belongs to the just who are empowered by God, he said, and "for this reason, the rejoicing over the victory over evil opens itself to a very evocative profession of faith: 'My strength and my courage is the Lord and he has been my salvation.'"

# Advent Reflection



FATHER JAMES F. HAWKER
GUEST COLUMNIST

**Repent and be reconciled**

As we travel the road of Advent and steep ourselves in the spirit of the Scriptures, our constant companion is the central character of John the Baptist. This biblical figure represents so powerfully the transition between the Old and New Testaments. He images the attitudes to be cultivated by one who is on this marvelous journey to meet the Lord once again on Christmas day. The qualities of John the Baptist are so worthy of our reflection and emulation during these days of joyful anticipation.

John is a man of enviable simplicity. He is totally unimpressed by the apparent importance of worldly power, prestige or pecuniary wealth. He understands so well that the true power of the believer is discovered in one's relationship to Jesus, the source of Life and Love. John teaches that the essence of prestige or importance is exemplified by approaching Jesus with a spirit of meekness and humility. He proclaims that the ultimate meaning of wealth is in one's being touched and transformed by Jesus, who is rich in mercy.

John is a man of renewing repentance. He, by his words and example, stresses the value and necessity of our being caught up continually in the on-going process of personal conversion to Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Repentance includes acknowledging sorrowfully those attitudes, words and actions that are not worthy of us as believers. It demands as well that we beg the forgiveness of Jesus for manifestations of our infidelity while, at the same time, resolving to turn our lives around and, thus, be more completely converted to Jesus and His Way.

During this season of Advent, penance services are being conducted in parishes throughout the diocese. They are settings within which you and I might encounter the Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The renewing readings and magnificent music create and cultivate an enriching environment enabling us to celebrate with enthusiasm our Faith in the compassionate, merciful, healing and forgiving presence of Jesus to each of us personally. It is important to remember, however, that individual confession and absolution are essential for and integral to the celebration of the Sacrament even within the context of a penance service.

In approaching and celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation it is essential that each of us cultivates and exemplifies the virtue of penance. It might be viewed as a two-sided coin. On the one hand, we turn to Jesus for forgiveness and healing. On the other hand, we commit ourselves to forgiving those who have sinned against us. In doing so, each of us lives the words that we speak so frequently in the Lord's Prayer, "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

During this period of active anticipation as we prepare for Christmas, we are invited and urged to accept and assimilate the message of John the Baptist. Each of us should take seriously the call to humility and repentance. In doing so, we are privileged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation within which we encounter the merciful Lord. If it is to be a truly transforming experience, however, each of us must manifest the virtue of penance in relation to God and cultivate our commitment to exemplifying the virtue toward one another.

Is it any wonder that the Church proclaims a spirit of joy on this Sunday even in the midst of expectation! The Christ who came among us two thousand years ago is in our midst today to share His healing love with you and me and to enable us to do as He has done.



# Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

**Sibling rivalries and adulthood**

In September I (Andrew) presented a workshop at the NCCW Convention in Nashville on various ways to tell stories that connect us to the Sacred. Photography is one of the media by which we do this. As the saying goes, "A picture paints a thousand words." I shared with the audience an old photograph of my older sister, Lila when she was in kindergarten. The photo and the story behind it generated much interest. The story behind the picture is how my relationship with Lila transformed in our teen years and beyond. Somehow on the way to adulthood I became her big brother.

In our childhood Lila was notorious for being precocious and the essence of badness. She was so bad that she was expelled from kindergarten at our parish school. A year and three months older than me, Lila's reputation on the playgrounds of our youth was my shield against bullies who would otherwise pound me as they did the other nerds.

Ours was a great sibling rivalry. Throughout our early childhood she towered over me physically, socially and academically. One grade ahead of me, she set high academic expectations from teachers.

Her protection on the playground, however, didn't extend to our home life. While playground ruffians dared not push her younger sibling around, she took great liberty to do so almost daily at home. However, as we journeyed into adolescence my physical development began to level the arena of our frequent skirmishes. I remember thinking I couldn't wait to be big enough to beat her up. Yet when that time came, the idea of beating up my sister was much less appealing.

Our last fight was in our mid-teens. Lila threw a shoe at me that hit me in my head, which began to bleed. It was the only time our battles drew blood. I remember tending to my wound in the bathroom mirror and Lila standing behind me. Our eyes met through the mirror and, without words being spoken, we knew that this would never happen again.

In the days that followed, Lila show extraordinary deference to me, as if to say, "I'm sorry" without actually saying it. In the final years of our teens and in our young-adulthood, we were good friends who shared much with each other (including bell-bottom jeans). And along the way I became her protector in a way similar to my role with my younger sisters. I became her "big brother."

Today our children can't fathom their Auntie Lila beating up their dad. This story for them, and for Lila and me, is one of transformation, reconciliation, maturation and hope. Without the interventions of our parents we took responsibility for our relationship.

Perhaps with much less drama (and trauma), this is a transition our children must make as they enter adulthood. Childhood rivalries don't have to characterize the relationships of adult siblings—not if they take responsibility for their relationships.

**Questions for Reflection**

- *How has your relationship with a sibling changed in adulthood?*
- *What childhood rivalries carry over in your adult life?*
- *Pull out your family photo album (or box). Look at the pictures and listen to the stories that each tells. How does God speak to you through the stories?*



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Last place lessons

They set new records at this year's New York Marathon. Tesfaye Jifar of Ethiopia beat the existing men's record by 18 seconds with his time of 2 hours 7 minutes 43 seconds. It was his first marathon win ever. Margaret Okayo of Kenya came in at 2 hours 24 minutes 21 seconds for a new women's course record. Later she said that for the whole run, "I was thinking about finishing the race and doing my best."

That's probably true of the other 30,000 runners who gathered on the first Sunday in November to take on each other and themselves. It was certainly true for Zoe Koplowitz, who took part in her fourteenth straight New York Marathon. For the fourteenth time, she came in last.

Zoe Koplowitz did not cross the finish line until Monday morning. It always takes her more than 24 hours to cover the 26.2-mile race because she has multiple sclerosis and needs two crutches to go the distance.

The 53-year-old has had MS for more than twenty years, but it was not until she nearly died that she decided to change her life. After choking on a vitamin pill and being saved by the Heimlich maneuver, Ms. Koplowitz "decided I needed to do the most outrageous thing I could imagine."

What could be more outrageous for someone with her major health problems (she also has diabetes) than entering a marathon? With the help of the Achilles Track Club, an organization for runners with disabilities, she trained and got through the first marathon, ultimately crossing a deserted finish line. But in the years since, the determined woman admits she has "become a symbol of endurance" for thousands.

Learning of her achievement, the Multiple Sclerosis Society asked her to be the ambassador for its annual fundraising walk. She has also participated in the Boston and London marathons. Ms. Koplowitz has become a popular motivational speaker and the author of a book, "Winning Spirit: Life Lessons Learned in Last Place." Over and over, she has been thanked by people with disabilities and all who are astounded by her persistence for reminding them that, however difficult, life is worth living.

Nobody needs to be told these days that life can be painful. Everyone who ran or watched the New York Marathon knows it. Anyone who looks at the nightly news knows about life's uncertainty and anguish. But for most of us, our greatest challenges will never come from the skies or the mail. It will come from within, from our own bodies and minds and souls. Either way, it helps to see the "everyday heroes" who do what they have to do to achieve their goals - or at least give it their very best effort.

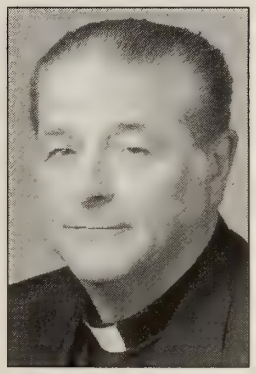
That's why Zoe Koplowitz's annual 26.2-mile slow, determined walk buoys up so many. "It's my mission to help people reinvent the way they think about 'winning'," she says. "I believe people run marathons every day of their lives in one way or another, and we need to remember to give ourselves the finishers' medals we deserve."

She also says, "What I do is a metaphor for life, just like the marathon itself. It means you get somewhere by putting one foot after another."

One foot in front of another is the only way anyone gets anywhere.

*Msgr. Jim Lisante is the director of the Christophers*

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Chesterton on Santa

*Q. My question isn't very deep, but with Christmas coming I am concerned about the attitude of some friends who don't want their children to "believe in Santa Claus."*

*From almost infancy, they tell their children there isn't really a Santa and that it was all made up to sell more things at Christmastime. I think they're missing something, but I'm not sure how to tell them. What do you think? (Florida)*

A. I too think they are missing something, very big. It's always risky to analyze fantasies, but maybe it's worth trying for a moment.

Fantasies, perhaps especially for children, are critical ways of entering a world, a real world, that is closed to us in ordinary human language and happenings. They are doors to wonder and awe, a way of touching something otherwise incomprehensible. Santa Claus, I believe, is like that.

No one has ever expressed this truth more movingly and accurately, in my opinion, than the great British Catholic author G. K. Chesterton in an essay years ago in the London Tablet. On Christmas morning, he remembered, his stockings were filled with things he had not worked for, or made, or even been good for.

The only explanation people had was that a being called Santa Claus was somehow kindly disposed toward him. "We believed," he wrote, that a certain benevolent person "did give us those toys for nothing. And ... I believe it still. I have merely extended the idea.

"Then I only wondered who put the toys in the stocking; now I wonder who put the stocking by the bed, and the bed in the room, and the room in the house, and the house on the planet, and the great planet in the void.

"Once I only thanked Santa Claus for a few dolls and crackers, now I thank him for stars and street faces and wine and the great sea. Once I thought it delightful and astonishing to find a present so big that it only went halfway into the stocking.

"Now I am delighted and astonished every morning to find a present so big that it takes two stockings to hold it, and then leaves a great deal outside; it is the large and preposterous present of myself, as to the origin of which I can offer no suggestion except that Santa Claus gave it to me in a fit of peculiarly fantastic good will."

Are not parents of faith blessed, countless times over, to have for their children (and for themselves) such a fantastic and playful bridge to infinite, unconditionally loving Goodness, the Goodness which dreamed up the Christmas event in the first place?

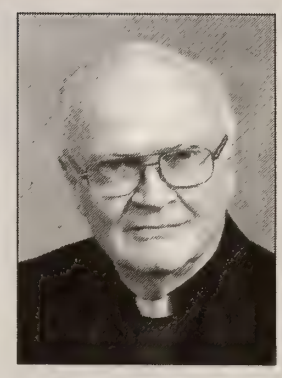
Call Santa Claus a myth or what you will, but in his name parents, and for that matter all of us who give gifts at this special time of the year, are putting each other in deeper touch with the "peculiarly fantastic good will" which is the ultimate Source of it all. Plus, it's fun!

I hope your friends reconsider.

*A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about Ecumenism, intercommunion and other ways of sharing with people of other faiths is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# Looking Around



FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ
CNS COLUMNIST

### Christmas: Ground-Zero Time

I was struck years ago with the relevance to the mystery of the incarnation of these words of Mahatma Gandhi, who, of course, never intended them to point to the Christmas mystery:

"There comes a time when an individual becomes irresistible and his action all-pervasive in its effect. This comes when he reduces himself to zero."

Now, with all the post-Sept. 11 talk about Ground Zero, I wonder whether Gandhi's words have anything to contribute to the search for meaning on the part of Christmastime visitors to the rubbled remains of the World Trade Center in Manhattan. Can anything good come of this devastation? Is there anything redemptive in this reduction to zero?

The term "Ground Zero" originated with the testing of nuclear weapons by the United States on Bikini, a Pacific atoll, in the 1940s and '50s. Ground Zero was the point on the ground directly beneath the point in the air where the bomb was detonated. The term has come to connote enormous damage in a confined area. By extension the term is used to describe the abrupt beginning of a new age.

Taken literally, "Ground Zero" serves well to describe a situation as close as we ever have come to having a nuclear bomb fall on us. Taken metaphorically, the term may come to mark the arrival in the United States of a new realization of vulnerability, contingency and dependency.

Isaiah's words (9:6) remind the faithful at Christmas Midnight Mass that there in the zero setting of stable straw they are looking at the "Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace [whose] dominion is vast and forever peaceful." All Christians believe this, as they believe that a new age began in the stable in Bethlehem. Yet no Christian would claim that the dominion of Christ is accepted by every human heart or that the peace of Christ resides in every person and nation around the world.

Thoughtful Christians may wonder why. Why is his domination not wider? Why is his peace not more widely shared? Because, I would suggest, we Christians are surface celebrators. We back off from the shattering truth of the mystery of Christmas. We refuse to believe that Christmas is, quite literally, a reduction to zero.

Our God was willing to be reduced to zero. Christ, the anointed one, the God-man, is the zero in whom and through whom and with whom God's power and glory are with us.

We who follow Christ are, our hesitant hearts must come to acknowledge, called to lose out lives in order to find them, to reduce ourselves or be reduced to zero so that the power of God can move through us to touch a tired world.

Reduction to zero frees the Christian to build and even battle in a world filled with intractable problems that impede the pervasiveness of the peace of Christ. This is the truth that separates surface celebrators from true believers.

This may be the truth that emerges from the ruins of the Trade Towers to open a new awareness of dependence on God, a new sign that Christians are making quiet progress toward Christian zero.

The witness of Christmas simplicity may serve this year to keep hope alive, a hope that can find meaning in the devastation at Ground Zero.

# In brief ...

### Seasonal and holiday gatherings to take place at Shelby parish

SHELBY — St. Mary Church, 818 McGowan Rd., will be having evening prayer (vespers) every Friday evening during Advent at 6:30 p.m. from Dec. 7-21. On Dec. 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, a special memorial service in remembrance of all deceased children, born and unborn, will be held at 6:30 p.m. For further information or questions, contact the church office at (704) 487-7697 or Mary Frye at (704) 538-7187.

### Ringing in the New Year with prayer and meditation

MAGGIE VALLEY — All are invited to attend Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, to "welcome the New Year." The Augustinian Friars will share in an evening of recollection, silence, community and prayer beginning with a New Year's Eve supper at 7:30 p.m. followed by a conference, faith sharing and midnight Mass. The evening will conclude with a social at the Augustinian Friary, and the retreat will end with brunch on New Year's Day. For registration and other information, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

### Service of Nine Lessons and Carols to be presented in the Triad

WINSTON-SALEM — A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols celebrating the birth of the Christ will be presented at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., on Jan. 6 at 5:30 p.m. The service will feature a candlelight procession, performances by the St. Leo handbell, adult, and children choirs, music for brass quartet and organ and congregational carols. For details, call the church office at (336) 724-0561.

# Lay woman gives Bible class

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — Answering the call to evangelize is easy for Kitty Rogers; her gift is helping others to understand Scripture.

The St. Pius X parishioner talked about her life and about the Scriptures in the Bible study class she gave at The Franciscan Center in Greensboro on Nov. 29.

All her life, even when obstacles were placed in her path, Rogers has been involved with her faith. Educated at St. Benedict Catholic School and Notre Dame Academy in Southern Pines, she earned a scholarship to Trinity College in Washington, D.C. Two days after arriving at Trinity, she was stricken with polio, which ended her college career.

Her first husband died, leaving her to care for their two daughters. Later, she married Frank Rogers at St. Pius X. She also worked for the church: as a member of the Community Life Commission at St. Pius X and for Rev. Msgr. Joseph Showfety at the chancery in Charlotte.



Kitty Rogers

More than 20 years ago, she became interested in Scripture, so she began attending a Bible class each year, most often the Summer Bible Institute at the Oratory in Rock Hill, S.C. She was inspired to share her knowledge with others by giving Bible classes at St. Pius X.

At the Nov. 29 session, she said she thanks God for everything, including a relapse of polio; for through this, God has brought her to peace with herself and the world as he showed her how to lean on him.

Moving into the Scripture portion of the program, she compared St. Luke's and St. Matthew's infancy narratives, pointing out the differences between the two. Whereas the focus of Matthew's Gospel is Jesus as the Messiah who comes through the ancestry and house of David, Luke's Gospel emphasizes Jesus as the Messiah of and for the lowly.

Using Old Testament references, Rogers showed how the Jesus of both Matthew and Luke is relevant to the communities to which he was presented. She then explained how these Gospels are relevant to today's world.

Rogers emphasized how today's Christians can learn from Mary, who accepted the will of God without question, whereas Joseph started looking at his options before learning through a dream that he should stay with Mary and the Christ Child. Mary is someone all women can identify with, Rogers said: "All women can age with her through the Gospel story."

"I started coming to Kitty's Bible studies this summer," Pat Peek said. "She makes me want to return over and over again."

"It was very spiritual and peaceful," said Ann Clyne. "Kitty's presentation is always a very special part of my day."

# Holy Angels rates zero deficiencies

BELMONT — For the seventh time in eight years, the Fox Run ICF/MR Group Homes at Holy Angels received a "zero deficiency" rating from the N.C. Department of Human Resources Division of Facilities Services.

The "zero deficiency" rating means Holy Angels meets all the standards set for Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded, and that Holy Angels provides exemplary services.

A two-member survey team spent two days observing in the three group homes, interviewing staff and parents, and reviewing records. Team members spend time observing the program and reviewing such items as individual habilitation plans, incident reports, nurse's notes, medication reports, and progress notes.

Holy Angels opened the Fox Run group homes in 1992. The ICF/MR group homes, or Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded, serve 18 children and adults who are medically fragile and have severe to profound mental retardation and multiple physical disabilities.

The survey team complimented staff on the relationships built with residents, and added they observed a "mutual relationship of caring and giving" among the staff and residents. The team also praised the various day-to-day interactions observed, and the progress that the individuals have made.

President/CEO Regina Moody commented that "a "zero deficiency" survey is a direct result of the high level of care that Holy Angels staff are committed to. Our staff are dedicated to providing unconditional love and recognize that our residents have unlimited possibilities. We are very fortunate to have such an outstanding staff here at Holy Angels.

Holy Angels is currently building a fourth ICF/MR group home and will hold it's official dedication on Thursday, December 20, 2001. The home will provide continuing services for children who are "aging out" of the main center at Holy Angels. Martin, Boal, Anthony and Johnson Architecture Firm of Shelby and Pinnix, Inc. Construction of Gastonia are in the final stages of completion of this project.

Celebrating a 45-year history, Holy Angels was founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy. The private, nonprofit corporation located in Belmont, NC, provides residential services and innovative programs for children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation and physical disabilities, some of whom are medically fragile. Other programs include the Holy Angels Residential Center, four Community Group homes, Little Angels Child Development Center, Great Adventures, Camp Hope and Cherubs Café & Candy Bouquet in downtown Belmont.


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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Caregiver:** Seeking dependable caregiver to assist elderly with non-medical care in their homes. Part-time and full-time. Top hourly fees. VISITING ANGELS. (704) 442-8881

**Freelance Writers/Photographers:** The Catholic News & Herald seeks experienced freelancers in all areas of the Diocese of Charlotte. Candidates should have professional writing/photography experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Send non-returnable writing clips and photography samples to: Freelance Writer Search, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237, or send e-mail to jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

**Music Director:** Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro is seeking a full-time director to be responsible for all music activity in a church with over 2,300 families. Applicants must be fully competent in both organ and piano, and experienced in directing both adult and children's choirs. If you meet these requirements, please send your resume and salary requirements to: Music Ministry, Our Lady of Grace Church, 201 S. Chapman Street, Greensboro, NC 27403.

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**Principal:** Experienced principal for St. Anthony's Catholic School in Southern Pines, NC, to open Fall 2002. K-3. Minimum MA/MS. Expected to build curriculum faithful to the magisterium of Catholic Church. Salary based on experience. Please send resume to: St. Anthony Catholic School Principal Search, P.O. Box 602, Carthage, NC 28327. Deadline: Dec. 31st.

**Teachers:** Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, located in Fairburn, Georgia, is seeking teachers in all disciplines for the 2002-2003 school year. Mercy offers an excellent teaching environment and well as competitive salary and benefits. Interested individuals should send resume and cover letter to: John Cobis, Our Lady of Mercy High School, 861 Highway 279, Fairburn, GA 30213.

**Vice President, Mission:** St. Joseph of the Pines, Southern Pines, North Carolina is seeking a Vice President, Mission. We provide Long Term Care and Home Health and Hospice Care. The position has oversight for Mission, Pastoral Care and Ethics. Please send letter and resume to Mr. Mark Davenport, VP, Human Resources, St. Joseph of the Pines, 590 Central Drive, Southern Pines, NC 28387. Telephone: 910-246-3112. Fax: 910-246-3187.

## TAC News Bytes

# Committee infuses technology into ministry

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — In little more than a blink of an eye, technology changes. Just as megabyte and gigabyte begin to settle in as daily terminology, words like terabyte loom on the horizon, and a kilobyte is yesterday's news. *For the nontechnology layperson, a byte is the basic unit of storage capacity in a computer system.*

In an effort to embrace technology, the Diocese of Charlotte and its appointed Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) are studying the tenets that reach and surround daily life. How technology can best serve the people of the diocese is the operative directive.

The technology plan will "address how technology can effectively be utilized throughout the Diocese of Charlotte for the benefit of the clergy, employees, parishioners and other constituents to further the mission of the diocese," said Bill Weldon, chief financial officer for the diocese.

Most recently, the TAC outlined priority tactical opportunities: 10 priorities that will take the Diocese into a new phase of technology implementation.

"Tactical opportunities," said Guy Cavallo, a TAC volunteer and information technology director for the City of Charlotte, "are short-term projects that have an immediate impact on improving the diocese's activities. Our identified tactical opportunities are specific areas of technology where we see a significant gap between standard practices and our current computer technology implementation."

Issues defined include e-mail, intranet, computer purchasing, technical support and website hosting. These are some of the areas identified with the goal of attaining the highest benefit impact, providing widespread availability throughout the diocese, and that are available at a low cost.

"In these areas, we can recommend and implement solutions that are business proved, competitively priced, lead to long-term lower costs of operations and improve communications," Cavallo said.

Jerry Felten has a vested interest in the diocesan technology plans. As director of parish operations for St. Leo parish in Winston-Salem, the co-chair of the administration subcommittee is well aware of parish technology needs and how the TAC plan will benefit not only his parish, but also the diocese at large. With St. Leo school renovations on the horizon, planning how to integrate technology is key to their plans.

For Janice Ritter, assistant superintendent of Catholic Schools for the diocese and co-chair of the TAC's education subcommittee, there's a natural infusion of technology into the diocesan mission that calls the faithful to "seek to become even more enthusiastically a leaven of service and a sign of peace through love in Piedmont and Western North Carolina."

"When the technology plan is complete, it will enhance our abilities as we continue to pursue our mission," Ritter said. "We'll be able to be more effective and efficient, to reach more people, to provide more information through heightened communications."

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org*

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# Georgia monks' fruity concoction takes the cake for holidays

By ERIKA ANDERSON
Catholic News Service

CONYERS, Ga. (CNS) — It has been said that there is no middle ground in the fruitcake war — there are those who love it and those who cringe at the very mention of the traditional holiday treat.

But at the Trappist Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, Brother Basil Arsenio and his fellow monks create a fruitcake sure to convert even the harshest critic. The labor and effort put into making the cakes have become a prayer for the monks who work in the bakery — and the result is a celestial creation.

Known for their popular loaves of bread, the monks work in the bakery under a sign that reads "Give us this day our daily bread." For now, regular bread-making is on hold, and all their efforts are focused on fruitcake.

According to Brother Basil, creating a fruitcake was the idea of Abbot M. Basil Pennington.

"He had had experience with other monasteries that were doing fruitcakes, and some that were having large sales from the fruitcakes," the brother told The Georgia Bulletin, newspaper of the Atlanta Archdiocese.

After an initial discussion of the idea, Brother Basil developed a recipe with the help of an international baker.

"It took us four to six months to really hone it and develop it and make it really special, which meant changes in everything from cooking times to variations on additives," he said.

The HoneyBaked Ham Co. began marketing the cake through its catalogs in October. The cakes come in a decorative white tin, designed by Brother Alberic Farbolin. The tin bears a drawing of the monastery printed in green and encircled by the words "Abbey of the Holy Spirit — Fruitcake from Brother Basil's Kitchen."

The monks bake every other day. On the nonbaking days, they mix batter, garnish the cakes and inject the alcohol needed to create the perfect fruitcake. Two hundred and fifty cakes are produced each week.

Brother Basil said the batter for the cakes is made of butter, sugar, eggs (130 for every 85 cakes), flour, spices, honey and almond, and the fruit mix is a combination of cherries, pineapple, pecans, raisins, dates and almond flavoring. In a dark blue trough that can hold 250 pounds, the fruit mix spends three days soaking in peach brandy and golden sherry.

Each fruitcake must weigh exactly 2 pounds. A digital scale is used for accuracy.



Editor's Note: To order a fruitcake visit the abbey's Web site at www.trappist.net. Fruitcakes also can be purchased by calling (800) 367-2426.

After they're baked, the cakes are left to cool. They are then injected with six extra shots of the sherry and brandy. Though the alcohol content may seem high, Brother Basil said that it is less compared to some fruitcakes.

"Some cakes use rum, which has a greater alcohol content," he said. "The alcohol keeps the cake moist and acts as a preservative. The shelf life on this is quite long. We are doing tests now to find out exactly how long."

The cakes are glazed, garnished with two cherries and two large whole pecans, wrapped in cellophane and sealed.

The cakes currently are available at Atlanta-area HoneyBaked Ham Stores and through the company's catalog for $29.95. The Abbey Store at the monastery sells the cakes for $19.95 each.

The price is comparable to most fruitcakes, but Brother Basil's cake comes with a special ingredient — prayer.

"This isn't just about making fruitcake," said Brother Basil, who has been at the monastery for 11 years and baking for six of them. "Right now we are focused on production and we are trying to smooth out the labor end of this and be efficient. It's the matter of becoming familiar with everything. Life is centered on prayer and once we are working at high efficiency, it becomes part of our prayer life."

"You have to take the opportunity that God provides you for work, meditation and devotion," he continued. "Work is very important to tie together the spiritual with the physical. The key to life is harmony."

# Dedicated Catholic solidifies faith life through diaconate

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — Rev. Mr. Joe Schumacher is no stranger to the altar. He served as an altar boy until he was 22 in Downers Grove, Ill. His parents, devout Catholics, supplied his faith foundation through Catholic elementary school and by example. Skills used on the altar as a youngster, and which remained close to his heart, resurfaced as Rev. Mr. Schumacher began his life as a permanent deacon.

"They (my parents) gave me a good grounding in my faith," said the deacon, ordained in 1983 in the diocese's first diaconate class.

His faith grew steadily throughout his life as he matured from a farm boy to a father of nine and grandfather of 23, who retired as a Reynolds Tobacco Co. chemist to concentrate on his ministerial work in the church.



Rev. Mr. Joe Schumacher

Farmyard dawns are among Rev. Mr. Schumacher's earliest memories. A jeweler by trade, his father's farming was his second job. That pastime proved helpful when his profession dimmed during the Depression. Schumacher, one of nine siblings, had to feed chickens, pigs and geese; milk cows; and clean the barn.

"The farming got us through that time because we were able to eat," he said. (My father) raised produce and chickens and went out to peddle them to earn money for the family. We had to work hard and do chores before playing. It was a good lesson to learn which affected my whole life. It was tough growing up; we didn't have anything and always had secondhand gifts, but my experiences enabled me to do what I am doing now."

He graduated from high school in 1946 into a post-World War II country and witnessed and experienced major changes while studying chemistry at St. Precopius College, now known as Illinois Benedictine, in Lisle, Ill. He met his future wife, Virginia, on a double date with his older brother and one of Virginia's friends. The two fell in love, and their courtship lasted through their scholastic careers.

They were married in 1950, after Schumacher earned his bachelor's degree, and moved to Columbus, Ohio, the day after their wedding. He received a fellowship to graduate school at Ohio State University and worked various jobs to pay for his continuing education. His wife helped him in every way she could.

"(My earning) a degree in chemistry turned out to be a good thing because when Joe was in school and needed someone to type his papers, I could do it easily because I had the background," said Mrs. Schumacher, who earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry from St. Francis University in Joliet, Ill.

Schumacher's graduate work was done with his first three children tugging at his legs. "It was a good experience for me," he said. "I worked hard and had my research done quickly. It was my goal to earn my Ph.D.; I was the first person on either side of my family to go to college." He received both his master's and doctoral degrees in chemistry.

After that grueling schedule, completed in 1954, he took his budding family back to the Illinois farm for a short vacation. Before graduating, one of his advisors had given him an application for a job with Reynolds Tobacco Co. in Winston-Salem. He filled it out even though reluctance to move far away from home weighed heavy on his heart. The job offer came, and he could not pass up the opportunity.

"We moved to Winston-Salem in 1954," Rev. Mr. Schumacher said. "Everyone was really nice, and we were welcomed. We were only going to stay for two years but liked it and remained."

His life was progressing in an orderly fashion, with more children, successes at work, involvement his church home, Our Lady of Mercy, and in his community, and his wife's support. He did not expect a call to the permanent diaconate.

"I had always been close to the Lord and had been very involved through the years with various ministries. I always had a close relationship with the church," said Rev. Mr. Schumacher, who heard about the diaconate at Mass one morning. "I asked the Lord if he was calling me, and my wife thought that it would be something I would do after retirement."

His pastor recommended that he apply immediately, but Schumacher thought that the ministry was not suited for him. "I thought there were better men in the diocese. My worst subject in school was philosophy."

Acceptance into the first candidate group and attending the formation classes did not quell his musings about his role as a deacon. However, the Schumachers said that their weekend classes were a time of growth and enjoyment for them both. "We were all groping our way, and we bonded through that experience. We looked forward to the weekends," Mrs. Schumacher said.

Nearing ordination, he revealed his worries to the former diocesan diaconate director, Msgr. Anthony Kovacic.

"He (Msgr. Kovacic) said that the Holy Spirit would bestow graces on me," Rev. Mr. Schumacher said. "Since my ordination, I have never been more aware of God's graces. The diaconate is important to me only after God, my wife and children and grandchildren. It blows my mind what I have been able to do, and people's response to that has been rewarding."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

## Catholic women's college to admit men

By LOU BALDWIN
Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Chestnut Hill College, a Sisters of St. Joseph-sponsored Catholic women's liberal arts college founded in 1924, has announced it will admit men to its undergraduate program beginning in the fall of 2003.

"Research indicates the best way to educate women in the 21st century is in a coeducational setting, and we believe this decision is a responsible, proactive response to the sign of the times," Sister Carol Jean Vale, a Sister of St. Joseph and Chestnut Hill's president, said in a statement. "In doing so we offer a tradition of excellence and a history of success to a much wider audience."

The college has offered coeducational programs at the graduate level since 1980 and an undergraduate coed program for working adults since 1992.

According to an earlier survey, only 3 percent of today's high school girls would consider a single-sex college. It also noted the decline in the number of women's colleges in the United States — from 298 in 1960 to 65 today, 19 of which are Catholic colleges.

While Chestnut Hill has not yet experienced a drop in enrollment, according to a release issued by the college, "the data indicates a steady decline in the number of women willing to consider a women's college and the steadily eroding position of women's colleges which year after year are closing, merging or becoming coeducational."

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

December 14, 2001
Volume 11 • Number 14

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Coming next week:
A Christmas Message

Bishop William G. Curlin,
Christmas, 2001

# Lexington Hispanic community celebrates Our Lady of Guadalupe

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

LEXINGTON — Our Lady of the Rosary enjoyed double festivities on Dec. 9. In addition to celebrating first Eucharist, the community re-enacted Mary's appearances to Juan Diego.

Father Florentino, on vacation from Honduras, celebrated the Eucharist; Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father Albert J. Gondek, pastor, concelebrated. Anallely Elias welcomed everyone to the celebration.

Catechists Carlos Avenia and Veronica Contereras presented their first Communion class: Irving Josue, Jacqueline Esbeidi, Joel Betancourt, Areli Peralta, Marco Antonio Dominguez, Julio Domingues and Jesus Alfredo Maynes.

Immediately following Mass, the parish youth group performed the Guadalupe story. Edith Bahen and Anallely Elias narrated. Maria Elera and Luis Beltran, with an assist from Carlos Gonzalez and Herminia Moreno, directed the group.

The story is about Juan Diego, (played by Guadalupe Martinez), a poor Aztec, in 1531. On his way from his village to a neighboring village, he encounters a beautiful woman (Maria Soto), who says she is the Virgin Mary. She sends Juan to tell the local bishop (Homero Lopez) that she wants a cathedral built on the spot where she and Juan met. The bishop, thinking Juan is not in his right mind, drives him away the help of two altar servers (Noe Ortega and Carlos Hernandez). The next day, on the same hill, the beautiful woman gives Juan the same message. Apprehensive, Juan returns to the bishop, who again drives him away. This time, though, the bishop tells him not to come back unless the lady gives him a sign.

Determined not to return to the hill again, Juan chooses an alternate route home. He finds his uncle, played by Sergio Carranco, on his deathbed and needs to go straight away to get a priest. This brings him face to face with the beautiful woman. Sadly, he relates his story. The lady tells Juan not to worry about his uncle because he will be healed. She then tells Juan to go over the ridge to pick some flowers to bring to the bishop. It is the middle of December, and there should be no flowers anywhere in the area. But Juan finds and picks roses, which he places in his tilma (a pancho-like cloak made of cactus fiber). Then he heads off to the bishop.







PHOTOS BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Through persistence Juan gains entrance to the bishop and opens his cloak so the roses can fall onto the bishop's desk. In doing so he reveals an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, clothed in the sun, on the inside of the cloak. Erika and Ana Medina painted the replica of the image for this presentation. Juan Diego's story spread like wildfire and accelerated the conversion of the Americas.

At the conclusion of the performance, the Folkloric Dancers, coordinated by Alma Cabrera, entertained. The fiesta ended with a variety of ethnic foods.

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

### Congressman praises U.S. religious for work against human trafficking

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Rep. Christopher H. Smith, R-N.J., has spoken out on the floor of Congress in praise of two major groups of U.S. religious for their efforts to fight human trafficking. Smith said he was pleased that organizations like the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious "are continuing to join the fight against human trafficking." He entered into the Congressional Record the text of a resolution approved in August at the joint CMSM-LCWR assembly in Baltimore in which the two groups said they "stand in support of human rights by opposing trafficking of women and children for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor." They also pledged to "educate others regarding the magnitude, causes and consequences of this abuse."

### New religious community in Florida aims to renew families

SARASOTA, Fla. (CNS) — It is only fitting that the first novice in a new religious community dedicated to the renewal of the family has four children and eight grandchildren. Sister Philomena Ogilvie, a widow since 1994, is the first novice to consecrate her life as a religious in the new Community of the Epiphany that is being established in the Venice Diocese. The community, to be composed of religious sisters and lay men and women, is currently gathering under the leadership of Sister Gilchrist Cottrill, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur. Officially, the community is not yet canonically approved, but is recognized as a private association of the faithful. There are 41 lay members and five in discernment for consecration in addition to Sister Ogilvie.



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

**Caritas labor program provides jobs in holy land**
**Firas Younes, 18, helps clear waste materials from a 200-year-old house that will become a community center in Beit Sahour in the West Bank. The Bethlehem resident is working in a labor program sponsored by the Pontifical Mission.**

### Pope says Turkey called to be bridge between Christian, Muslim worlds

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Geographically and culturally, Turkey's vocation is to draw predominantly Muslim and Christian nations into a constructive dialogue, Pope John Paul II said. "At a time when there is a risk of increasing tension between different cultural and religious traditions, your country has a particular role to play," the pope said Dec. 7 in a message to Turkey's new ambassador to the Vatican, Filiz Dincmen. Turkey's position straddling Europe and the Middle East, its Muslim culture and its enduring ties to Christian history make the nation a potential bridge between the so-called Christian West and Muslim East, the pope said.

### Document on role of deacon near completion, says U.S. Dominican

ROME (CNS) — Members of the International Theological Commission are close to completing a document on the theological role and identity of the permanent deacon, a member of the commission said. U.S. Dominican Father J. Augustine DiNoia, a member of the papally appointed commission, said the document would be "one of the most significant summaries of the theology and history of the permanent diaconate" ever written. "Historians, biblical scholars and a theologian who knows the Second Vatican Council backward and forward" did much of the work in "establishing the continuity between the first deacons of the early church and the restored permanent diaconate" under Pope Paul VI, he said Dec. 7, the last day of the commission's weeklong meeting. Father DiNoia is director of the Intercultural Forum at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington.

### Catholic Holy Land group seeks to avoid confusion with raided agency

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Reports of a federal raid on a U.S.-based Muslim foundation operating in the Holy Land has raised concerns from a Catholic-run Holy Land foundation. Representatives of the Holy Land Foundation, a Catholic organization based in Washington with offices in Jerusalem, have complained that on the day of the Dec. 4 raid and the following day, President Bush identified the target of the raid as "Holy Land Foundation" and did not use the actual name of the raided charity. It is the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, which has its headquarters in Richardson, Texas. Federal officials raided the Texas group's offices in Richardson and elsewhere across the United States following a grand jury investigation and seized its assets, saying it was a front for Hamas, a Palestinian organization. The Texas group's officials have denied the assertions.

### Vatican asks bishops to prepare dioceses for day of fasting for peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has asked bishops around the world to make sure local church communities participate fully in the Dec. 14 day of fasting and prayer for peace called by Pope John Paul II. The Vatican said a variety of fasting methods could be used, so that children and the elderly can participate. It asked bishops to decide whether non-Catholics and non-Christians should be asked to join the event and suggested pilgrimages be organized wherever possible. The pastoral guidelines, contained in a four-page statement, were issued Dec. 6 by the Vatican's office for liturgical celebrations. At the same time, the Vatican asked bishops to prepare locally for another papal initiative, a major interfaith prayer gathering for peace Jan. 24 in the Italian hill town of Assisi.

### Sri Lankan bishops appeal for peace following violent elections

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (CNS) — Catholic bishops in Sri Lanka have appealed for all citizens to work for peace after the violence-marred Dec. 5 elections. "Let us make this period after the election a period of reconciliation and nation building. Let us pray and work for peace and reconciliation and say 'no more violence in our land,'" the bishops' conference said in a statement. The bishops said they are "painfully aware of the violent situation" that surrounded the elections and of the "disaster it has already caused in terms of human life, the erosion of fundamental rights, and the destruction of property and economic resources." Nonetheless, the bishops urged politicians to avoid "all forms of violence," including acts of retaliation, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**December 24 — Christmas Eve**
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**December 25 — Christmas**
11 a.m. Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

2 p.m. Mass
Holy Angels, Belmont

**Dec. 31 — New Year's Eve**
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**January 1 — New Year's Day**
11 a.m. Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**January 6 — Feast of the Epiphany**
6 p.m. priests' holiday reception
Charlotte

## Diocesan planner

**December**

**21** SHELBY — St. Mary Church, 818 McGowan Rd., will be having evening prayer (vespers) at 6:30 p.m. tonight. On Dec. 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, a special memorial service in remembrance of all deceased children, born and unborn, will be held at 6:30 p.m. For further information or questions, contact the church office at (704) 487-7697 or Mary Frye at (704) 538-7187.

**24** CHARLOTTE — Volunteers will be needed for the St. Patrick Cathedral annual Christmas dinner held on Dec. 25 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. People are needed to: transport people to and from the dinner or deliver meals; help decorate, distribute gifts or carve turkeys; help cook or clean up; or donate gifts, warm clothing, monetary help or baked goods. Each year over 1,800 meals and gifts are distributed, and about 1,000 meals are delivered. For further information about volunteering or helping the group from Dec 24-26, call Tamara DelGrosso, pastoral coordinator, at (704) 334-2283, Ext. 29, with name, phone numbers and number of people volunteering by Dec. 21.

**28** CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., will celebrate the Mass of the Holy Innocents at 12:10 p.m. Father Mark Lamprich will be the celebrant. For more information, call the church office at (704) 554-7088.

**31** MAGGIE VALLEY — All are invited to attend Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, to "welcome the New Year." The Augustinian Friars will share in an evening of recollection, silence, community and prayer beginning with a New Year's Eve supper at 7:30 p.m. followed by a conference, faith sharing and midnight Mass. The evening will conclude with a social at the Augustinian Friary, and the retreat will end with brunch on New Year's Day. For registration and other information, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

### Military chaplains help soldiers cope, but Catholic shortage exists

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (CNS) — U.S. Marines recently deployed in Afghanistan no doubt went into battle much the same way soldiers have through the ages. They checked their plans. They checked their weapons and equipment. They wrote one final letter to loved ones. And they prayed. Father Peter Jaramillo knows firsthand how important prayer is to men going into combat. The 47-year-old priest is a military chaplain in the Kansas Army National Guard. As a captain in the Second Battalion of the 137th Infantry, based in Kansas City, he's always had to be ready to "go where my soldiers go" at a moment's notice. "We don't learn combat skills, but we have to learn how to survive war and minister to soldiers on the front lines or at medical units in the rear," he told The Leaven, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Kansas City. "We learn how to survive biochemical attacks and how to handle mass casualties, critical incidents and stress." According to the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, more than 1,000 Catholic military chaplains serve more than 1.2 million Catholics in 29 countries. These Catholics include those in the military and their families, those in overseas government service, and patients in veterans' hospitals.

### Diocesan reps gather for conference on growing diversity in church

WARWICK, R.I. (CNS) — Want ideas on ministering to Catholics from Togo? Matthew Ward, from the Diocese of Portland, Maine, had some tips. As resettlement director for his diocese's Catholic Charities office, he's helped refugees from the tiny West African nation make new homes in Lewiston. If any of the approximately 120 top diocesan officials who came to the Providence Diocese for a Nov. 28-29 conference in Warwick did not fully realize just how diverse the New England church is, they do now. "Here are some numbers," said Father Anthony McGuire, a San Francisco priest who is director of pastoral care for migrants and refugees for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Central Massachusetts, for example, now has at least 2,385 Mexican residents, alongside its 32,432 Puerto Ricans and 12,317 persons of "other Hispanic" origin. That did not surprise delegates from the Diocese of Worcester. But how many of the reported 48 Guamanians or 28 Samoans in the diocese are Catholic, wondered Sister Marie Prefontaine, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur who is director of its Office of Ethnic Ministries. The bishops' statement on diversity in the church, which was distributed to every U.S. parish last August, reiterates church teaching on the "catholic," or universal, nature of Catholicism. It encourages the kind of outreach to newcomers that a growing network of pastoral agents in New England has been developing in recent years.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Italian nativity figure holds fire helmet**

**An Italian artisan displays newly created creche figures in a Naples workshop Dec. 11. The three kings, or wise men, are depicted as bearing gifts of U.S. firefighter helmets and were crafted by artists Ulderico Pinfildi, Alfredo Molli and Giovanni Sinno of Naples. The figures are part of a Nativity set that will be displayed in a New York church.**

### Pope calls for end of 'useless spiral of death' in Middle East

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The international community must act to help Israelis and Palestinians stop the "useless spiral of death" resulting from new attacks in early December, Pope John Paul II said. "I feel the need to express my deep condolences for the new victims of the absurd violence which continues to stain the Middle East with blood," the pope said Dec. 5 at the end of his weekly general audience. "With a sorrowful spirit, I repeat once again the fact that violence never resolves conflicts, but only increases their dramatic consequences," he said. Three Palestinian suicide bombings Dec. 1-2 led to the deaths of more than two dozen people in Jerusalem and Haifa. The Islamic group Hamas claimed responsibility for the attacks, and the Israeli government responded by firing missiles on Palestinian targets in Ramallah, Gaza City and other towns; two people were killed and more than 100 were reported injured in the attacks. Hours before the pope spoke Dec. 5, another suicide bomber blew himself up in Jerusalem, injuring three bystanders.

### Holy Land charities work to provide relief, joy for Christmas holiday

JERUSALEM (CNS) — As Palestinian Christians prepare for a second Christmas amid increased violence, Holy Land charities find themselves once again trying to provide some relief, as well as some joy, for the Christmas holiday. "This will be a very disappointing, difficult Christmas," said Claudette Habesch, president of Caritas Jerusalem. "The first message of Christmas is of peace, love, justice and reconciliation. But these things are not here now. With the lack of tourists and the closed shops in Bethlehem, there will be no Christmas here," she said. Not being able to provide their children with presents makes Christmas a difficult time for parents, said Father Guido Gockel, regional director of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine. "It is really sad; you can cry out over it," said Father Gockel. "People are sitting around with no income, only expenditures. It is really heartbreaking. There are a lot of middle-class people who are silent sufferers."

### Bishops' committee approves new directives for Hispanic ministry

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' Committee on Hispanic Affairs has approved new pastoral directives aimed at reshaping Hispanic ministry at a time of a rapidly expanding Hispanic population in the United States. One aim is to foster greater integration with other church ministries and to train Hispanics for leadership roles in the entire church. The 32-page directives also encourage working more closely with other ethnic groups, training Hispanic women for leadership positions in the church and society, encouraging more Hispanic vocations to the priesthood and permanent diaconate, and addressing social and political issues affecting Hispanics. The document, "A Pastoral Framework to Further Develop Hispanic Ministry," was approved Nov. 11 and made available later in the month to Catholic News Service.

## Ongoing

ASHEVILLE — The hours for the Nazareth House Family Ministry and Lending Library, 474 Haywood Rd., are as follows: Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m., Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Nazareth House is a family ministry dedicated to promoting the blessings of Christian marriage, chastity, natural family planning and post-abortion healing. For further details, call (828) 250-9690 or e-mail nazarethhouse@juno.com.

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., hosts free tours of the historic church after each weekend Mass. The Masses are celebrated every Sat. at 5 p.m., and on Sun. at 9 a.m., noon and 5 p.m. For more information on scheduling guided tours, call Shirley Gregory at (828) 274-4592.

CHARLOTTE — The Knights of Columbus Council 770 will host bingo every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Ann Church activity center, 3635 Park Rd. Call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte is a non-denominational, social group for singles over 21. Events include Mass and brunch, weekend trips, movies, dinners, and much more. For more information and a calendar, call Donna at (704) 549-4590 or Gina at (704) 679-9614. Call Donald Howard with any questions at (704) 521-2790.

CHARLOTTE — "Forever Young" is an exercise group for people 55 and older at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. They meet every Monday and Friday from 11 a.m.-noon and are always seeking new members. Come and join these seniors for "just what the doctor ordered." Call Peg Hill at (704) 540-7255 for details.

HIGH POINT — The following classes and meetings are being held weekly at the Christ the King Church Hispanic Center, 1505 E. Kivett Dr.: adult English as a Second Language (ESL) classes every Saturday from 2-4 p.m.; children's ESL, math and science classes every Saturday from 9-11 a.m. and Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous and Al-Anon classes held periodically. All classes are free of cost and free transportation and childcare are also available by request. For further details, call the church office at (336) 884-5858 or e-mail FrPhilipK@aol.com.

### Perpetual and Daily Adoration

ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., hosts eucharistic adoration on the following days: Friday mornings immediately following the 9 a.m. Mass until noon, Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:15 p.m. every first Friday from 9:30 a.m.-8:45 p.m. For more information, call the church at (828) 684-6098.

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., hosts daily adoration from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information, call Jane Sorrells at (828) 298-0334.

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd., hosts perpetual adoration in a chapel on the grounds. For volunteer and other information, call Marie Siebers at (704) 827-6734.

CHARLOTTE — All are invited to St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., for perpetual adoration. For volunteer and other information, call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas, 1400 Suther Rd., hosts eucharistic adoration every first Friday from 1:15 p.m.-midnight, and eucharistic holy hour takes place every Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Aquinas Hall is open everyday from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.

HIGH POINT — Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., hosts perpetual adoration in the chapel. For volunteer and other information, call Theresa Hansen at (336) 273-1507.

SYLVA — Eucharistic adoration takes place every first Saturday at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., following 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For more information, call Annette Leporis at (828) 497-7464.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# Holy day brings message of peace

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

CHARLOTTE — A young Jewish maiden, possibly 14 or 15 years of age, received an invitation from God to become the mother of the long promised Messiah. Her acceptance of His invitation was anticipated by God's granting her the privilege of being filled with grace from the very moment of her conception. You and I received this gift when we were baptized.

Bishop William G. Curlin urged those celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in St. Patrick Cathedral to imitate the faith of the Blessed Mother in their daily life. "Faith is needed to overcome the many grave challenges facing mankind. America and the entire world suffer the consequences of the tragedies that occur on Sept. 11. If we are to overcome and not be overcome by hatred and violence, we must daily recommit ourselves to work for peace and justice." He added, "We must risk our hearts and bring God's love to the victims of war and poverty. There is no true peace without God's love."

In Italy, Pope John Paul II pleaded for the Blessed Virgin Mary's intercession in bringing peace to the world as he marked the Dec. 8 feast with the midday recitation of the Angelus and an afternoon visit to Rome's Spanish Steps.

After blessing a basket of roses placed at the foot of a column topped with a statue dedicated to the Immaculate Conception at the base of the steps, the pope read a long prayer to Mary, asking her to be a mother to all believers.

"Dark clouds gather on the world's horizon," he said. "Humanity, which greeted the dawn of the third millennium with such hope, now feels the threat of new, upsetting conflicts hanging over it. Peace in the world is at risk.

"For this reason, we come to you, Immaculate Virgin, to ask your help as an understanding and strong mother, so that souls, freed from the fumes of hatred, would open to reciprocal pardon, constructive solidarity and peace."

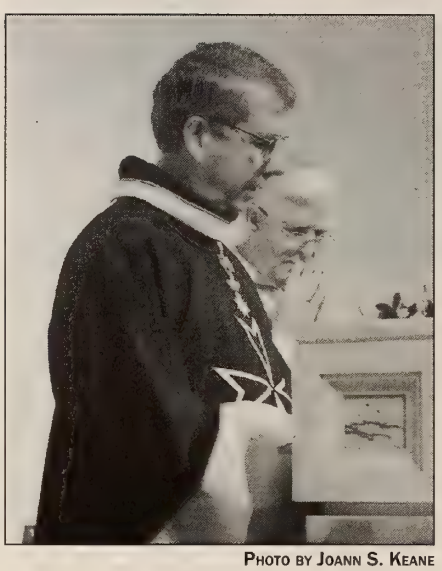


PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

**Bishop William G. Curlin prays as Bob Attwood, a Knight of Malta, reads prayers of intention during the Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at St. Patrick Cathedral on Dec. 8.**

# Diocesan parishioners participate in National Night of Prayer for Peace

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

EDEN — Parishioners across the Diocese of Charlotte participated in the "National Night of Prayer for Life," 9 p.m., Dec. 8, to 1 a.m., Dec. 9.

Maggie Nadol, diocesan respect life coordinator, said that Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, and Dec. 9, the day the Blessed Virgin appeared to Juan Diego in Guadalupe, are important days in the pro-life community. (According to an article, "Our Lady of Guadalupe" on Catholic Online, www.catholic.org/guadalupe.html, Mary appeared to Juan Diego as "the God-bearer — she is pregnant with her Divine Son.").

The National Night of Prayer for Life began in New York in 1994 and has been mushrooming ever since. During December, people throughout the United States gather in their churches for services with intercessory prayer and individual prayer, rosaries, silent meditation, Benediction and eucharistic adoration. These prayers and services ask God's forgiveness for assaults against the unborn and seek to inspire mothers who are contemplating abortion to preserve the lives of their unborn children. All family members can participate in the Night of Prayer.

The parishes of the Charlotte diocese involved in this year's Night of Prayer for Life were Holy Spirit, Denver; St. Lucien, Spruce Pine; Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro; St. Joseph of the Hills, Eden; Holy Infant, Reidsville; Our Lady of the Rosary, Lexington; St. Joseph, Asheboro; Holy Family, Clemmons; St. Margaret Mary, Swannanoa; St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Matthew, Charlotte; and Sacred Heart, Salisbury.

Father Thomas Selvaraj, pastor of St. Joseph of the Hills, held Benediction, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the rosary and an hour of reflection on Dec. 8.

This feast is often confused with Jesus' conception, but Jesus could not have been conceived on Dec. 8 and born on Dec. 25. However, Dec. 8 is the day on which, tradition says, Mary was immaculately conceived in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. Therefore, Father Selvaraj said, it is "most appropriate to celebrate (Dec. 8) with a Night of Prayer for Life for it is through conception that life begins and develops through maturity, until that life returns to the Father to give him the honor and glory due his name."

Gail Evans-Jones, the director of the Rockingham Pregnancy Care Center, gave a reflection on the beginning of life and on motherhood.

Parishioner Lucille Minter commented on how simple and elegant the Night of Prayer for life was, and that she came "to pray for life, babies, the aged and all the suffering."

Melinda Simpson, who felt overwhelming love and peace as she left the service, attended "to remember the unborn, their mothers, the sick and the aged." Throughout the reflection she concentrated on "how beautiful this life God gave us really is."

*Staff Writer Alesha M. Price contributed to this story*

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Daniel Murray, President — St. Pius X Parishioner

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For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

# Sister helps to spread Hispanic Ministry

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

LENOIR — Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott has spent much of her career as a woman religious working with Hispanics in the United States and in Mexico. She has helped hundreds of people settle into new lives and to re-establish their faith practices in this country. Her work as the coordinator of Hispanic Ministry in the Hickory Vicariate and her nearly 30 years of working with Hispanics has led her to being named the interim diocesan director of Hispanic Ministry.

Committed to the position until February, Sister Andrea says she will pick up where the former director, Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty, left off. "I want to continue what Father Vincent was trying to do, to be more of a bridge among the diocesan office of Hispanic Ministry, the diocesan priests and parishioners. I consider it a privilege, and I've been shown so much support. It has been a humbling experience."

Working in the Diocese of Charlotte since 1990, Sister Andrea — with the aid of Franciscan Sister Linda Scheckelhoff, coordinator of Boone Vicariate Hispanic Ministry — has helped to establish a Catholic church and a Hispanic Ministry center in Yadkinville, near Winston-Salem. Sister Andrea has developed Hispanic Ministry in the Hickory Vicariate since 1999 and travels to the four parishes and two missions in her target area.

"The Hispanic presence is seen as a blessing, and we can learn much from their community," Sister Andrea said. "They bring another way of practicing the faith, which embodies their culture and heritage. The parishes need to work on becoming environments where inculturation — the opportunity for expression of worship with a mixture of cultures — can take place."

Even though she will be in the position for only a few months, she hopes to visit with priests, parish council members and others to keep the lines of communication open. "I want to let people know what's going on with Hispanic Ministry and to show them how everything fits together," she said. "Hispanic Ministry is not something that is meant to be separate. We are all part of one church."

Sister Andrea said that many needs in the Hispanic community exist, including lack of transportation, language problems, unemployment and other issues. Hispanic Ministry serves as a link between the Hispanic community and the diocese and is a sounding board for those who would not otherwise have a voice.



Photo by Alesha M. Price

**Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, interim diocesan director of Hispanic Ministry, checks her schedule with Laura Garza Doyle, coordinator of Hispanic Ministry at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory. Doyle will take over Sister Andrea's duties as the coordinator of Hispanic Ministry in the Hickory Vicariate while Sister Andrea serves as the diocesan director. Doyle, a native of Mexico, says that being in the same situation as many Hispanics who have come to the United States gives her an insight on effectively helping people.**

"One of the big challenges is the language barrier," she said. "We have bilingual people but not enough. However, I see progress, and people learning each other's languages and cultures."

According to statistics from the United States Census Bureau, North Carolina is one of four states where the number of Hispanics has grown significantly, more than doubling, between April 1, 1990, and July 1, 1998. The population has grown more than 110 percent, with approximately 300,000 people living in the state and an estimated 60,000 Hispanics in Charlotte alone.

Sister Andrea began her ministerial work in the Diocese of Charlotte around the same time Hispanics began surging into North Carolina. She had come via her home state of Ohio, and Chiapas, Mexico, where she worked as a missionary for seven years.

The cradle Catholic was inspired by women religious in her family and school and by her own personal calling to dedicate her life to God in the order of the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio. After professing her final vows in 1965, she requested to be sent to Mexico. Using her Spanish skills, she worked in a bilingual parish in Ohio and later earned her master's degree in pastoral ministry with Hispanic Ministry as a specialty.

She arrived in the Diocese of Charlotte in Yadkinville, a small town with a growing Hispanic population, and helped to transform a hardware store into a church, parish center and home away from home for people in the area.

She said that anyone interested in working in Hispanic Ministry could begin by performing simple tasks including welcoming Hispanics attending English-speaking Masses at their parishes, attending a Spanish-speaking Mass, donating to the Diocesan Support Appeal and volunteering in various ministries.

"The coordinator of Hispanic Ministry cannot do it all," said Sister Andrea. "We need to recruit some people who have the desire to serve and want to help."

*For more information about Hispanic Ministry, call Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott at (828) 754-0286.*

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

# Polish composer known for horror films pleases pope with Mass score

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Polish composer famous for horror film soundtracks struck a new note when he wrote the music for a solemn Mass and heard it performed for Pope John Paul II.

Wojciech Kilar called the concert at the Vatican Dec. 7 "the most important event of my life." The pope called the work "magnificent" and said it was animated by an intense mysticism.

Kilar, 69, is best known in Poland for the musical scores to more than 140 films, many of them horror movies like "Dracula" and "The Voice From Beyond." In recent years, his music has tackled such varied themes as the life of St. Maximilian Kolbe and the magic of "The Lord of the Rings."

At a press conference in Rome Dec. 6, Kilar said he was apprehensive about embarking on a project that strayed so far from his usual field of composition. What encouraged him, he said, was a strange feeling of inspiration and the deep religious sentiments of his wife.

He said he titled his work "Mass for Peace" because "every Mass is for peace." In the "Gloria," he inserted musical themes from the folk music of the Tatra Mountain region, where the pope used to hike as a youth.

"I hope the pope appreciates it," he said.

The performance in the Vatican's Paul VI Audience Hall was directed by Kazimierz Kord with the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Warsaw, which was celebrating its 100th anniversary.

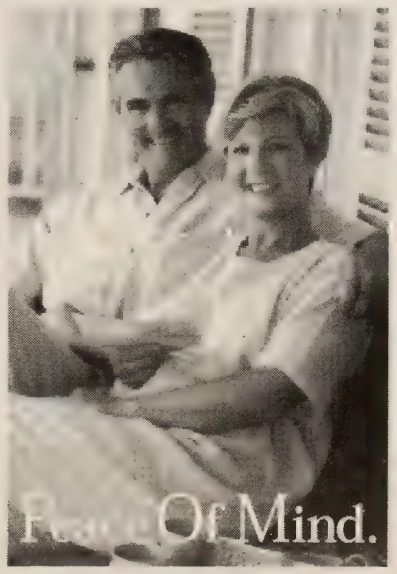
Afterward, the pope gave a short speech and offered some musical criticism. He said the score for this Mass, through its mystical melodies, did a good job of leading the listener to a prayerful and contemplative attitude.

That's important, because every score for a Mass is a delicate combination of an artistic work and the liturgy, he said.

The pope said the concert had touched some deep chords that recalled the Christian faith and the "Polish soul." In the end, the composition was not just an aesthetical success but also a deeply religious work, he said.

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### Armed carjackers kill Italian priest in South Africa

PRETORIA, South Africa (CNS) — An Italian priest in the Pretoria Archdiocese was shot dead by armed carjackers. Stigmatine Father Michael Dannucci, 60, was in his car outside the home of one of his parishioners in Soshanguve, a town outside Pretoria, when he was attacked by three armed men, said Hennie Egen, communications officer for the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference. Father Dannucci had finished a prayer service at the parishioner's home in the early evening Dec. 8 and was starting up his car to return home when the attackers dragged him out of the vehicle, Egen said. "They shot him several times before driving off in his car," he said. The priest, whose cellular telephone was also taken, died on the scene.Jewish leader, dead at 90, lauded as Catholic-Jewish dialogue pioneer

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Gerhart Riegner, who died of pneumonia in a Geneva hospital Dec. 3 at age 90, was lauded by two cardinals as "a man of absolute integrity" and "one of the witnesses of our time" for trying to alert the world to the Nazis' "final solution" against Jews in World War II. "In 1942, at great personal risk, he contacted world leaders to tell them of the Holocaust that was entering its horrific final stages," said a statement from Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, who described Riegner as "a man of absolute integrity." In a separate statement, Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, called Riegner "one of the witnesses of our time (who) played an outstanding role in the relations between Christians and Jews."

### Colombian archbishop asks rebels to release father of dying child

MEDELLIN, Colombia (CNS) — The president of the Colombian bishops' conference has asked guerrillas to release the kidnapped father of a dying child. Jose Norberto Perez, a policeman, was kidnapped by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia rebels in March 2000. His son, Andres Felipe, 12, has lung cancer. "On behalf of my fellow brother bishops, I ask, I demand the FARC (rebels) to let Mr. Perez go free for a humanitarian reason that must be above any political calculation," said Archbishop Alberto Giraldo Jaramillo of Medellin in a statement made on Colombian radio.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Brownie Girl Scouts aid in tragedy**

**The second-grade Brownie Girl Scout troop from St. Leo Catholic School in Winston-Salem hold patriotic pictures, symbolizing the cards the girls made, and sold to help victims of the Sept. 11 tragedy. Pictured left to right: Natasha Schettini, Anna Ross, Grace Kein, Ellie Alessio, Hanna Goulding, Teacher Wendy Piazza, Caitlin Prevette, Sarah Semke, Caroline Coppala. Kneeling is Caitlin Ferguson.**

### Two New Orleans archdiocesan priests drown in fishing accident

GOLDEN MEADOW, La. (CNS) — Two priests of the Archdiocese of New Orleans who were on a south Louisiana fishing trip drowned Dec. 6 after apparently falling into the water from their disabled 17-foot boat, authorities said. The bodies of Msgr. John Nguyen Phuc, 43, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Destrehan and dean of the St. John-St. Charles deanery, and Father Benedict Joseph Quang, 37, pastor of St. Gertrude Parish in Des Allemands, were recovered Dec. 7 in relatively shallow water about five miles from Golden Meadow. Sheriff Craig Webre said the priests, neither of whom could swim, apparently encountered mechanical difficulty with their boat's steering. He speculated one priest attempted to fix the power steering cables and fell into the water, and the other priest drowned while trying to save him.

### Chinese bishop's activities limited; priests sent to remote parishes

HONG KONG (CNS) — The activities of a Catholic bishop in northwestern China have been restricted, and three of his priests were sent to remote parishes after being under surveillance and warned not to contact him. Hanzhong Bishop Bartholomew Yu Chengti, who was secretly ordained a bishop in 1981, is living in a rural village outside Hanzhong. Meanwhile, Fathers Du Baozang, Zan Jianzhou and Zan Shengrang of Hanzhong Diocese were released after more than a month of house arrest, a mainland source told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, Dec. 10. The three priests, who are not affiliated with the government-approved Catholic Church, were taken by government officials Nov. 2 to Hanzhong Socialist School for "re-education" to join the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, which officially spurns ties to the Vatican. However, even after their release Dec. 7, the priests still refused to join the patriotic association, the source said.

### Polish composer known for horror films pleases pope with Mass score

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Polish composer famous for horror film soundtracks struck a new note when he wrote the music for a solemn Mass and heard it performed for Pope John Paul II. Wojciech Kilar called the concert at the Vatican Dec. 7 "the most important event of my life." The pope called the work "magnificent" and said it was animated by an intense mysticism. Kilar, 69, is best known in Poland for the musical scores to more than 140 films, many of them horror movies like "Dracula" and "The Voice From Beyond." In recent years, his music has tackled such varied themes as the life of St. Maximilian Kolbe and the magic of "The Lord of the Rings."

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# Choir resounds with community pride

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

HIGHLANDS — Joyous voices and the deep strong chords of the organ inviting "O Come All Ye Faithful," the Highlands Community Christian Choir marched down the center aisle of Community Bible Church and up into the sanctuary. This was Dec. 8 and the final rehearsal for the choir's annual Christmas concert to be held the next day.

The faithful—400-500 for each performance—would be there as they have been during the choir's eight-year existence, but something new happened this year.

Although a few parishioners from Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church had sung with the choir in the past, "This is the first year that Our Lady of the Mountains has sponsored this concert," Father William M. Evans, the sacramental minister, said. "Our church isn't big enough to hold all the people, so I asked Pastor Steve Kerhoulis if we could have the concert here and he said, 'Of course.'"

Father Evans made the opening remarks and played the flute during each concert the next day. The St. Elizabeth Guild from Our Lady of the Mountains served lunch to the choir between performances, and men from the church served as ushers.

Choir members this year were from Highlands churches: Highlands United Methodist Church, Our Lady of the Mountains (OLM) Catholic Church, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, First Baptist Church, Community Bible Church and First Presbyterian Church; and from Cashiers United Methodist Church, Clemson (S.C.) United Methodist Church, and Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Brevard.

The choir, which performs only at Christmas, alternates its programs among Highlands United Methodist, First Baptist and Community Bible, the three churches with-large-enough seating capacity. Concert planning began in July.

The theme this year was "The Joyful Sounds of Christmas—Made in America." Except for the entrance carol, the choir's traditional opening song, all of the music was written, arranged or collected by Americans.

"This was inspired, not by Sept. 11; this was already on paper in August," Mary Beth Brody, this year's conductor, said.

Notes in the program told the history of each song. For instance, German Lutherans in Pennsylvania wrote "Away In a Manger" to teach their children about the Nativity. Phillip Brooks, an Episcopal priest from Philadelphia, Pa., wrote "O Little Town of Bethlehem," during a trip to the Holy Land in 1865.

The 60-voice choir has been rehearsing, two hours each Monday evening, since early fall.

Beth Ham of Highlands United Methodist Church has sung with the Community Christian Choir for several years. "It starts Christmas in September," she said. "I get all excited, and Mary Beth's direction has been phenomenal, a pleasure. The only thing I regret is that we haven't had any snow."

"It's been building relationships across the community," said Beth Perry of Our Lady of the Mountains, in her third year with the Community Christian Choir. "I really have a sense of Christian community. And Mary Beth has a special talent as a director. She's able to get the most out of us and really get us engaged."

Brody, who began directing OLM's choir in November 2000 and last year sang with the Community Christian Choir, has been involved with liturgical music for more than 20 years. After earning a bachelor's degree in education from Indiana University in Pennsylvania, Brody studied choral conducting under Larry Wyatt at Loyola University in New Orleans. Past positions have included choir director and cantor at Our Lady of Good Council Catholic Church in New Orleans.

Johnny White joined OLM's choir after Brody became the director. "I think in the summer we have almost 20 people, in the winter eight or 10," he said. Of course, once we got Mary Beth, well, most of us were not choir members before Mary Beth came."

The Community Christian Choir's board of directors is composed of choir directors and people involved in liturgy at area churches. They're working to expand the annual repertoire. "All the music belongs to the Highlands Community Christian Choir," Brody said. "If somebody wants to sing one of these carols next year, they can borrow the music from the library we're slowly building."

The choir is filled with dedicated members who love to sing and who like to have a good time. On the day of the last rehearsal, they celebrated Brody's 43rd birthday with chocolate cake and gifts.

The last number in the concert, listed on the program as a "surprise," is "Go Tell It On the Mountain," a carol from the Tennessee mountains. The men's voices start the rhythm, then the women join them in a toe-tapping, finger-snapping beat and rousing finale.

"It's such a good group of people," Brody said. "We've had so much fun. It's such a wonderful ecumenical event. It's been a joy to be in front of this group."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*







Photos by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**Pictured above: The Highlands Community Christian Choir, with members from nine churches, rehearses for its annual Christmas concert.**

**Pictured above right: Lee Huff, from Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Brevard, solos on "Away In a Manger" and "Some Children See Him."**

**Pictured below right: Mary Beth Brody, director of Our Lady of the Mountains' choir, conducts the Highlands Community Christian Choir's Christmas program.**

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# Mountain parishioners 'return to Bethlehem'

By DIANNE M.A. RIGGS
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — Into the teeming world of pre-Christmas sales, high-priced "must-buy" items and ultra-rushed lives has come quite another "marketplace"— a re-creation of Bethlehem's marketplace on the night of the Christ child's birth.

"Return to Bethlehem," an ecumenical, drama presented by Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM) as a gift to the community, again caught visitors up in its "virtual" Judean setting.

Visitors experienced a visual and auditory feast from Dec. 6-9. Every inch of First Christian Church's fellowship hall was jammed with "Bethlehem" artisans, crafters, food sellers and even Jewish political prisoners, telling stories of their encounters with Mary and Joseph or their lives under Roman rule. Beautifully but simply decorated wooden market stalls; straightforward, colorful period costumes — 21st century Americans entering the perspective of 1st century Israel on the night of Jesus' birth.

When visitors arrive at the church, they are given a Hebrew family name, such as "Andrew." They enter the sanctuary and are treated to music from individual singers, groups and instrumentalists. When their family name appears on a screen, they are taken downstairs to begin their journey through Bethlehem. About three groups of seven people are in the marketplace at any time. This creates the boisterousness of a real market, with Roman guards, moneychangers, beggars, vendors, prisoners, Pharisees, the rabbi, children and animals adding their voices.

"This year I play shepherd, Pharisee, tailor and weaver," said Rob Steingress, a St. Eugene's Catholic Church member. Last year he was a rabbi and Joseph of the Holy Family. "This is a delight," he said, emphasizing his immersion as a cast member and the drama's power to make the Christmas story real in his own life. Steingress' daughter, Jenna, has played a "temple boy" for two years (both boys and girls are used for the part).

Children, six years and older, were principal cast members. Like Jenna Steingress, many are sons and daughters of adult cast members who have made the production a permanent part of their family Christmas tradition.

"It wouldn't be Christmas if we didn't do this first," said David Price, as he put on a "Pharisee" gown. He's had many parts over the years. His son Jonathan played a potter's apprentice this year but liked his previous role as a prisoner best because, he said, "It's the loudest — it gets people's attention."

Betsy and Tim Gillespie, playing Mary and Joseph, with their infant son, John as Jesus, were excited about their first time in the cast. "I felt very honored to be asked to do this," Tim said.

So, who are all of these folks who donate so much of their time and talent to make "Return to Bethlehem" a reality? An example is volunteer Tracy Barnes (St. Eugene's, Asheville), in her second year as "Holy Family" coordinator. Barnes began recruiting in October for families who had an infant three months or under and could play the Holy Family. During production, she helped dress the "holy families" for the hour to hour-and-a-half shifts. Barnes loved being involved with people from other churches and helping them to find Christmas in a different, deeper way: "I like being part of such a spiritual event with families from different areas."







Photo by Dianne Riggs

**Picture above left: Temple "boys" listen intently to the rabbi (Don Wooten) in "Return to Bethlehem", a marketplace re-enactment of the night Jesus was born. (Front: L to R: Abigail Hart, Jenna Steingress, Abbie Sigmon, Rebecca Hart all from St. Eugene's, Asheville.)**

**Pictures below left: Would you like to buy some baby chicks? "Return to Bethlehem" animal vendors Abbie Sigmon (St. Eugene's, Asheville) and Jim Blue offer visitors a look at their poultry.**

**Picture above: Standing guard over the Bethlehem census enrollment, "Roman Soldier" John Stewart makes sure "citizens" Sheila* O'Connor (St. Eugene's, Asheville) and Don Shuman are properly inscribed by Griff Mellor in the production, "Return to Bethlehem"..**

Esther Blue, who has served as producer and general chair of the production for nine years, emphasized the gifts she receives as a participant, "(the) incredible ways it has touched people." Sometimes people living in the ABCCM Shelter have helped with the production. Blue recalled one such couple with a small baby, who portrayed the Holy Family. "How proud that father was," Blue said.

She told of the sacrifices participants have made and the lengths people go to so the event can continue on schedule. One year, when 80 of about 200 cast members had the flu, others stepped in so the public would not be disappointed. Like many in the production, Blue stressed the sense of family that develops among participants — not just cast members but all who help with the set, animals, decorations, scheduling and behind-the-scene efforts.

"It takes a real spirit to get all these people together," said Steve Tensi, as he and his family exited the church. "Seems to be more than an act — (rather) from the heart."

Lynn McKinney, ABCCM executive assistant, said that the ministry hopes that presenting this gift to the community is "a renewal of the reality of the Christmas story and the baby Jesus." She believes that the event's most important theological message is the difference between "those who believed (in the Christ child) and those who didn't."

Rev. Scott Rogers, ABCCM executive director, believes that "Return to Bethlehem" is one of the most unique, ecumenical events in the Southeast. The production has received awards from "Guideposts" and "Southern Living," among others. It was the brainchild of Mimi Shackelford, who got the idea while visiting in Florida. At ABCCM, a committee, including writers, builders, an architect, decorators, and others, put the production together.

*Those interested in participating next year should look for information at their churches in the late summer or early fall., or call ABCCM at (828) 259-5300. ABCCM is an ecumenical effort involving more than 200 churches and faith communities, whose volunteers and financial gifts assist residents and transients through crisis, shelter, medical, prison, and home-repair ministries.*

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# A warm mission spins from sister parish relationship

BY JOANN S. KEANE
EDITOR

GREENSBORO - Woven together, soft alpaca wool and American ingenuity are making a difference in an area where poverty and disparity loom.

On Dec. 7, cozy sweaters of cherished alpaca wool - along with Peruvian woven crafts - filled the Kloster Center at St. Pius X, turning the parish hall temporarily into an artesian haven.

Thousands of miles away, in Mañazo, Peru, the beneficiaries of the receipts continue to knit. They know their skilled efforts will help to improve their lives.

There's something special about the Alpaca wool. "It is very soft and very warm," says Michael Roberto, Artesania Pachamama USA board member and parishioner of St. Pius X.

Artesania Pachamama USA, an outreach ministry of the Greensboro parish, does more than provide an outlet for the sale of knitwear and other craft items; the ministry sustains the livelihood of many in the Peruvian hinterlands.

"All the money from the sale of the sweaters and crafts goes back to the women in the cooperative," says Roberto. "As a result, we are providing the money that helps people down there to sustain themselves."

Well below the equator, life in Mañazo, Peru, is impoverished at best. In the whole of Peru, the poverty level is around 50 percent. In Mañazo, the level most certainly scrapes the bottom of the economic charts. Nearly 3,000 people live in this area on the Indian plateau at the foothills of the Andes.

This is a story spun from a sister parish partnership. Nearly 20 years in the making, the close-knit relationship between St. Pius X parish in Greensboro and the parish of Santiago in Mañazo, Peru, is one of both happenstance and design.

In the early 1980s, then-pastor Father George Kloster and a group on a mission trip to Peru found themselves disillusioned and asked to see the countryside. The Americans stumbled into the town of Mañazo and fell into a partnership with the Indigenous people whose lives are so diametrically different from the North American way of life.

"That relationship was built over time," Roberto said. "Parishioners here (at St. Pius) helped rebuild part of the (Santiago) church, helped to build an irrigation system." Mission trips continued, evolving to include Artesania Pachamama.

Today, a group of volunteers in Greensboro carry out Artesania Pachamama's business operation. It's a volunteer ministry measured in sweater sizes and craft quantities; stacks of sweaters, some knit with indigenous designs, some of brilliant color. All meet high standards for quality.

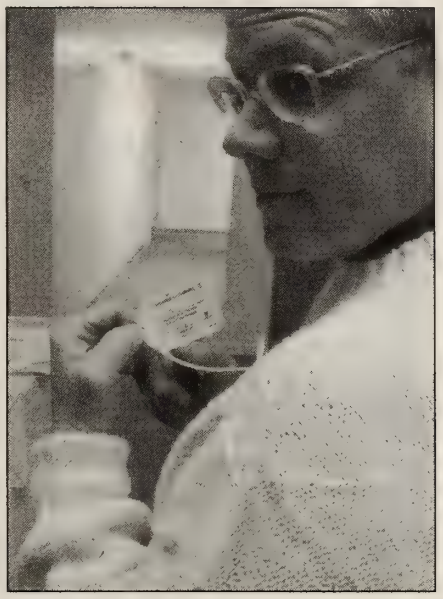
At St. Pius, the parish hall is brimming with Peruvian goods, and sales are bustling. "All the wool sweaters are generally $75," says Roberto, who quickly points out that at a boutique, a handmade alpaca-wool sweater could cost double that amount.

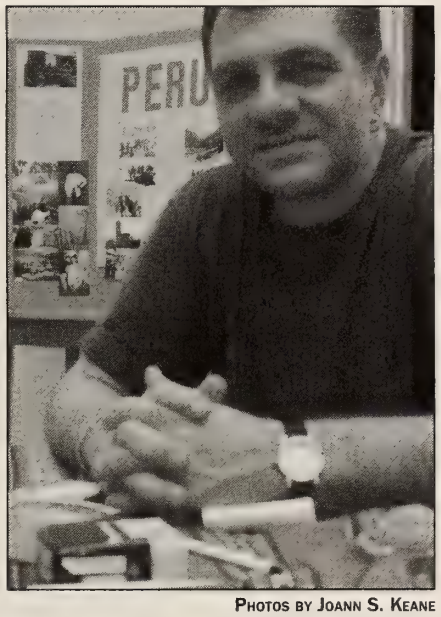
By late afternoon of the first day of the sale, $1,300 fills the coffer. The volunteers are jubilant. They know that no matter the money raised, it will easily be worth double in their sister city. "This to me is what the gospel is all about," Roberto said. "It is actually doing something concrete to help people raise their standard of living."

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org*

*For more information on Artesania Pachamama USA, contact Michael Roberto, (336) 275-3298. Editor's note: The final tally for the three-day Greensboro sale: $11,400.*








PHOTOS BY JOANN S. KEANE

**Pictured above: Hand crafted dolls from artesians in Mañazo, Peru are displayed for sale by Artesania Pachamama mission project of Saint Pius X parish in Greensboro, N.C. The primary focus of Artesania Pachamama is to promote and sell sweaters and crafts of the artesians, with funding going back to the women in Manazo, Peru.**
**Pictured left: Greg Schaftlein, a Artesania Pachamama board member, shows a tag with information on the woman who knitted sweater.**
**Pictured right: Directly behind Board Member Michael Roberto, a display on Peru and the mission work of the Peru Committee of St. Pius X parish in Greensboro.**

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

**Book Review**

# Children's books for Christmas gift-giving

REVIEWED BY BARB FRAZE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*The following books are suitable for Christmas gift-giving.*

***PETER CLAUS AND THE NAUGHTY LIST,* by Lawrence David, illustrated by Delphine Durand. Doubleday Books for Young Readers (New York, 2001). 29 pp., $15.95.**

Santa's son, Peter, was on the "naughty list" last year and received no Christmas presents. Facing the prospect of no presents again, he goes on a midnight mission to find the other children on the list. With the help of all the Clauses, each child does something to get off the list, an idea that redeems Peter, too. Full-page, humorous, colorful illustrations contribute to the fun of this book, which points out that we all do naughty things once in a while. (Ages 6-10)

***THE LOYOLA KIDS BOOK OF SAINTS,* by Amy Welborn, illustrated by Josephite Father Ansgar Holmberg. Loyola Press (Chicago, 2001). 304 pp., $15.95.**

In a friendly, conversational style, Welborn presents stories of more than 60 saints, from Augustine to Wenceslaus. She divides them into 15 different categories, including saints who love children, love families, create, are brave or who help in ordinary ways. Each biography begins with a catchy idea or question, tells the story in 3-5 pages, then asks the reader a reflective question. Welborn does not limit herself to European saints, but includes a diverse group, up-to-date enough to include St. Katharine Drexel. In addition to being a great reference, this book is perfect for reading aloud to nonreaders and will entice those a bit older. (Ages 5-up)

***SECRETS IN THE HOUSE OF DELGADO,* by Gloria D. Miklowitz. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers (Grand Rapids, Mich., 2001). 182 pp., $16.**

Miklowitz puts a human face on the subject of the Spanish Inquisition in this book about a young Catholic orphan who works in the house of some of Spain's "conversos," Jews whose families converted under the threat of death. Young Maria Sanchez grows to love the family she is serving but has trouble getting past the idea drilled into her by the church that "conversos," once Jewish, cannot be completely trusted as loyal to the Catholic Church. Miklowitz weaves a tale that will keep readers turning the pages, although some preteens might need some context explanation from adults. (Ages 10-14)

***EGYPTIAN MUMMIES: PEOPLE FROM THE PAST,* by Delia Pemberton. Harcourt Children's Books (San Diego, 2001). 48 pp., $18.**

"Mummies" is a great piece of nonfiction on a topic that has fascinated children for years. Using information found about the remains of mummies from The British Museums, Pemberton touches on such subjects as mummies in medicine, the mummy trade, what archeologists look for, and myths and facts. Color photos of artifacts and scientists as well as illustrations and many side boxes of little-known facts will keep children reading for hours. (Ages 8-12)

***THE SECRET SCHOOL,* by Avi. Harcourt, Inc. (San Diego, 2001). 153 pp., $16.**

Two-time Newberry Honor winner Avi produces another fine tale, telling the story of a teen-age girl who takes over when a one-room school's teacher must leave. Set in rural Colorado in the mid-1920s, the story includes intrigue, danger, humor and a range of emotions as 14-year-old Ida struggles to teach the others and pass her own high-school entrance exams. (Ages 9-12)

**SCATTERBRAIN SAM, by Ellen Jackson, illustrated by Matt Faulkner. Charlesbridge Publishing (Watertown, Maine, 2001). 29 pp., $15.95.**

Here is a great read-aloud book, told in a down-home, folksy style. Sam, "tired of all the buzz-buzz" about how scatterbrained he is, asks the "widder woman" for help, since she knew about "powders and potions and whatnot." How Sam solves the riddles she gives him and realizes his brain is not so scattered makes a great tall-tale based on a Welsh folk tale. Humorous, detailed, full-page illustrations add to this book's charm. (Ages 4-8)

**THE GOLDEN BOOKS TREASURY OF CHRISTMAS JOY, edited by Skip Skwarek, illustrated by Valerie Sokolova. Golden Books (New York, 2001). 101 pp., $19.99.**

This large book — 10 inches by nearly 12 inches — is a true treasure of Christmas traditions, including some that might not be familiar. It contains a medley of stories, poems, activities and songs for all ages, from Christmas ABCs to recipes for holiday yummies to Christmas stories from other countries to traditional carols with piano music. Its four sections treat anticipation of Christmas, the Christmas tree, Santa Claus and the Nativity. This book contains something old, something new, something for everyone who celebrates Christmas. (All ages)

**FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE ANT, FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE HORSE, various authors. Charlesbridge Publishing (Watertown, Maine, 2001). 26 pp. each, $9.95 each.**

These two books of the Face-to-Face series, translated from their original French, are wonderful ways for young children to learn about the topics or can be books used by budding scientists to delve a bit more into their subject matter. Excellent, close-up nature photography will fascinate the reader or those being read to. Multiple photographs per page have captions with interesting facts about the subject, and a large typeface helps keep each topic short and easy to read. A quick quiz on each book's last page gives handy reference pages for some often-asked and unusual questions. (Ages 5-10)

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings: Dec. 23, 2001*

**December 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent.**

Cycle A Readings:
1. Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 24:1-3, 4ab, 5-6
2. Romans 1:1-7
3. Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A nerdy second banana ogles a gorgeous girl in a bar and his buddies hoot in unison, "Dream on!" Dim-witted hooligans ditch class, but the triumphant assistant principal who catches them shouts, "Dream on!" A hapless ballplayer's fantasy of home-run glory withers before the pitcher's silent, sinister "Dream on!" mouthed just before a wicked curve almost takes the batter's head off.

"Dream on!" It's a staple of sarcastic put-downs, a cliche script writers for low-budget sitcoms reach for when creativity vanishes.

We use it to express scorn for someone with hopes too lofty, yearnings too grand. With the clear-eyed cynicism of the observer, we recognize how comically preposterous the dream is.

Listening to the Gospel story for the last Sunday of Advent, I wonder whether or not Joseph's friends might have greeted his explanations for the origins of Mary's child with the Aramaic equivalent of "Dream on!"

That, of course, is precisely what Joseph does. It is only by dreaming and taking that dream seriously that he comes to the insights that give him the courage to marry the woman he loves and embrace her child as his own, despite appearances most readily seen as proof of her infidelity.

To long for and believe in the dream of God's kingdom is what Advent is about. The challenge for Joseph remains for us. To dream of hardened hearts opening themselves to the healing risk of love; of the insatiable hunger for revenge which haunts our woundedness somehow satisfied by the bread of forgiveness; of lavish generosity that conquers self-serving meanness; of suffering made redemptive; of death's dark abyss becoming a path to eternal life and light: These are the kinds of dreams on which faith thrives.

Like Joseph, may we all "dream on!"

**QUESTIONS:**

*What gets in the way of your being able to believe in the dream of God's mercy? How can you make your dreams for the upcoming Christmas season better God's dream for us?*

**SCRIPTURE TO ILLUSTRATE:**

*"All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin shall be with child and give birth to a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel'" (Matthew 1:22-23).*

# Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Dec. 16 - 22**

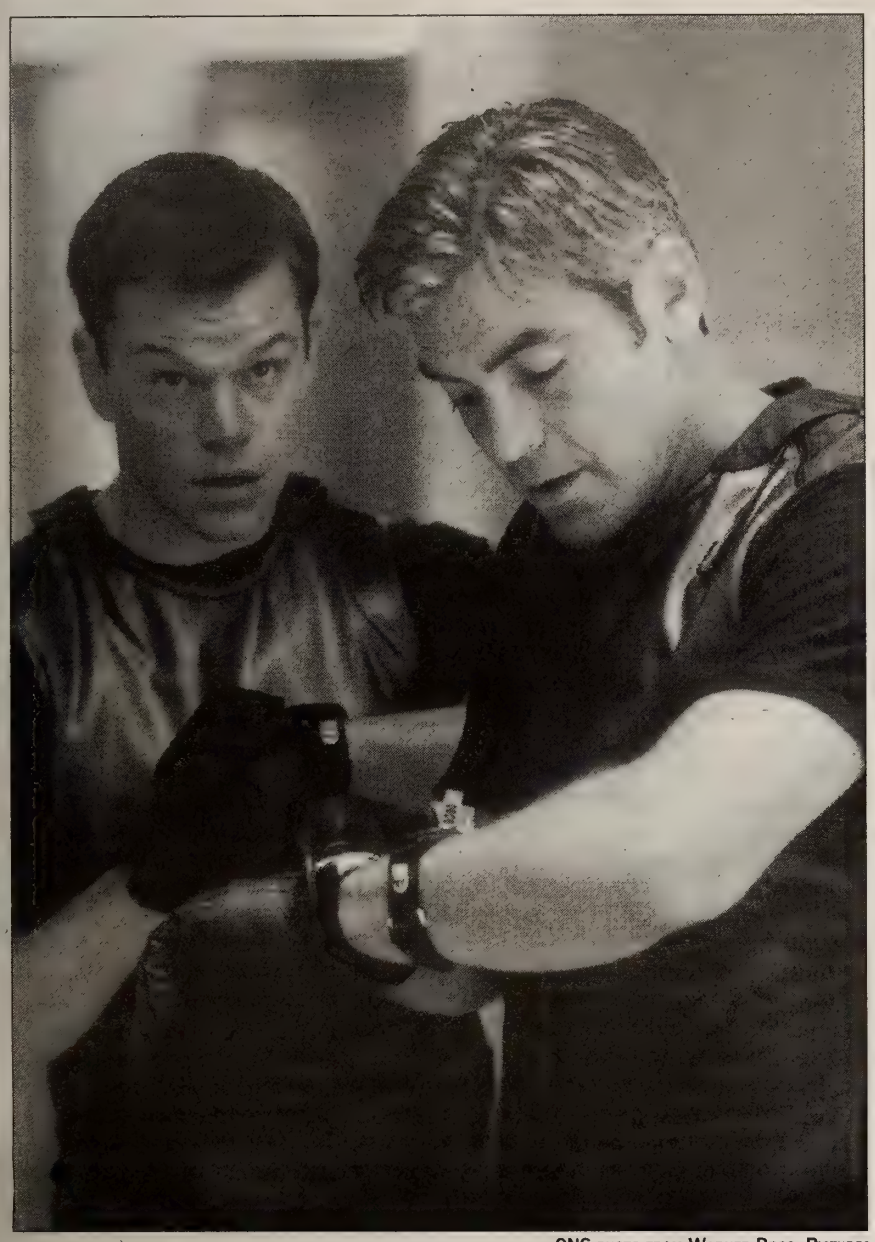
**Third Sunday of Advent,** Isaiah 35:1-6, 10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11; **Monday (Late Advent Weekday),** Genesis 49:2, 8-10, Matthew 1:1-17; **Tuesday (Late Advent Weekday),** Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-24; **Wednesday (Late Advent Weekday),** Judges 13:2-7, Luke 1:5-25; **Thursday (Late Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 7:10-14, Luke 1:26-38; **Friday (Late Advent Weekday),** Zephaniah 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-45; **Saturday (Late Advent Weekday),** 1 Samuel 1:24-28, Luke 1:46-56

**Scripture for the week of Dec. 23 - 29**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent,** Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24; **Monday (Late Advent Weekday),** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16, Luke 1:67-79; **Tuesday (The Nativity of the Lord),** Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18; **Wednesday (St. Stephen),** Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59, Matthew 10:17-22; **Thursday (St. John),** 1 John 1:1-4, John 20:2-8; **Friday (Holy Innocents),** 1 John 1:5—2:2, Matthew 2:13-18; **Saturday,** 1 John 2:3-11, Luke 2:22-35

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**Movie Review**



CNS PHOTO FROM WARNER BROS. PICTURES

**Scene from movie "Ocean Eleven"**

**Matt Damon and George Clooney star in the remake of "Ocean's Eleven." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

# 'Ocean's Eleven'

BY ANNE NAVARRO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — Being a thief has never looked so cool. Or slick, suave, smooth and stylish. Director Steven Soderbergh's breezy remake of "Ocean's Eleven" (Warner Bros.) combines a star-studded cast with a jaunty story that adds up to escapist entertainment.

However, like the original lightweight caper, "Ocean's Eleven" treats larceny as a lark. The film doesn't exactly present criminals with any ideas they could actually put into practice, but it does make thievery look easy and desirable.

So, how did Soderbergh and George Clooney convince the hefty cast to take salary cuts just to be in this film? The answer is that, although the audience may have fun watching it, the cast seemed to have a lot more fun making the film. And though these A-list stars can't be compared iconographically to the original film's cast of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., et al. (affectionately known as the Rat Pack), seeing them bounce off each other is diverting nonetheless.

The plot revolves around the preposterous notion that a group of thieves can rip off not one or two but three major Las Vegas casinos in one night, stealing more than $160 million from a highly secure vault 200 feet underground. No sooner has smooth-operator Danny Ocean (Clooney) been released from a four-year prison stint than he begins to round up his crew, each one a specialist in a certain area critical to the success of the job.

Trekking the country to gather his crew, Ocean first pulls in casino dealer and fellow ex-con Frank (Bernie Mac) from Atlantic City; then in Hollywood he recruits card sharp Rusty Ryan (Brad Pitt). From the Windy City he gets Linus Caldwell (Matt Damon), son of a legendary con man; in Florida (naturally) he locates an old retired hustler, Saul Bloom (Carl Reiner). And in Las Vegas he successfully pitches his plan to moneybags Rueben Tishkoff (Elliott Gould). Although he initially begs off, Rueben agrees once he realizes the casinos are all owned by Terry Benedict (a beautifully restrained Andy Garcia), who knocked Rueben off the hill as real estate king of Vegas.

Every scene is in some way related to the eventual execution of the robbery. But Soderbergh skips the usual suspense-building tricks of most heists in favor of showing off his good-looking, well-dressed cast, who seem relaxed and spontaneous. Veterans Gould and Reiner outshine their heartthrob counterparts in just about every scene.

About 45 minutes into the proceedings, "the girl" flounces across the screen: Julia Roberts is Tess, Ocean's ex-wife, and now girlfriend to Benedict. She doesn't have much to do except wear fabulous clothes and jewelry, look pretty in perfect lighting and be fought over by Ocean and Benedict.

In his small role as a cockney demolition expert and sporting a nearly flawless accent, Don Cheadle is at first unrecognizable. But his ear-to-ear grin gives him away and he is a treat to watch.

Clooney is the silky-smooth linchpin that holds everything together. He and Pitt have great exchanges — that is, when Pitt is not chowing down. (Food seems to have replaced cigarettes in the remake as Pitt's character chain-eats the way Dean Martin would chain-smoke.)

That the original "Ocean's Eleven" is so closely tied to its time (1960s) means that its central plot elements can be taken, and every other detail dumped to make way for updated elements. The remake is about posing and pretending — and getting away with something. It throws in some cheeky humor and sleights of hand to pull off the outlandish premise. And there's plenty of atmospheric detail, from gaming tables, cameo appearances (boxer Lennox Lewis, Eydie Gorme, Angie Dickinson, Steve Lawrence and Wayne Newton) as well as lavish night views of Las Vegas all lit up.

"Ocean's Eleven" depends upon the actors playing basically one-note characters to carry off the silly proceedings with style. And since it doesn't take itself too seriously, hardly expecting the audience to either, it manages to do just this.

Due to some fleeting sexual references, some profanity and a few instances of rough language, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

*Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*




**Capsules**

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

**"Final" (Lions Gate)**

Lethargic tale of a man (Denis Leary) who awakens in a psychiatric hospital and enlists the help of his stoic doctor (Hope Davis), as he is convinced he's been cryogenically preserved for 400 years but now is about to be terminated for his body parts. Director Campbell Scott's cerebral story, though well-acted, is undermined by its chilly tone and inexplicable plot holes. Bioethical issues and some profanity and rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

**"The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (New Line)**

Visually splendid adventure tale set in the mythical realm of Middle-earth where a humble Hobbit (Elijah Wood), assisted by eight faithful companions (including Ian McKellen), embarks on a perilous quest to destroy a ring which possess the ultimate source of dark power. Based on the first book of J.R.R. Tolkien's trilogy, director Peter Jackson's fantasy is true to the epic struggle of good versus evil and uses magnificent effects and location shots. Yet its myriad characters prove daunting and the narrative grows repetitive. Many scenes of battle violence with several frightening images. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

**"Texas Rangers" (Dimension)**

Terrible western about a bunch of ragtag soldiers (including James Van Der Beek and Ashton Kutcher) led by a former preacher (Dylan McDermott) who vow to protect the innocent by rounding up a renegade faction of ruthless outlaws. In between the many hangings, foolish dialogue and muddled machinations of the rambling plot, director Steve Miner feebly squeezes in the message that might does not make right. Much western violence, including gunplay and explosions, and brief profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Biblical passage of praise for God not redundant, says pope

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The litany of praise for God in the Book of Daniel has no worry about being repetitious, just as someone in love would not worry about declaring that love over and over again, Pope John Paul II said.

At his Dec. 12 audience, Pope John Paul discussed the litany or canticle sung by the three youths who were thrown into a furnace for refusing to worship a statue of the king.

"From the furnace, the three youths, miraculously saved from the flames, sing a hymn of blessing to God," he said.

"Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers. ... Blessed is your holy and glorious name. ... Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory," the youths sing.

While the verses are repetitive, each one is slightly different and new like incense smoke, "which moves through space in forms that are similar, but never the same," he said.

"The prayer does not fear repetition, just as one in love does not hesitate declaring all his affection to his beloved an infinite number of times," the pope said.

The insistence, he said, "is a sign of the intensity and multiple nuances of the feelings."

The youths' hymn recognizes that God dwells in heaven amid the angels, but "is nevertheless near to his people, who therefore feel protected and safe," the pope said.

The hymn's vision of all the creatures of heaven and earth praising and blessing God is a vision of God's kingdom, which was inaugurated with the death and resurrection of Christ and that will come to completion at the end of time, he said.

### Pope says true peace must include justice as well as forgiveness

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In his strongest statement since the Sept. 11 attacks, Pope John Paul II said countries had a right to defend themselves against international terrorists. But he said true peace could not be achieved without "justice and that form of love which is forgiveness." In a message for World Day of Peace, celebrated Jan. 1, the pope urged Jewish, Christian and Islamic religious leaders to condemn terrorism publicly in order to deny "terrorists any form of religious or moral legitimacy." He said the international community must fight terrorism by addressing underlying injustices like poverty, but he called the terrorists' claim to be acting on behalf of the poor "a patent falsehood." The 14-page text, "No Peace Without Justice, No Justice Without Forgiveness," was released at a Vatican press conference Dec. 11 and focused on the unstable world situation since Sept. 11. The message's theme, originally announced in June as a reflection on the role of forgiveness in peace, was changed after the attacks to add the element of justice.

### Dispel the Darkness — The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Getting up through the night, which I find I do more frequently as I get older, has made me appreciate how the night can blanket us in darkness. I have discovered that even a small night light can go a long way in preventing me from stumbling over my shoes or stubbing my toe. We live in an era when light is accessible and convenient. The mere flick of a switch can dispel the darkest night. It is only in my midnight stumblings that I appreciate what it must have been like for believers of another time who saw the nights lengthen and the daylight shrink as the year moved closer and closer to its end.

We know that they needed as much light as they could get. They would light large fires for cooking, warmth and as a directional signal to bring folks together. In their spiritual lives as well, this symbol of fire became important. It led to the progressive light of our Advent wreaths which helped them remember that the light of Christ was a promise of hope that would break through any darkness.

We could use some of that kind of light in our Advent this year. As the season draws to a close, we are reminded by Isaiah, the prophet, that this light shows up in unexpected places. The prophet reminds us that if the virgin can be with child as a sign of God's power (Is. 7:14), then God's power can shine in many of the topsy-turvy, unexpected realities of our lives as well.

In Matthew's gospel we read that God comes to Joseph in the darkness of his night dreams, in the darkness of his distress over the seemingly uncomfortable condition of his betrothal, and in the despair of his planning to divorce (Mt. 1:18-24). He brings his light in the promise of Emmanuel. Joseph's questions are not all answered, but there is now enough light to avoid stubbing his toe or stumbling over a confused heart.

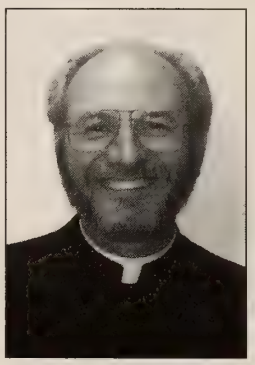
# Advent Reflection



Father FRANCIS T. CANCRO
Guest Columnist

There is enough light in these stories for me. They help me see and not stumble over the hurt that terrorism and insecurity have brought to my world these past few months. They also remind me that God's faithful light will guide, encourage and direct me if I dare to believe that this light is already here, already plugged in for me.

No more stumbling, no more fear. No more oppression by those doubly dark nights. Advent calls us to claim the light and live in its radiance. Care to join me for a walk in the brightness of these nights?



# Economy of Faith

Father JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

### Things Will Never Be the Same

After the September terrorist attack, commentators and analysts seized a vague proverb to describe the future: "Things will never be the same." Heightened airport security now introduces longer lines, random baggage checks and closer scrutiny of carry-on luggage. Letters delivered to government offices in Washington routinely get screened for anthrax spores. Foreign nationals suspected of ties to terrorism find their civil rights abridged with indefinite imprisonment or trial by military courts. In our desire for security, Americans appear ready to accept some change as inevitable.

If "things will never be the same," then we face some choices. One choice focuses on propping up the material lifestyle and consumption patterns we promote in America. In the short run public policy will require greater military defense, fewer civil liberties and more political independence in foreign affairs. But, another choice charts a different direction after some critical thinking examining how our affluent lifestyle affects the poor of the world and the vulnerability of creation.

Recently I purchased some jogging shoes. I asked the clerk for sneaks made in America, so we opened box after box of New Balance shoes. Curiously, size seven of model #636 was made in China but the same model in my size bore the label: "Made in USA of Imported Materials." Both sizes sold for the same price, $59.95. The clerk asked if I bought American to keep jobs in the U.S. I responded that global corporations move jobs for many reasons, and simply buying American does not guarantee retaining manufacturing jobs. My reason relates to the workers. In America we have the Office of Wage and Hour and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. In China factories may use forced or child labor and workers frequently make $2 a day in unhealthy working conditions.

An unfettered market promises the cheapest price but hides the social costs. "Things will never be the same" if we become socially conscious consumers asking some ethical questions and buying with a conscience.

On my back porch I have bags of pop cans and plastic jugs. Glass jars and bottles come in clear, green and brown. Every few weeks I haul the recyclables to a collection point in town. As I separate the plastic, glass and aluminum, I review my level of consumption and reaffirm my responsibility for the earth and the global society. Our economic system emphasizes comfort and convenience, yet our throw-away society ignores the effects of over consumption on creation. To produce a pop can from recycled aluminum requires only 5 percent of the energy needed to produce it from raw bauxite. "Things will never be the same" if we consume with a connection to the earth and the global society.

Henry David Thoreau preached, "Simplify, simplify, simplify!" My friends, Jan and David, avoid the rat race by living on a modest income and growing a large garden. For the winter they can over 60 quarts of tomatoes, 20 quarts of green beans and stock the freezer with broccoli, cabbage and a variety of fruits. Their lives have room for God, family and work. In contrast, the economic system encourages eating on the run, shopping for frivolous things and over scheduling activities. "Things will never be the same" if we slow down, become more relational with our families and nature, and enjoy the ordinary things of life. Ultimately our lives will have less clutter and our quality of life will flow in harmony with people throughout the world and all creation.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Funeral number 255

The funerals for New York City firefighters are still going on at this writing, so many that the city has asked the general public to attend them wherever possible. Department members and other official mourners were being spread too thin, the city explained, because there were too many funerals to go to.

And so New Yorkers packed St. Patrick's Cathedral on Nov. 8 for funeral number 255, just as they had been doing at other funerals since Sept. 11. This one, it turned out, was for Firefighter Durrell Pearsall, known to his friends and family as Bronk. It was a name that hung on from his childhood, when his mother gave it to him because he was such a big boy—big, she used to say, like Bronko Nagurski, the football player.

Bronk remained big, a man of outsize proportion who celebrated life in a big way as well. He loved Irish music, Notre Dame, the cousins who formed his family, and having a good time. He especially loved being a New York firefighter. But as Father James Kissane reminded the congregation, Bronk kept it all in focus: "Bronk was a man of hope. He used his humor and his love of life to express that hope. As we gather, even in sadness, it's that hope that we must never lose."

A cousin who gave one of the eulogies said Bronk's girlfriend, Karen Jelinek, had joined him at a family gathering in August. "We knew he was getting serious about marriage when he introduced us to Karen," the cousin said. "He had never done that before. His last words to us, when he left, were 'I love you guys.'"

There were two other stirring eulogies, both given by colleagues of Bronk in Rescue 4, one of the FDNY's elite units. Lt. Mike Myers noted that the recovery of Bronk's body two weeks earlier had given family and friends a measure of consolation. When he called for the city to make sure to "bring each of these guys home," he drew a standing ovation.

"I thank God for giving him back to us," said the other eulogist, Firefighter Liam Flaherty, who also served alongside Bronk in the Emerald Society Pipes and Drums. He was a lonely kilted figure as he stood in the cathedral sanctuary, but his eloquence was stunning. Recalling a day when eight of the FDNY brothers had been recovered from the rubble at Ground Zero, he told of seeing a woman alongside the West Side Highway, holding a sign that bore a single word. That word changed his entire focus, he said, opening his eyes to "the beauty of it all."

"I saw my brothers at their absolute best, when everything, everything was at its absolute worst...I saw brothers work tirelessly under the most brutal conditions waving off relief, digging with their hands while being bombarded with smoke and heat...I saw brothers put their family lives on indefinite hold so that they could tend to the needs of their missing brothers' families...I saw brothers don their kilts and Class A uniforms to pay homage to our fallen at hundreds of services, tirelessly driving countless miles to make sure that each brother was sent off with the dignity and respect he deserves."

The word he saw on the woman's sign that day, he said, was "Unbroken."

Then, speaking directly to firefighters in the congregation from near and far, he called out: "Hold your heads high, my brothers. I still thank God every day that I have the privilege to work alongside great men as you. You have done our deceased brothers proud. Remain unbroken!"

The applause was thunderous.

*Msgr. Jim Lisante is the director of the Christophers*

# The Bottom Line



ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMIST

### Religious war: Contradiction in terms

This Christmas season I felt a sad sense of deja vu watching the news about the continued threat of a "holy war."

I recalled the days before Christmas 1979 when Americans were held hostage in Iran, and anger in the United States understandably ran high. Talk then focused on a world divided according to religious beliefs: Muslims vs. Christians. Some saw the Iranian action as evidence of the start of the great Islamic revolution, with the millions of "them" against the millions of "us."

Commentators were saying we could be involved for the first time in centuries in a "religious war." An editorial Nov. 24, 1979, in Newsday, Long Island's daily paper, pointed out that the Ayatollah Khomeini, then Iran's leader, said the struggle was not between Iran and America but "between Islam and the infidel."

The editorial brought out some disturbing incidents. That week, in Saudi Arabia, an unknown number of armed Muslims had seized hostages at the Great Mosque in Mecca and fought a series of gun battles with Saudi troops. "In Iran," the editorial noted, "Khomeini immediately blamed 'U.S. imperialists' and 'Zionists' for this assault on the holiest place of the Islamic faith." Soon the American embassy in Islamabad was attacked and burned.

The same theme resounded in December 1990 when Saddam Hussein was reported to say he would consider it a "holy war" if hostilities broke out between Iraq and the United States. A month later, the war to protect our oil interests in the Middle East began, and while the Gulf War ended, did hate end or peace ever come?

Clearly not. Now we have an expanded definition of "holy war," as defined by Osama bin Laden, and we responded by declaring our own war. As Advent began, the talk on the network news was that this man, who hates us so, may have the ingredients for a nuclear bomb.

All this as we were preparing to celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace.

We should listen to great peacemakers of the past, such as Pope Benedict XV, who was written off as he tried so hard to get the nations killing millions in World War I to stop. Seeing "revenge, greed and stupidity" in the infamous Versailles Treaty, the pope, in anguish, said prophetically, "Nations do not die; in humiliation and revenge, they pass from generation to generation the sorrowful heritage of hatred and retaliation."

The World War I treaty was directly responsible for World War II. What actions taken by countries in today's nuclear age will shape the world of tomorrow? As Pastor Martin Niemoeller, a prisoner of the Nazis, pointed out years ago, if Hitler had the atom bomb, he would have used it, saying: "If I am not to survive with my ideas, the whole world is no longer worthy to exist. If I am to go, they may all go." Wouldn't this apply today to the enemies we call terrorists if they got their hands on nuclear weapons?

I pray that Christians and Muslims alike will come to realize that a "religious" war is not only a contradiction in terms, but a mockery of God, and that war in a nuclear age can be the end of civilization. The world needs peace — and peacemakers.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Celiac disease

*Q. In some ways I feel sad that so much attention is given to the form of Communion bread, which you discussed recently. As a celiac sufferer who can eat nothing made of wheat, I would be grateful just for Communion.*

*It is good to read in your column about the greater awareness of celiac disease. After years of living in a vacuum, we are finally diagnosed. A friend asked her pastor if she could receive only from the cup. He answered, "We will not serve wine in this parish." Do you have any more suggestions? (California)*

A. For those readers who are not familiar with the sickness, celiac, or celiac sprue, disease is a malabsorption condition in which the small intestine cannot absorb food nutrients in the presence of gluten. People with this illness cannot tolerate wheat, rye, barley or oats. They are not affected by other flours like potato, corn or rice. Sometimes even a small amount of wheat may excite the allergic reaction, causing severe illness, even death. Complete elimination of these grains from the diet, however, usually allows those with this syndrome to live normal, healthy and full lives.

Alleviation of certain other afflictions, autism for one, now is believed to be related to the exclusion or control of gluten in the diet.

As one who is blessedly spared this ailment, I had no idea how many suffer from it, well over 100,000. The many Catholics among them share the same dilemma and disappointment you have concerning the Eucharist. For them it is a major concern since Communion bread must be made of wheat flour for valid eucharistic celebration.

I have several times suggested the most obvious alternative, receive Communion only under the form of wine. Many with the celiac problem take advantage of that possibility.

Unlike the priest your friend encountered, most parish priests cooperate with this need in every possible way, sometimes providing small cups exclusively for the use of the celiac patient.

Even the minute contact with the wheat particle the priest places in the chalice before Communion can make the wine dangerous for people with this allergy.

Wine is no universal solution, however. As you apparently have discovered, for some with the allergy only wine fermented with particular yeasts or in particular regions is safe.

In 1995, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, again reaffirmed to the American bishops that bread from which all gluten is removed is not valid for the Eucharist. Manufacturers of Communion hosts in the United States and Europe whom I have consulted have tried unsuccessfully to formulate a wheat bread with no gluten.

I am grateful to you and the many other readers who related their experiences, diet suggestions, frustrations and hopes. One thing all agree on: They feel there should be some way they, or their children, could receive Communion without endangering their health or their lives.

I wish I could provide a solution for you and your son, but I cannot. Perhaps in the future there will be an answer. Some have been able to work out a manageable lifestyle for everyone involved. For others it is a heavy burden with seemingly no present answer.

Fortunately, good resources are available for celiac patients and their families, particularly through the Celiac Sprue Association (Omaha, NE 68131-0700). Their Web site, www.csaceliacs.org, also is loaded with helpful background and practical information.

# Our Lady of Guadalupe presented at the Franciscan Center

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — Our Lady of Guadalupe's image came to the Franciscan Center on Dec. 10. This is an official image, which the Mexican people gave to the people of the United States. It has been traveling around the 50 states through the efforts of "guardians," or protectors who are on their own journey of faith.

Joan Kahwajy Anderson, director of counseling services at Aucrett University in Danville, Va., brought the image to the center. She is the temporary guardian of one of only two images of Our Lady of Guadalupe commissioned by Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo and the bishops and the people of Mexico. Anderson gave a presentation on Our Lady of Guadalupe at the center on Dec. 10.

In the early 1500s, the highly advanced Aztec culture flourished throughout Mexico. The Aztecs worshipped a number of gods, including Quetzalcoatl, the plumed serpent, and practiced human sacrifice. After Hernando Cortez and his conquistadors conquered the Aztecs in 1519, the Spaniards enslaved the Indians, and the threat of uprisings became imminent. Bishop-elect Fray Juan de Zumarraga prayed for reconciliation and unity.

In 1531, a native convert, Juan Diego, was on his way to Mass when he meets a beautiful woman surrounded by light near Tepayac Hill. Identifying herself as the "ever-virgin Mary, mother of the true God," she sends Juan on a mission to have the bishop build her a church. But the bishop abruptly puts him off.

On the way home, Juan sees the lady once again and asks that she send someone else. The virgin tells him, "You are the one," and again sends him to the bishop. The bishop, of course, is put out and again sends Juan Diego on his way, but this time, he tells him to ask the lady for a sign.



Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**The official image of Our Lady of Guadalupe commissioned by Cardinal Posada and the Bishops and the People of Mexico which was given to the People of the United States.**

Juan Diego's uncle, wounded by an arrow, is near death. Juan spends the night with his uncle (without returning to the lady as he had promised). However, needing a priest for his dying uncle, he is forced to pass by Tepayac Hill. He finds the lady waiting for him. She promises to heal the uncle and tells Juan to go to the top of the hill to pick some flowers to bring to the bishop.

It is December at 7,000 feet above sea level, and Juan has not previously seen any flowers on the barren hilltop. However, in obedience, he follows the lady's instruction. After Juan picks the Castillian roses, which are native to Spain not Mexico, he takes them to Mary, who ties them into Juan's tilma, a poncho-like cape made of cactus fiber, and sends him back to the bishop.

On Dec. 12, 1531, Juan Diego brings Bishop Zumarraga the sign he had asked for. When Juan presents the roses, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, just as Juan had described her, is on the inside of his tilma. The church is constructed and nine million Indians are converted in the next 10 years.

The image itself is a book written in pictography understandable to the people of the 16th century, as well as the people of the 21st century.

The image of the Lady of Guadalupe is surrounded by rays of the sun, which indicate that she is more powerful than the gods of the earth. Yet, her head is bowed in humility, showing that she is not greater than God. Our Lady of Guadalupe is standing on a burned-out crescent moon (the crescent moon was the symbol of Quetzalcoatl), which meant that she was more powerful than the serpent god.

Our Lady has a sash around her waist. To the Aztecs, a sash was a sign that a woman was pregnant. Therefore, the lady is a reminder of the coming of the Christ child. The Aztecs also saw her hands clasped in prayer as a sign that she was clapping in joy for her child, especially since her knee is bent as if she were dancing. Our Lady of Guadalupe appears as a mestizo (half-Spanish, half-Indian) princess. As a result, she has made it known that she is the mother of all peoples.

"This is really special for me," Irma Olmos said of the presentation. "Everything that I see and that which I heard makes Our Lady of Guadalupe come to life."

"I was delighted I came," Amy DeBruycker said. "It was a very meaningful presentation which led me to become more humble. It forces me to look to the poor and inspires me to want to do as much as I can to help the poor wherever I can."

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

# Pope opens Web site dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II marked the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe by formally opening a 21st-century portal to the story of the 16th-century Marian apparition in Mexico.

Because of a displaced cursor it took two attempts, but the pope formally launched the official Web site of Mexico's Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe — www.virgendeguadalupe.org.mx — at the end of his Dec. 12 general audience.

To the strains of choral music, an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared on the screen of his laptop computer.

Before launching the site, the pope said that Mary, appearing to Juan Diego, asked that a place be built that would "make present the love of Christ in those lands. From that temple, she as a heavenly mother has assisted, consoled and strengthened in the faith millions of pilgrims who have invoked her over the centuries."

The pope said the new site can help the message of Guadalupe travel further than ever, "helping those who are searching for meaning in their lives and reasons for hope."

The pope prayed that the site would help even more people, "especially the poorest and most marginalized," experience the comforting protection of Mary's love and that "the spread of the mestizo image of Guadalupe would spur brotherhood between races, increase dialogue between cultures and promote peace."

The Spanish-language Web site includes the story of the apparition, a link for sending prayer requests to the basilica, testimonies, chat rooms and the possibility of watching a monthly Mass at the basilica.


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**Teachers:** Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, located in Fairburn, Georgia, is seeking teachers in all disciplines for the 2002-2003 school year. Mercy offers an excellent teaching environment and well as competitive salary and benefits. Interested individuals should send resume and cover letter to: John Cobis, Our Lady of Mercy High School, 861 Highway 279, Fairburn, GA 30213.

## Investiture in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem took place in Washington, D.C. on November 3, 2001.

William Cardinal Keeler of Baltimore invested nine members of the Diocese of Charlotte in the order during a pontifical High Mass at the Franciscan monastery of the holy land.

Cardinal McCarrick of Washington and retired Cardinal Hickey were in attendance. Sir Edmund D. Pellegrino, M.D. KCHS serves as Lieutenant of the middle Atlantic Lieutenancy.

Bishop William G. Curlin delivered an inspiring and challenging homily during the mass of the investitute.

Invested were Lady Alice Asbury Cella of Asheville, Sir Charles A. Greene and Lady Christine J. Greene of High Point, Sir Carrol J. W. Fisher, Lady Sonia T. Fisher, Sir Thomas B. Moore, Lady Patricia P. Moore, Lady Mary Francis Roueche and Lady Charlotte Taylor all of Salisbury.

The primary mission of the order is to support the Christian presence in the holy land. Sir William E. Rabil and Lady Rosale D. Rabil served as regional representatives in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Others from the Diocese of Charlotte in attendance were Sir Guillermo and Lady Helen Calles of Fairmont, Sir James and Lady Rose Bell formerly of Asheville, Sir Francis and Lady Harriet Manly of Asheville, Lady Wilhelmina Mobley of Winston-Salem, Sir Cleatus Tate of Asheville, The Reverend John T. Putman, KHS of Salisbury and the Reverend Monsignor John J. McSweeney, KCHS of Charlotte.

Currently in the Diocese of Charlotte there are seven members of the clergy and forty-three members of the laity in the order.

# Mutilated African war victims helped by Baltimore Catholic school

By GEORGE P. MATYSEK JR.
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Fatu Koroma was only 7 years old when a band of rebels stormed her village in Sierra Leone, grabbed her and hacked off half her right arm with one cruel swipe of a machete.

After mutilating the defenseless girl, the rebels pointed to her amputated limb and mocked her.

"They told me to take my arm to the president," Fatu, now 11, recalled. "The president was saying how important it was to vote. They're bad people. They're real bad people."

But for every bad person there is in the world, there are many more good people, Fatu said.

She should know.

With the help of $3,000 in pennies collected by the students of Sts. James and John Elementary School in East Baltimore, Fatu was able to fly from her West African home to New York, where she and seven other maimed individuals from Sierra Leone received prosthetic limbs last September from Dr. Matthew Mirones, president of a prosthetics manufacturing company in New York.

Fatu and two other beneficiaries, Mohamed Conteh, 5, and Damba Koroma, 9, visited Sts. James and John Nov. 27 to thank the students for their generosity. The East Baltimore school is in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Maryland.

"We appreciate what you have done and we want you to know we love you," said Damba, whose left arm was cut off during one of the rebel attacks. "May God bless you."

During the visit, Mohamed was all smiles as the bashful little boy bounded through the aisles of students with the help of his artificial leg. Two years ago when rebels severed his limb below the knee, they had threatened to take his hand as well.

"I begged them not to," whispered Mohamed during an interview with The Catholic Review, Baltimore's archdiocesan newspaper. "They cut off my leg and left me alone."



CNS PHOTO BY OWEN SWEENEY III, CATHOLIC REVIEW

**Teacher Mary Ellen Long comforts Damba Koroma, who lost her arm during the war in Sierra Leone four years ago. Damba and several of her countrymen recently traveled to East Baltimore to thank students of St. James and John School for bringing them to the United States for prosthetic limbs and medical treatment. Students at the school raised more than $3,000 for the war victims.**

These days, Mohamed has dreams of becoming a doctor. Damba wants to be a minister, and Fatu wants to help the people of her homeland. All three now attend Our Lady Help of Christians School in New York.

Etta Toure, project coordinator for the nonprofit Friends of Sierra Leone, told the Sts. James and John students they have been an inspiration. "We prayed hard to get help from the U.S. and you were the first to give us money," Toure said.

Friends of Sierra Leone estimates that 75,000 unarmed civilians have been killed and 20,000 mutilated during Sierra Leone's 11-year-old civil war.

Daphne Sawyerr-Dunn of Friends of Sierra Leone, said the presence of British troops has helped bring an end to most violence in recent months. But there remains a struggle for control of the country's diamonds, she said.

The penny project at Sts. James and John was started three years ago as a Lenten outreach by Mary Ellen Long, a teacher and former member of the Peace Corps. Last year, several students from the school attended a congressional committee hearing in Washington the civil war in Sierra Leone.

The school was awarded a $500 prize from the Maryland Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals in November in honor of its outreach to war victims. The award was added to the penny campaign.

"It's helped our students see that there's a bigger world than East Baltimore," said LaUanah King-Cassell, principal of the 350-student school that serves pre-kindergarten through fifth grades. "It's amazing. With pennies, they were able to help someone thousands of miles away."

*Editor's Note: For more information on Friends of Sierra Leone, write to the organization at P.O. Box 15875, Washington, DC 20003-0875.*


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# Deacon finds his way home after years in Maryland

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — When Rev. Mr. Charles Knight thinks of role models in his life, his maternal grandfather immediately comes to mind. The duo traveled together around their uptown Charlotte neighborhood. Trips to his grandfather's job and to the Baptist church where his grandfather was a deacon were the highlights of his days as a carefree youth in the 1930s and 1940s in a growing city.

"I had the benefit of having a grandfather who helped to raise and take care of me. He made sure we went to church and Sunday school," said Rev. Mr. Knight, who was also surrounded by the positive influences of his mother and grandmother.

During the Depression and World War II, Knight walked to school where the Charlotte Panthers' Stadium stands today. He remembers soapbox derbies, sitting in church dressed in his Sunday best, and war blackouts and sirens. Rev. Mr. Knight said that patriotism spread throughout his community, and he served as a junior commander during the latter part of the war. He collected materials to be recycled to build tanks, planes and other war vehicles.

Aspiring to be an industrial arts teacher, he attended North Carolina State A&T University (NC A&T) in Greensboro for one semester after graduating from West Charlotte High School in 1951. College was expensive for his grandfather, and Knight felt that it caused a family hardship. With GI Bill education funding as his incentive, Knight joined the Navy.

After two-and-a-half years, he was discharged and went back to NC A&T briefly before transferring to Carver Junior College in Charlotte. During this time, a bus trip to a Sunday parade provided the opportunity for him to meet his sweetheart. Lavone was also on the bus.

"He was very attentive, and we both hit it off because we wanted the same things," she said of their first meeting.

They found they had much in common: raised in single-parent homes, reared in the Baptist faith and graduated from the same high school. During their first conversations, they agreed that marriage was not on their immediate horizon, but within a few months, they were engaged; they wed in June 1954. "My family adored him, and so did I," said Mrs. Knight with a smile.



Rev. Mr. Charles Knight and family

Their new life together was not easy, but they walked their chosen path happily hand-in-hand. Knight worked as a custodian while he attended classes. "I worked a nine-hour job and went to three hours of night school at Carver Junior College," said Knight. "There were rough times, but we were happy. Living unselfishly kept us together." After completing the program at Carver, he attended Johnson C. Smith University during the day while working in the afternoon and at night.

While he was working on his bachelor's degree in economics, Mrs. Knight, a licensed practical nurse, stayed at home with their three children. With his degree in hand, Knight began working at the post office as a mail carrier. Even with his college education, his job options were limited.

"It was one of the better jobs you could get," said Rev. Mr. Knight, who worked for the post office for 31 years. "Integration was not in effect much back then. At that time, we had some of the best-educated postmen anywhere. We had guys with master's degrees working there because of the better pay and fewer opportunities at other places."

The Knights, practicing Baptists at the time, lived down the street from Our Lady of Consolation Church (OLC) and knew the pastor and some of the parishioners. The religion was not foreign to Knight, who had served in the Navy with some Catholic men and had a Catholic friend as a child. After speaking with the pastor of the only predominantly African-American Catholic Church in Charlotte, his interest in the faith tradition grew.

"Catholicism made a lot of sense to me especially when it came down to the sacraments. Catholic doctrine was very convincing to me," said Rev. Mr. Knight, who joined the Catholic Church in 1962. "Lavone supported my decision to become Catholic, and she converted in 1963."

The two settled into parish life quickly, but the transition to Catholicism did not progress as rapidly. "The church had just changed from Latin to English, and there were a lot of things that we had to become accustomed to in a Catholic setting. There was quite a bit of adjustment," he said with a laugh.

However, because of Vatican II, they became very active in church. "The church began to change, grow and become more spiritually interesting," he said. "We were able to fully understand the doctrines and traditions of the Catholic Church."

Knight became a lector and faith formation teacher; his wife taught kindergarten while her daughter was attending the OLC School. When he heard about the permanent diaconate, he knew that he was interested.

"I thought that it was the calling for me," he said. "I was doing a lot in the church already and felt that spiritually, it would be an extension of my work."

With his wife's continuing support, he began the formation classes and fell back into the classroom pace. "I could relate to them (the classes) because of my experiences at Johnson C. Smith," Rev. Mr. Knight said. "They were great because the wife and husband had the opportunity to attend the same classes, so it made it easier for the wives to relate to the diaconate and what was expected of them."

"The classes were educational and gave the two of us time to meditate together and to intermingle with the rest of the group," Mrs. Knight said.

After ordination in 1983, Rev. Mr. Knight became involved in other areas of the church: Cursillo, parish and finance councils, eucharistic ministry to the sick and shut-in and other ministries. At the same time, his wife had gone to Baltimore to visit the Oblate Sisters who had staffed the OLC School. There was an opening for a kindergarten teacher in the Maryland school. She agreed to fill the position for one year; that year turned into 18 years.

"At the time, I knew he needed to be more involved with the permanent diaconate, so we tried it for a while. I told him that I needed to know if I could function on my own," said Mrs. Knight who later began teaching in a public school in Baltimore. "It didn't last because we missed each other too much."

"It was a growing experience because I found that she needed space, and (I realized) when you saw one (of us), you didn't need to see the other one," Rev. Mr. Knight said. "We realized that even though we were apart, we grew closer spiritually. We realized the extent of our marriage and our value to one another."

However, daily phone calls were not enough to bridge the gap between the Knights. Before retiring from the post office in 1989, Rev. Mr. Knight commuted from Charlotte to Baltimore for seven years to see his wife and daughter, who had also moved to Maryland. He moved to Baltimore and began working at Loyola College of Maryland in maintenance and printing and served at St. Bernardine's Church.

Their time in Maryland was fulfilling for them both, but Mrs. Knight's long-ago promise to her husband to retire to farm life in Chester, S.C., came to reality last summer. "We purchased a little piece of land that we hope to develop into a farm someday," said Mr. Knight with a chuckle about their 50 acres of property.

Rev. Mr. Knight has returned to the parish where he first began his diaconate work. The grandparents of five say that the parishioners have welcomed them back warmly, and they are adjusting very well.

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

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## — *a* —
# CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas brings to mind memories of childhood. The recent death of my eighth-grade teacher in Washington, D.C., Sister Claire, a member of the School Sisters of St. Joseph, was such an occasion of remembrance. During the funeral homily, I shared with her religious family the time when Sister Claire asked students to help her with the Christmas decorations in the parish church and convent. While we were decorating the Christmas tree in the convent, a young nun stopped to admire our work and to offer us cookies and ginger ale. After again complementing our work, the sister went down the hall to the convent chapel. When Sister Claire returned to inspect our work, she asked who gave us the refreshments. When we told her the sister's name, she remarked: "Children, pray for sister; she buried her mother this morning." I quietly went down the hall to look into the chapel. There was the young sister kneeling in prayer before the altar. I watched her a few minutes before returning to my assigned work. I knew that if I had buried my mother that morning, I would not have bothered to offer refreshments to some kids. I have often reflected whether that young nun's putting aside her personal sorrow to show kindness to young children may have contributed to my vocation to the priesthood.

You and I are preparing to celebrate the Saviour's birth. Scripture records that "Jesus emptied Himself and became like us in all things but sin." Christmas calls us to empty ourselves in bringing God's love to others. Our world is in great need of His love. The tragic events of September 11th have filled many hearts with grief. Violence is now worldwide! What can you and I do to bring the message of "peace on earth and good will" to a world in need of these gifts from heaven?

There are many lonely people in the world — within homes and communities. There are elderly parents and neighbors who need assistance. Some people in nursing homes and hospitals seldom have visitors. Can we help single parents struggling to raise their children? Jesus calls us to see and serve Him in the poor. Hunger and poverty exist in every nation. I prayerfully recommend that you and I search for those in our midst who need God's love. We do well to follow the example of that young nun who touched young hearts years ago. She taught us to "empty our hearts" in helping others as did Jesus on that first Christmas.

William G. Curlin

*Bishop William G. Curlin*

### Fordham establishes institute on humanitarian affairs

NEW YORK (CNS) — Fordham University in New York has announced the establishment of an Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs to train people who work in crisis negotiation, human rights and health and human service issues. The institute is a joint effort of Fordham and the Center for International Health and Cooperation, the university announcement said. It noted that Jesuit Father Joseph A. O'Hare, Fordham president, officially announced formation of the institute at a press conference Dec. 5. He called it an effort to "prepare young men and women who are interested in humanitarian initiatives."

### German bishop again hosts 'Christmas for atheists' liturgy

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A German bishop again will host a "Christmas for atheists" in response to renewed interest among nonbelievers. "Christmas is a very special night, and people are open to its atmosphere," said Bishop Joachim Wanke of Erfurt. "They're also keen to visit the cathedral, and this is an important sign of hope for us." The bishop said the service, begun in 1988 during the final year of communist rule, has attracted a growing number of people to the Christmas Eve service in the Erfurt cathedral.

### Irish bishops welcome proposed referendum on abortion

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Irish bishops said a proposed constitutional referendum on abortion was "a significant improvement on the current unsatisfactory situation." The bishops said in a statement released Dec. 12 that Ireland's current abortion law is "profoundly flawed." Under a 1992 Irish Supreme Court ruling, abortion is allowed in Ireland in certain rare circumstances, such as if the woman is threatening suicide. "It is for this reason that we have called on many occasions for a new referendum, which would effectively overturn this judgment and restore adequate protection for the unborn," the bishops said.



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

**Palestinian carves Nativity statues**

**Jacque Giacaman, a Catholic Palestinian, carves olive-wood statues in his factory in Bethlehem. Giacaman said the factory operates only one or two days a week because tourism has declined so much in the city due to violence between Israelis and Palestinians.**

### German women defy court order seeking name of mother who gave up baby

COLOGNE, Germany (CNS) — Members of a German Catholic women's group have refused a court order to name the mother who abandoned a baby into the group's care. Group members said they would rather go to prison than betray the mother's confidence. Members of the Woman's Catholic Social Service program came under investigation after the Cologne prosecutor learned that the mother of a child under the program's care had been visiting the child secretly. Under German law, the mother should have registered the child's birth and was legally responsible, along with the father, to support the child financially. The social service program was legally obligated to provide the mother's identity to investigators.

### Catholic-Lutheran dialogue studies ministry, communion

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic-Lutheran dialogue began developing a joint statement on "The Church As Koinonia: Its Structures and Ministries" at a meeting in Baltimore Dec. 6-9. The dialogue, currently in its 10th round, is co-sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Baltimore meeting was the seventh in the current round, devoted to studying how the roles of ordained ministries and the structures of church unity in the Catholic and Lutheran communions relate to the way they understand and practice koinonia. During the session, participants reviewed papers written as first drafts of the different sections of a planned joint statement, analyzed the wording and discussed ways of refining the papers and organizing them into the final statement.

### Black Catholics urged to celebrate Kwanzaa for Life

NEW YORK (CNS) — The National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life is urging black Catholics to celebrate Kwanzaa for Life Dec. 26-Jan.1 and to put respect for life at the center of their celebration. "Kwanzaa for Life is an opportunity for black Catholics to celebrate their rich African-American heritage (and) pray that the culture of death will be replaced by a culture of life and love for one another," said Franciscan Father James E. Goode, president of the New York-based apostolate. Kwanzaa is a nonreligious celebration of African-American history and culture, focusing on community and family. The seven-day festival, first celebrated in 1966, begins Dec. 26 and ends Jan. 1.

### U.S. mission parishes have simple Christmas wishes

CHICAGO (CNS) — Basic liturgical items, vestments, textbooks and other such "luxuries" are on the Christmas wish lists of the poorest Catholic parishes in mission dioceses in the United States and its territories. Chicago-based Catholic Extension, the largest funder of missionary work in America, solicited Christmas requests from those serving in the parishes. "We take for granted that American parishes have basic necessities," Richard Ritter, vice president of Catholic Extension, said in a statement. "We're counting on our Catholic friends to help their poorer brothers and sisters in Christ."

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**Dec. 31 — New Year's Eve**
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**January 1 — New Year's Day**
11 a.m. Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**January 6 — Feast of the Epiphany**
6 p.m. priests' holiday reception
Charlotte

**January 7-11**
Region IV bishops' retreat
Florida

**January 22 — 10 a.m.**
Celebrant at March for Life Mass
Washington, D.C.

## Diocesan planner

**December**

**31** MAGGIE VALLEY — All are invited to attend Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, to "welcome the New Year." The Augustinian Friars will share in an evening of recollection, silence, community and prayer beginning with a New Year's Eve supper at 7:30 p.m. followed by a conference, faith sharing and midnight Mass. The evening will conclude with a social at the Augustinian Friary, and the retreat will end with brunch on New Year's Day. For registration and other information, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

**January**

**3** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Ladies' Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

**8** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Arthritis Support and Education Group will meet this morning from 10-11 a.m. in Room D of the parish ministry center located at 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**9** CHARLOTTE — All are invited to learn more about how death impacts children at a session entitled "Children and Grief" at the St. Gabriel Church ministry center, 3016 Providence Rd., from 7-8:30 p.m. Totty Lee from Hospice of Charlotte will talk about how children understand death at different ages and how families can work together to heal after a loss. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

**9** CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will be having a meeting with a luncheon and

### Christmas should give rise to solidarity, peace, pope tells musicians

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II told Cranberries' lead singer Dolores O'Riordan, pop singer Terence Trent D'Arby and classical crooner Russell Watson that he hoped their Christmas carols would bring joy, serenity and peace to their listeners. The pope met the three artists and the rest of the international cast of the 2001 "Christmas Concert in the Vatican" Dec. 14, the day before the concert was to be taped with an audience of 7,000 people in the Vatican audience hall. "Christmas is the joyful remembering of something which happened in the course of a night some 2,000 years ago and which continues to move and to awe believers," he said.

### Kansas diocese dedicates first U.S. cathedral of new millennium

DODGE CITY, Kan. (CNS) — More than 1,500 people joined in ceremonies Dec. 9 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Diocese of Dodge City and the dedication of the first cathedral constructed in the United States in the new millennium. The new Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City will serve the largely rural diocese that occupies the southwest quarter of Kansas. Nearly two dozen bishops — including Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States, and Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles — attended the dedication. "A special time and a special place: that's what this day is all about," Bishop Ronald M. Gilmore of Dodge City told those gathered. "But isn't our God the Lord of all the times and all the places? Doesn't our God fill every last created thing? He is, indeed, such a Lord. There is no place he is not."

### Discounted World Youth Day registration available until Jan. 18

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The deadline for receiving a 5 percent discount for early World Youth Day registration has been extended until Jan. 18. To receive the discount, payment of $172 for the full package with meals must be sent to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, postmarked no later than Jan. 18. After that date, the price will be $180. Participants in the July 23-28 World Youth Day events in Toronto also may choose a full package with no meals or weekend-only (July 27-28) plans with or without meals. Further information is available at the USCCB Web site at www.wydusa.org.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**U.S. Marine decorates tree in camp in Afghanistan**
**Staff Sgt. Dan Hottle of Kansas City, Mo., brings a bit of holiday spirit to a warehouse taken over by U.S. Marines at Camp Rhino in Afghanistan Dec. 13. He discovered the Christmas tree in a shipment of ready-to-eat meals for the troops.**

### Cardinal Maida visits Detroit mosque on day of peace

DETROIT (CNS) — Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit addressed worshippers at a Detroit-area mosque Dec. 14, the last Friday of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and a day named by Pope John Paul II for Catholics worldwide to fast and pray for peace. "The Catholic Church throughout the world unites itself in solidarity with Muslim believers everywhere in special prayer, fasting and almsgiving for world peace and for the healing of all who suffer the effects of war and terrorism," Cardinal Maida said in a prepared statement he delivered at the Islamic Center of America, the oldest mosque in the Detroit area. Before the midday service, Cardinal Maida met with Imam Hassam Al-Qazwini, leader of the center. The two leaders entered the overflowing mosque side by side, The Associated Press reported.

### Covington, Ky., bishop named to head Diocese of Baton Rouge, La.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has appointed Bishop Robert W. Muench of Covington, Ky., as bishop of Baton Rouge, La. The appointment was announced in Washington Dec. 15 by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop Muench, who turns 59 on Dec. 28, succeeds Bishop Alfred C. Hughes, who was appointed coadjutor archbishop of New Orleans in February. Bishop Muench has been head of the Covington Diocese since 1996. Before that he was an auxiliary bishop of New Orleans, having been appointed in May 1990.

### Family retreats seen as one way to increase vocations

WASHINGTON (CNS) — To get more young people to think about vocations, churches should offer family retreats, and priests and religious should talk more about their own vocations, according to participants attending regional meetings about vocations being held across the United States and Canada. The meetings, focusing on promoting vocations in North America, are preparing for the Third Continental Congress on Vocations to be held April 18-21 in Montreal. At meetings in St. Louis and Arlington, Va., participants cited several obstacles to pursuing vocations that included a lack of joy evident among priests and religious, a misconception of the lifestyle, not enough information about what vocations require and a lack of visibility of priests and religious in today's society.

### Catholics protest plans for Paris airport on site of WWI cemetery

PARIS (CNS) — French and British Catholics are protesting plans for a third Paris airport on the site of a mass World War I military cemetery. "Several locations have been considered over the past decade, and we're still not sure this is the right one," said Genevieve Pasquet, a spokeswoman for the French bishops' conference. "It would be the first time war graves were moved, and (the airport) isn't a good enough reason for doing so," she said as public inquiries continued over the planned airport at Chaulnes, 75 miles north of Paris. Among other reactions, a petition by lay Catholics in the Amiens Diocese protested the project, urging citizens to "refuse a modernity premised on business interests."

program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center. The Amity Line Dancers will provide the entertainment. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. Next month's meeting will take place on the usual 1st Wednesday date of Feb. 6. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**9** CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Bobbe Conlin at (704) 643-1376 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

**12** CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo community will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight and every second Saturday of the month for a school of leaders at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For further information, call Ky Do at (704) 532-9094.

**13** CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon with a prayer service with teams at 3 p.m., Mass at 3:30 p.m., a healing service in front of the Blessed Sacrament at 4:30 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Father Swamy from St. Ann Church will be the celebrant. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

### Ongoing

ASHEVILLE — The hours for the Nazareth House Family Ministry and Lending Library, 474 Haywood Rd., are as follows: Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m., Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Nazareth House is a family ministry dedicated to promoting the blessings of Christian marriage, chastity, natural family planning and post-abortion healing. For further details, call (828) 250-9690 or e-mail nazarethhouse@juno.com.

CHARLOTTE — Rachel's Children is a service for parents who have lost a baby to miscarriage, stillbirth or SIDS. If interested in meeting to discuss the emotional, physical and spiritual effects from this type of loss, Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast at (704) 543-7677, Ext. 43.

### Perpetual and Daily Adoration

ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., hosts eucharistic adoration on the following days: Friday mornings immediately following the 9 a.m. Mass until noon, Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:15 p.m. every first Friday from 9:30 a.m.-8:45 p.m. For more information, call the church at (828) 684-6098.

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., hosts daily adoration from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information, call Jane Sorrells at (828) 298-0334.

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd., hosts perpetual adoration in the campus chapel. For volunteer and other information, call Marie Siebers at (704) 827-6734.

CHARLOTTE — All are invited to St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., for perpetual adoration. For volunteer and other information, call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas, 1400 Suther Rd., hosts eucharistic adoration every first Friday from 1:15 p.m.-midnight, and eucharistic holy hour takes place every Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Aquinas Hall is open everyday from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.

HIGH POINT — Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., hosts perpetual adoration in the chapel. For volunteer and other information, call Theresa Hansen at (336) 273-1507.

SYLVA — Eucharistic adoration takes place every first Saturday at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., following 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For more information, call Annette Leporis at (828) 497-7464.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# Creche creation brings parishioners together for holidays in the mountains

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

MAGGIE VALLEY — Mary and Joseph kneel in prayer; the Christ Child stretches his hands in a gesture that imitates the cross. Shepherds and the Magi approach reverently while animals hover about, and overhead, the star and angel proclaim the glorious birth.

It's a familiar picture of love, and this particular scene, displayed every Christmas in St. Margaret Church, was created by the loving — and meticulous — hands of St. Margaret parishioners.

"Ernestine Upchurch made a little Nativity for Father Murphy (a former pastor), but it was too little for a church," Terri Van Dyck said. "I decided that we should have a Nativity that was of a decent size."

That was 1994. Van Dyck and her husband, Ron, are from Chicago and periodically visit there. A friend who owned a ceramics studio there ordered the 22-piece Nativity set for Terri, but the soft clay green ware had to be transformed into bisque ware by firing (baking) it in a kiln before Terri could transport the pieces to Maggie Valley. Several firings would be needed since the figures, some up to two feet tall, wouldn't all fit in the kiln at the same time. Her friend supplied the answer.

"How God watches," Van Dyck said. "I was trying to figure out how I was going to fire it, and she said, 'Terri, if you want to stay here for two weeks and work on it, I'll be out of town.'" It took the full two weeks to smooth the mold marks from the pieces, then fire them.

With the set safely in Van Dyck's studio in her home high above Maggie Valley, she put a notice in the St. Margaret Church bulletin asking for volunteers to help paint the figures. Marjorie Bogart, Pat Canady, Mary Ellen Hoffer, Marie Plazewski, Dorothy Schneider, Pat Shawan, Wanda Trenadue and Blanche Triunfo signed up.

"Terri kept telling us it was easy," Triunfo said.

"I just thought it would be nice to do," Plazewski said. "I had very little experience doing ceramics, but it sounded like fun. If it's something I think I can do, I'll try it."

They began in early summer and worked one day a week until Thanksgiving.

"Sometimes Terri would have lunch for us; sometimes we would bring lunch," Triunfo said. "We'd work for a couple of hours, then have lunch, and then work a couple more hours. It was so much fun."

Van Dyck, a professional porcelain artist for more than 20 years, taught her ceramics crew the basics. First they sanded the bisque figures absolutely smooth.

"We'd think we were done," Plazewski said, "and Terri would look at it say, 'No, there's still more to do. It's not smooth enough.'"

"I thought we would never get to the painting, we spent so much time on the cleaning," Triunfo said.

At last, however, they did begin painting. First, they applied a tan primer, which sealed the bisque ware. Then they added the colors: Mary's traditional blue and white; Joseph's brown cape; the Christ Child and the angel in glowing white; the Magi in vibrant turquoise, purple, and deep red; the shepherds' softer blue, brown and sage; the camels draped in colors to match the Magi; white sheep, gray donkey, brown cow and dogs.





Photos by Joanita M. Nellenbach

The painting had to be handled as carefully and exactingly as the sanding.

Rings and bracelets might scratch the delicate paint, so, "Terri made us take off all of our jewelry," Plazewski said.

"And they had to wash their hands," Van Dyck said, "because if they had lotion on their hands it could be absorbed into the glaze. They weren't sealed yet."

Lighter colors took about three coats of paint, darker colors four to five coats. Laughter made the paint go on more smoothly.

"It was a lot of fun getting together with the girls, sharing lunch, learning and accomplishing what we did," Triunfo said. "We laughed a lot. It's there at the church for many years to come."

"It will become an heirloom," Plazewski added.

"It was just the challenge of trying to paint and be part of making such a beautiful thing," Candy said. "It was worth it. The finished product is so beautiful."

After the women finished the painting, Van Dyck began the detail work. She started with prayer, just as she does before she begins other artistic work, such as creating the floral arrangements that often decorate the church. "A lot of times when I do a display," she said, "I ask God for help. I say, 'I know you'll guide me; you always do.' And weird things start to happen."

The myriad details are pure inspiration. "When the girls were here," Terri said, "I told them to bring anything they had that had a tapestry design. Of course, you don't copy it, but it gives you the idea. Everything in art is an adaptation of something else. It brings you to the next level of imagination."

The Magi, especially, benefited from the rich tapestry patterns. For instance, one king's cloak is trimmed with a poinsettia design, adapted from a scarf pattern.

She added other details. Wisps of hair tenderly curl on foreheads and temples. A shepherd sports a tiny feather and beads in his hatband. Beads and stones from old jewelry decorate the kings' costumes. "I felt that I'll never wear it, and it's for a good cause," Van Dyck said of the jewelry.

Each figure's face is individualized. "I love portraits," Van Dyck said. "I love people's faces because each one is different. I never do the same thing twice."

Halos for the angel and the Holy Family are gold-rimmed, clear glass bobeches, the disks placed on candles to catch the melted wax.

After Terri finished the detail work and applied an antiquing glaze, she and crew added sealer to protect each figure. She also drew and painted a silhouette of the town of Bethlehem, complete with a tiny, hinged door that opens in one of the buildings. Ron made the background to which Terri applied the silhouette.

Ron was also busy building the stable out of wormy chestnut from a fallen tree on the Van Dyck's property. "It was an old log that had moss on it," Terri said. "Some of the moss is still on the roof."

Jerry La Pointe made the pitchfork and wheelbarrow for the stable's interior and created a plaque that includes the names of all who worked on the project and that hangs near the crèche each year.

As Advent ends, the figures are brought out of storage, carefully removed from their boxes, unwrapped, and reverently placed on a specially built table in St. Margaret's vestibule.

Plazewski has never seen it assembled. Terri sends pictures to her at her winter home in Florida. When she started the project, she and her husband, Robert, had only recently begun spending summers in Maggie Valley. She never forgot her painting time: "To come up here with all the ladies and make friends with everybody," she said. "And when you got finished at the end of the day, you'd look at it and say, 'Oh, God, I did that.'"

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

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# Force for love and action, dies

*Former vicar at St. Peter Catholic Church succumbs to cancer at 78*

**By TIM FUNK**
**The Charlotte Observer**

CHARLOTTE — The Rev. Gene McCreesh, a big-hearted Roman Catholic priest who became a leading advocate for Charlotte's outcasts, died Saturday after a long struggle with cancer. He was 78.

"Father Gene," as he was known to his parishioners at St. Peter Catholic Church, helped found the homeless shelter for men in uptown Charlotte, then served as chairman from 1986 to 1992.

"He had a great deal to do with teaching the city how to be compassionate," said U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick, R-N.C., a longtime friend who worked with McCreesh to open the shelter when she was Charlotte's mayor. "Gene loved everybody." McCreesh didn't court controversy, but he sometimes found it because of the people and groups he felt called to serve. As part of his ministry to gays and lesbians, he went before the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners in 1997 to speak against its plan to punish the Arts & Science Council for supporting the staging of "Angels in America," a Pulitzer Prize-winning play with homosexual characters. He returned to the Government Center in 2000 to urge the Charlotte City Council to endorse a state moratorium on the death penalty. The House of Mercy, a home for adults in the final stages of AIDS, honored McCreesh in 1998 for "embracing those who are bereft," especially men and women living with HIV and AIDS.

"He received criticism from those who would restrict God's love, but he also received many expressions of gratitude from mothers and fathers for his compassionate ministry," said Bishop William Curlin, who heads the 46-county Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. "Father Gene will be remembered as the one who challenged us to see with our hearts." McCreesh became such a force for love and action in uptown Charlotte that artist Ben Long offered him a rare tribute: He included the priest's likeness — along with those of such prominent Charlotteans as Hugh McColl and Joe Martin — in the dome fresco at the Transamerica Building.

Long met McCreesh in the 1980s, when commissioned to paint a fresco at St. Peter, Charlotte's oldest Catholic church and an uptown fixture since 1851. "I got to witness almost daily his work with the homeless, the disturbed, the alcoholics," Long said about McCreesh. "He was always there for these very real people of Charlotte His whole life was a sacred mission."

The burly son of Irish immigrants whose every sermon centered on God's unconditional love, McCreesh grew up in Philadelphia and was ordained a Jesuit priest in 1954. Three years later, he went off to Burma (now Myanmar) to be a missionary. Even then, "he had a special love for the poor," said the Rev. Thomas Selvaraj, a Burmese student under McCreesh who's now a priest in the Charlotte diocese. On weekends, Selvaraj said, McCreesh would go to the orphanage and play bingo with the kids, then pass out holy cards and toys from the United States.

When Burma's socialist government expelled all foreigners in 1966, McCreesh returned to the United States, where he took on a succession of posts at Jesuit universities before becoming the pastor of an inner-city black church in Philadelphia.

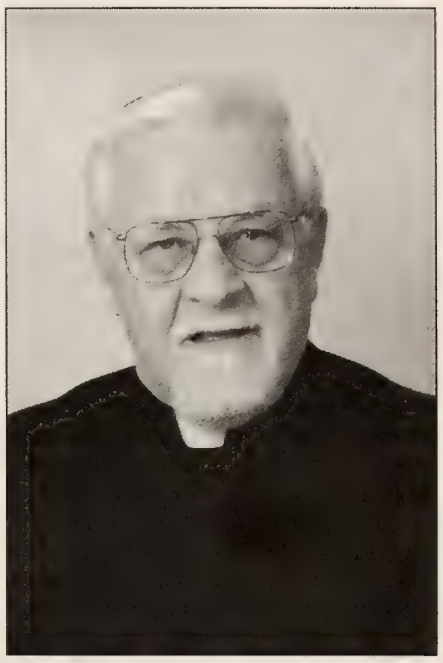
In 1984, he had a heart attack. His doctor told him Pennsylvania winters were too cold. How about Puerto Rico? he asked. Too hot. So, in 1985, McCreesh moved to Charlotte, eventually becoming vicar at Jesuit-run St. Peter. "He came here to retire and ended up working harder than anybody," said Myrick. It didn't take long for McCreesh to see needs that weren't being addressed in his adopted city.

In "Wet Wall Tattoos," a 1993 book about the fresco at St. Peter, Observer reporter Richard Maschal wrote about McCreesh's first local attempts to help: "On cold winter nights, he drove (the parish's) battered Toyota around the city, picking up homeless men and women. If they were reluctant to leave their places under bridges and in abandoned buildings, he would at least give them a blanket." The Rev. Conrad Hoover, now pastor of St. Ann Catholic Church in Charlotte, also remembers McCreesh making sandwiches at night for the homeless who would come to the church door the next day. It was something he learned from his mother, who made sandwiches for the out-of-work and hungry who knocked on the McCreesh family door during the Depression.

"When we see homeless people," McCreesh explained in 1987, "we must be able to look at them and say, `Here comes Christ! He's unwashed, he's angry. And what are we going to do about it?' "

What McCreesh and others did in 1986 was start the uptown homeless shelter for men. McCreesh brought the same compassion and urgency to his work with people ravaged by AIDS. At a time when many were afraid to touch, let alone help, those with the disease, McCreesh spent many hours visiting dying patients and their families. "Keeping a distance from the sick, I don't believe in that," he said at the House of Mercy honor. "It's incredibly wonderful when you hug a patient." Debbie Warren, president and CEO of RAIN, the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network, said McCreesh and his flock at St. Peter were strong supporters of her group's efforts. "You felt like you had an ally down in the trenches," she said.

Kevin Melody, a member of St. Peter who heads the Diocesan Ministry to Gay and Lesbian Catholics, got to know McCreesh when the priest came over every day — sometimes twice a day — to minister to Melody's partner, who was dying of AIDS. "He was a voice of courage and tolerance," Melody said of McCreesh. "Prejudice didn't work in his faith. It wasn't what he read in the Gospel." McCreesh was never a solo act. Friends and colleagues said he had a talent for pressing others — St. Peter parishioners, corporate executives, elected officials — into action on behalf of those who needed help. "He would usually put his big hand on their shoulders and tell them, `Here's what you're going to do,'" said the Rev. Jim Devereux, a former pastor at St. Peter who worked in tandem with McCreesh to push the social gospel. "He combined faith and action in all that he did He was a great community man." On Nov. 14, 1997, McCreesh presided at the funeral Mass of Andrew Sexton, a homeless man he'd taken under his wings and turned into an activist. McCreesh's words that day could serve as his own epitaph: "He didn't go to law school, but he did become an advocate. He was an advocate for the poor, for the homeless." He's probably up there right now, telling God what to do. He's standing at the gate telling him who to let in. "He's up there, saying, 'He's homeless, Lord, he don't have no other clothes, he don't mean no harm.' 'Let him in, Lord, let him in.'"



**Father Gene McCreesh**

McCreesh is survived by two brothers, Howard and Thomas, both of Philadelphia; and nieces and nephews. A funeral Mass was said at the Gesu Catholic Church in Philadelphia, where McCreesh was once pastor. He was buried at the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Wernersville, Pa.

In Charlotte, a memorial Mass is planned. The Rev. Joe Sobiersjski, pastor at St. Peter, said he has scheduled this for Jan. 10 at 7:30 PM — when McCreesh would have turned 79.

*Tim Funk is a parishioner of St. Peter Catholic Church.*

*This story is reprinted with permission of The Charlotte Observer.*




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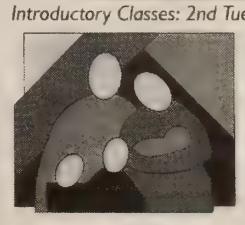
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### Woman hopes angel ornaments comfort families hurt by Sept. 11

WARRENVILLE, Ill. (CNS) — Armed with an angel cookie cutter, poster board, glue and glitter, Warrenville resident Donna Paver is trying to help a shattered nation heal from the wounds inflicted by the Sept. 11 tragedy. Paver has been making "Angels of Remembrance" ornaments. She said the effort began as a simple children's project with a goal of making enough angel Christmas ornaments to send to all the families who lost loved ones Sept. 11. "I came up with the idea because I felt helpless; with the holidays coming, I wanted to make (the families) smile," said Paver, a nurse by training who admits she's not artistic by nature.

### Retreat-goers can rest assured on these mattresses

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (CNS) — Catholic retreat-goers in Corpus Christi can rest a little easier these days, thanks to a couple's donation of mattresses. Fifty-nine mattresses and box springs with the slogan "Rest assured Jesus loves you" stitched onto them have been donated to the Bishop Gracida Retreat House at the Corpus Christi Catholic Center. After they made separate retreats there in May and June, Curtis and Mary Lee Cantwell, owners of the Cantwell Mattress Co., decided to donate replacements for the house's decades-old mattresses. As for the catchy slogan, the Cantwell family has a history of using colorful phrases in their business.

### Love overcomes tragedy of soldier's death, pastor says

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (CNS) — The tragic death of a U.S. soldier from Massachusetts killed while serving in Afghanistan has hit everyone hard, but "the overwhelming love of this community is just an incredible thing to witness," said a priest from the soldier's home town. Army Sgt. 1st Class Daniel H. Petithory of Cheshire, a Green Beret, was killed Dec. 5 in Afghanistan when a "friendly fire" bomb exploded near him and two other soldiers north of Kandahar. The funeral for Petithory was held Dec. 13 at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Cheshire, his home parish. The Petithory family is "finding great comfort in their faith and the love and support of the community," said Father David Raymond, St. Mary of the Assumption pastor.

# Thomasville parish celebrates Gaudete Sunday with youthful bell ringers

By Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay
Correspondent

THOMASVILLE — The Liberty Ringers played "Hallelujah" for the entrance procession at Our Lady of the Highways Church on Dec. 16. Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father Thomas Fitzpatrick invited the fifth- and sixth-grade Liberty Ringers from Liberty Drive Elementary and Thomasville Middle schools to add to the day's joyous atmosphere.

It was the third Sunday of Advent — Gaudete Sunday — that set the tone of the joyful expectation of Christ's birth. Thus, rose, the color of rejoicing, is the normal liturgical color for vestments and decoration. "Rejoice" (Gaudete) is the first word of the introit, the Mass's opening prayer.

The ringers come from very diverse backgrounds, both Catholic and non-Catholic. Edna Johnson, the music teacher at Liberty Drive Elementary School, leads the group. Ten of the Liberty Ringers' 20 members took part in the Gaudete Mass, playing during the offertory, Communion rite and recessional. They were Cheryl Kaylar, Sharae Alford, Breanna Bryant, Derrick Jeffrey, Jessica Brinkley, Truman Barker, Hervon Wilson, Makelia Gregg, Callie Kersch and Maggie Kersch.

During his homily, Father Fitzpatrick said the rose-colored decorations and the theme of the readings tell people they must rejoice because the time of waiting is almost over. It is a holy time, he said, because even though this is a period when the body and soul are lonely, dry and desolate, people will rejoice because the abundance and refreshment of the risen Lord is at hand. Jesus will bring people out of the depression caused by the spirits of hatred, idolatry and oppression.

"The terrorism we find all around us will pass because evil cannot last forever," Father Fitzpatrick said. "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ works, but only if we let it. For Jesus picks us up out of our misery, regardless of the condition we are in, as long as we turn to him."



Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

Just as John the Baptist prepared the Jews of old for the coming of the Messiah, Father Fitzpatrick prepared his flock. He reminded them that they must "realize that the Lord is here. He is present — body, blood, soul and divinity — the Eucharist we are celebrating today. Yet, he will come again."

The Mass was set against the backdrop of the ongoing renovation in the church and rectory. The sacristy has been moved to enlarge the church's worship space, and the beams that were used in the church's early construction have been exposed. The church interior has been refinished, and new stained glass windows are being installed honoring Mary, Joseph and saints important to the parishioners. The side of the church where the St. Joseph window is located will have the five joyous mysteries of the rosary in stained glass. Father Fitzpatrick also has a large, new office in the rectory.

Before the end of Mass, he thanked the Liberty Ringers: "They added a little touch of heaven here in Thomasville." Attending a Catholic service was new to some of the children.

"It was neat and different," Jessica Brinkley said. "We each have our own way of worshipping God."

"I liked it," Truman Barker said. "It was different. We don't normally read from a book (worship book) or kneel."

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*





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# Bishop Curlin ordains two priests for the Diocese of Charlotte

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — For the ordination of Fathers Adrian Porras and Christopher Roux, family and friends from across the diocese filled St. Patrick Cathedral on Dec. 15. Well- wishers spilled into the narthex and stood shoulder to shoulder in witness as the newest priests for the Diocese of Charlotte were ordained in service.

The ordination was a step from the ordinary in the diocese. Generally, priestly ordinations take place in June. This December, Fathers Porras and Roux joined the ranks of the priesthood, bringing the number of ordinands in 2001 to six.

A couple dozen of their brother priests joined in concelebrating with Bishop William G. Curlin and Father Mauricio W. West, Chancellor and Vicar General of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Following the Liturgy of the Word, the rite of ordination began as Father John Allen, associate director of Vocations, presented the candidates to Bishop Curlin and the congregation.

In his homily, preceding the rite of ordination, Bishop Curlin urged the candidates to think and love with their hearts. "Give your heart to God's people. There are people in this world right now who do not know God, but they will find Him in you."

The two men vowed obedience, and Bishop Curlin prayed that God will bring their priestly service to its highest potential. The candidates prostrated themselves for the resuscitation of the Litany of Saints.

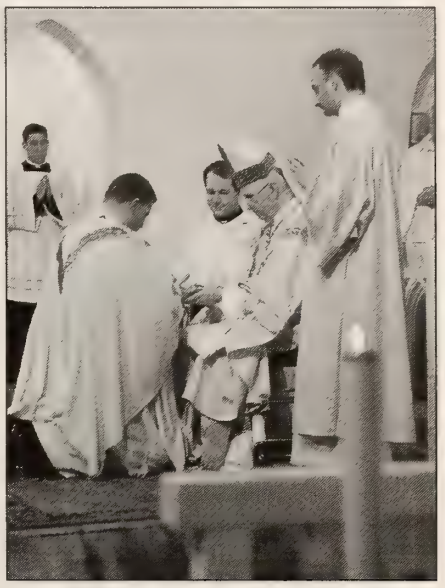
In a grace-filled moment, Bishop Curlin laid hands upon the heads of each candidate. The bishop prayed over the two men, and flanked by his brother priests, the bishop began the prayer of consecration, invoking God's guidance in the lives of the two men. Bishop Curlin invited all priests to join in asking for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

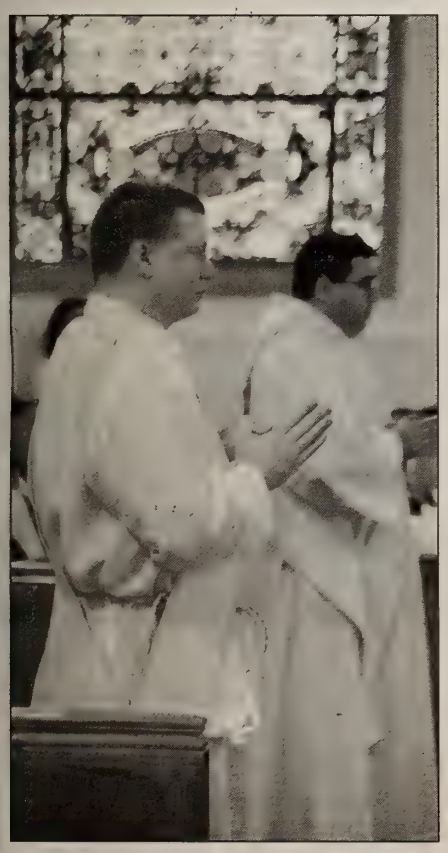
Bishop Curlin anointed the new priests' hands, a sign of preserving the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit.

To the new priests, Bishop Curlin said, "You are commissioned by God to preach the word of Jesus Christ and His awesome love and hope for our world."

The newly ordained began their priestly assignments just four days following ordination. Father Porras, as parochial vicar at Holy Family parish in Clemmons; Father Roux as parochial vicar at St. Leo parish in Winston-Salem.

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org*







Photos by JOANN S. KEANE

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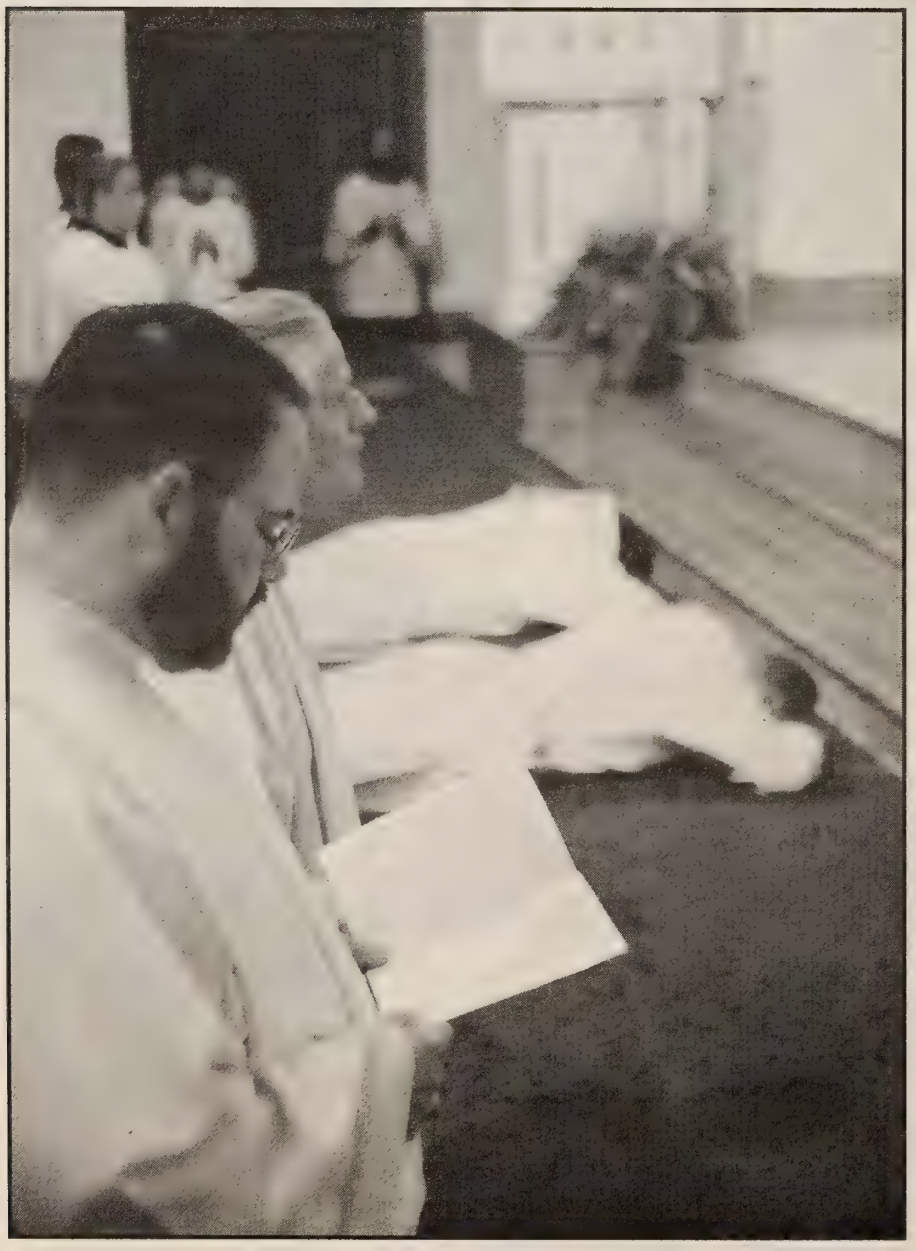
# "You are being ordained to be l











Pictured clockwise from bottom left: The candidates prostrate themselves be

Bishop William G. Curlin presents Father Adrian Porras with a chalice during

Fathers Christopher Roux and Adrian Porras offer the Eucharist.

Father Adrian Porras, Bishop William G. Curlin and Fathe the ordination.

Priests lay on hands invoking the Holy Spirit. Pictured here, Father Chris brother priests.

Father Christopher Roux offers a blessing during the reception held in the St.




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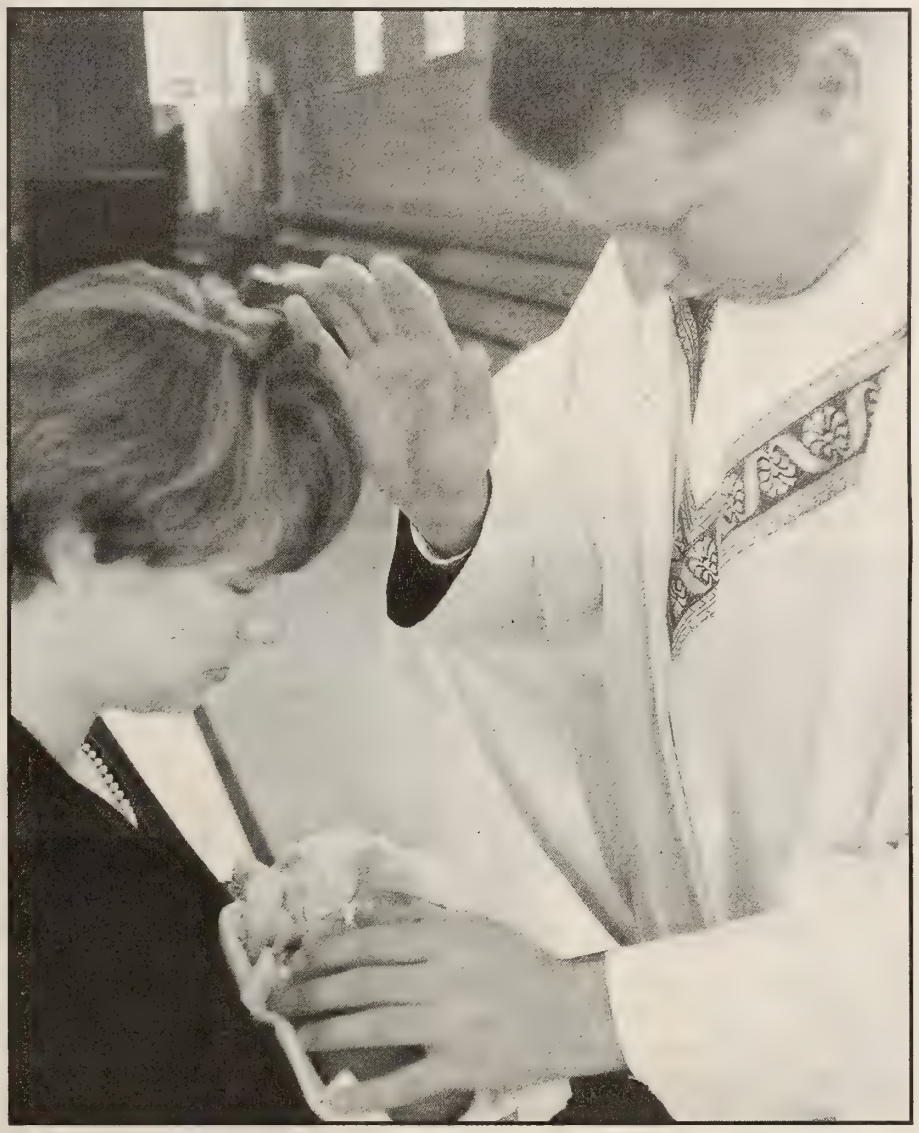
*Member of St. Thomas Aquinas*

# ıg shepherds of God's people"

***- Bishop William G. Curlin***
***Dec. 15, 2001***







Photos by JOANN S. KEANE

altar during the Litany of the Saints.
nation rite.

istopher Roux stand inside St. Patrick Cathedral following
nd Father Matthew Kauth, ordained in 2000, offer blessings on their new
school gymnasium.

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**Book Review**

# Finding faith in art, literature

REVIEWED BY KATHERINE NUSS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

These three fine books look at faith, art and architecture around the world. They would be appreciated by any art collector and anyone who loves how faith is manifested in art. Believers will find inspiring the personal vision that artists and architects use to show their love of God, of Mary and of Jesus. These volumes also give readers a world view that might be missing from their daily worship.

The first is a lush and photographically stunning look at "Churches." It would be tempting to see this as nothing more than a giant coffee-table book with gorgeous pictures of faraway holy places you've always wanted to visit — but it is much more. Judith Dupre, who also wrote the well-known architectural books "Skyscrapers" and "Bridges," has put a great deal of thought into what a church means to its community, its place in the world and the time in which it was built. The vibrant hues, the incredible detail and myriad of materials are awe-inspiring.

The book's size gives the reader the feeling of standing small in these great spaces, such as the Basilica San Marco in Venice. The more than 60 churches from around the world, more than half of them Catholic, are shown in chronological order with information about architect, building material, floor plan and historical context.

Although the church interiors take your breath away, Dupre never loses sight of the purpose of the place to create a place where God and man meet "within the chambers of the house of the Lord."

"Christ for All People" shows us how Christ is personified around the globe. This book invites us to "contemplate the human face of God in Christ" as Pope John Paul II asked us to do in his apostolic letter "Novo Millennio Ineunte."

The full-color images are mostly modern interpretations of the Bible and of Jesus. Some are colorfully detailed, as in the Australian aboriginal art, and others quite beautiful in their simplicity, as in the "Crucifixion" from Taiwan. The text puts the portrayal of Christ in context with historical background and examples of early Christian art.

Another labor of love is "The Madonnas of Europe" by Polish photo journalist Janusz Rosikon. The photographer wanted to convey to those who have never been on pilgrimage the excitement and deep spirituality pilgrims feel. He covers pilgrim sites from Ireland to Russia, showing how similar the Marian shrines and sanctuaries are and yet how some of their aspects are unique to the culture.

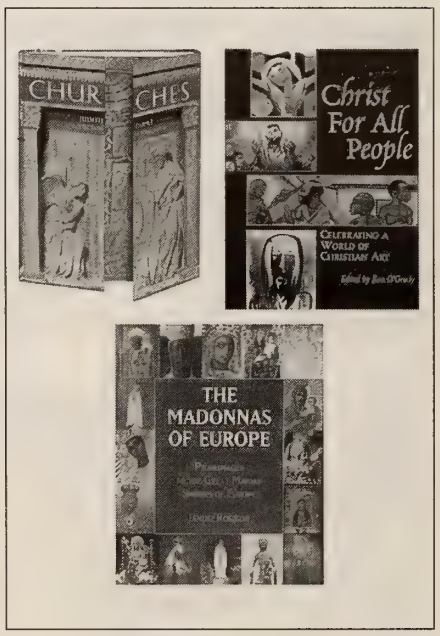
The beautiful color photographs of the faithful, along with a history of each site and the miracles performed there, give readers the context to understand the local traditions that are part of the veneration of the Mother of God. The local festivals, colorful costumes and candlelit church sanctuaries are all beautifully reproduced in the collection.

*Nuss is manager of information services for Catholic News Service.*

*CHURCHES,* by Judith Dupre. HarperCollins (New York, 2001). 168pp., $35.00.

CHRIST FOR ALL PEOPLE: *CELEBRATING A WORLD OF CHRISTIAN ART,* edited by Ron O'Grady. Orbis Books (Maryknoll, N.Y., 2001). 160 pp., $30.00.

*THE MADONNAS OF EUROPE: PILGRIMAGES TO THE GREAT MARIAN SHRINES OF EUROPE,* by Janusz Rosikon. Ignatius Press (San Francisco, 2000). 288pp., $49.95.




# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings: Dec. 23, 2001*

**December 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent.**

Cycle A Readings:
1. Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 24:1-3, 4ab, 5-6
2. Romans 1:1-7
3. Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A nerdy second banana ogles a gorgeous girl in a bar and his buddies hoot in unison, "Dream on!" Dim-witted hooligans ditch class, but the triumphant assistant principal who catches them shouts, "Dream on!" A hapless ballplayer's fantasy of home-run glory withers before the pitcher's silent, sinister "Dream on!" mouthed just before a wicked curve almost takes the batter's head off.

"Dream on!" It's a staple of sarcastic put-downs, a cliche script writers for low-budget sitcoms reach for when creativity vanishes.

We use it to express scorn for someone with hopes too lofty, yearnings too grand. With the clear-eyed cynicism of the observer, we recognize how comically preposterous the dream is.

Listening to the Gospel story for the last Sunday of Advent, I wonder whether or not Joseph's friends might have greeted his explanations for the origins of Mary's child with the Aramaic equivalent of "Dream on!"

That, of course, is precisely what Joseph does. It is only by dreaming and taking that dream seriously that he comes to the insights that give him the courage to marry the woman he loves and embrace her child as his own, despite appearances most readily seen as proof of her infidelity.

To long for and believe in the dream of God's kingdom is what Advent is about. The challenge for Joseph remains for us. To dream of hardened hearts opening themselves to the healing risk of love; of the insatiable hunger for revenge which haunts our woundedness somehow satisfied by the bread of forgiveness; of lavish generosity that conquers self-serving meanness; of suffering made redemptive; of death's dark abyss becoming a path to eternal life and light: These are the kinds of dreams on which faith thrives.

Like Joseph, may we all "dream on!"

**QUESTIONS:**

*What gets in the way of your being able to believe in the dream of God's mercy? How can you make your dreams for the upcoming Christmas season better God's dream for us?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Readings for the week of Dec. 23 - 29**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent,** Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24; **Monday (Late Advent Weekday),** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16, Luke 1:67-79; **Tuesday (The Nativity of the Lord),** Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18; **Wednesday (St. Stephen),** Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59, Matthew 10:17-22; **Thursday (St. John),** 1 John 1:1-4, John 20:2-8; **Friday (Holy Innocents),** 1 John 1:5—2:2, Matthew 2:13-18; **Saturday,** 1 John 2:3-11, Luke 2:22-35

**Readings for the week of Dec. 30 - Jan. 5**

**Sunday (The Holy Family),** Sirach 3:2-7,12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23; **Monday,** 1 John 2:18-21, John 1:1-18; **Tuesday (Mary, Mother of God),** Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:16-21; **Wednesday (St. Basil and St. Gregory Nazianzen),** 1 John 2:22-28, John 1:19-28; **Thursday,** 1 John 2:29—3:6, John 1:29-34; **Friday (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton),** 1 John 3:7-10, John 1:35-42; **Saturday, (St. John Neumann)** 1 John 3:11-21, John 1:43-51

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

# 25 Christmas video suggestions

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

*NEW YORK (CNS) — Spending time together as a family is important any time of the year. As we celebrate the coming of our Savior during the Advent season, it can be even more meaningful to gather around and remember our blessings.*

*In addition to prayer and reflection, quiet time watching a movie together might be a good way to take a break from the hustle and bustle and just enjoy each other's company. So, make some hot chocolate, slip into some comfy slippers and pile onto the sofa with the family and enjoy one or more of the following seasonal films. Those that aren't easy to find at your local video outlet for rental have phone numbers of organizations from which you can buy them. A Merry and blessed Christmas to you and your family!*

**"The Bishop's Wife" (1947)**

A debonair, smartly tailored angel (Cary Grant) uses his heavenly powers to help the neglected wife (Loretta Young) of a busy Episcopalian bishop (David Niven) renew her husband's ministry to those in need rather than raise the money for a new cathedral. Director Henry Koster's sentimental Christmas fable has the virtue of a good script, sincere performances and some amusing moments with Grant's angelic powers and Monty Wooley as a softhearted old cynic. Most of the family will find it charming entertainment. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

**"A Celebration of Christmas" (1995)**

The religious and spiritual dimension of the Nativity story is explored in a montage of religious art and location footage featuring 24 traditional carols and hymns beautifully sung by choirs in Europe, the Americas, Africa and the Philippines. Written and directed by Benedictine Father Dom Cuthbert Johnson of the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship, the 75-minute video is interspersed with the Christmas reflections of Pope John Paul II and Gospel passages read by children. The result is a joyous experience of the inspirational essence of Christmas to be shared by all the family, though some may wish that the foreign-language carols had been subtitled. Included with the video is a colorfully illustrated, extremely informative 32-page booklet on the feast and its traditions. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Movies Unlimited, (800) 466-8437)

**"Children of Light" (1993)**

In relating the Nativity to the contemporary world, the program combines classical paintings with children's drawings of the Lord's birth, the Magi's gifts and Herod's cruelty, together with documentary footage and children's commentary on today's youthful victims of poverty and oppression throughout the world. Produced by Father George Torok, the 15-minute video looks at Christmas through the innocent eyes of young people who see its meaning today in sharing with children less fortunate than themselves. A rewarding family experience. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Holy Childhood Association, (202) 775-8637)

**"A Christmas Carol" (1951)**

This British version of the Dickens classic has worn well over the years principally because of Alistair Sim's zestful performance as Scrooge, the old humbug whose transformation into a loving human being is a pleasure to behold. Director Brian Desmond Hurst's period piece does well with its 19th-century London setting, and the ghostly visitations are done simply but with considerable flair. The result is dandy family viewing. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

**"A Christmas Story" (1983)**

Adapted from Jean Shepherd's nostalgic piece of whimsy, "In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash," the movie re-creates what it was like to be a boy (Peter Billingsley) yearning for a genuine Red Ryder air rifle for Christmas in the Midwest of the 1940s. Director Bob Clark gets some good performances from Darren McGavin and Melinda Dillon as the understanding parents, and the period atmosphere is nicely conveyed with what is essentially a warm celebration of a more innocent, less sophisticated America. Fleeting vulgar mutterings. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

**"Ernest Saves Christmas" (1988)**

A Florida cabby (rubber-mouthed comic Jim Varney) picks up Santa (Douglas Seale) at the Orlando airport and takes him into town in quest of a younger man to replace him at the North Pole, but they meet up with some disbelief. Directed by John Cherry, it's a holiday hoot with some good virtues for the youngsters. Some hectic traffic pile-ups and tense aerial moments. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

**"The First Christmas" (1998)**

The familiar story of the Nativity is seen afresh in its retelling through the imaginative form of clay animation, paced by actor Christopher Plummer's reading of appropriate Gospel passages, producer Frank Moynihan's adding a few bits of humor and human interest to the animated figures, and a soundtrack rich in orchestral versions of traditional carols. A presentation of the "Christopher Closeup" TV series, the 30-minute program is introduced by former Christophers director Msgr. Tom McSweeney, who concludes the show with animation director Lindsay van Blerk explaining how clay figures are made and given movement. The result is a pleasure for the entire family to share. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Billy Budd Productions, (212) 755-3895)

**"The Fourth Wise Man" (1985)**

Adaptation of Henry Van Dyke's vintage short story "The Other Wise Man," tells of a fourth Magi (Martin Sheen) who is delayed in following the star to Bethlehem, then finally catches up with it in Jerusalem some 33 years later in an encounter that fulfills his life's search for truth. Produced by the late Paulist Father Ellwood Kieser and directed by Michael Rhodes, the 72-minute dramatization effectively amplifies the religious dimension of the original while adding some light humor from Alan Arkin as the Magi's servant. Family entertainment with the universal theme of bettering oneself by helping others. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

**"The Gifts of Christmas" (1997)**

Animated story of Christmas Eve in Assisi where the talking animal friends of Friar Francesco give the Christmas presents they have made for him to those who need them more, then share in the gifts brought by the townspeople and the friar's surprise for them by making the first Christmas creche. An episode in the "Francesco's Friendly World" series, the 44-minute video mixes new songs with traditional carols and the animated animal characters help make up for the lack of charm in the figure of St. Francis, but the tale is told with sincerity and is simple enough for preschoolers to enjoy. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (RCL, (877) 275-4725)

**"Heidi" (1937)**

One of Shirley Temple's better vehicles comes from the Johanna Spyri children's classic about a little Swiss orphan who brings cheer into the morose life of her grandfather (Jean Hersholt), then is taken from him to be the companion of a crippled rich girl in Frankfurt where, after helping the child to walk again, she is spirited away by a hateful housekeeper (Mary Nash). As directed by Allan Dwan, curly-haired Shirley smiles her way through considerable woes until rescued from near tragedy on Christmas Eve. Best for young children with the reassuring presence of a parent. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

**"Holiday Inn" (1942)**

Easygoing musical romance in which two veteran song-and-dance men (Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire) fall for the same woman (Marjorie Reynolds) while performing together in a rural inn open only on holidays. Directed by Mark Sandrich, the slim plot mainly provides an amiable context for Astaire's eye-fetching dance numbers and Crosby's crooning some pleasant Irving Berlin songs, including "White Christmas." Romantic complications. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

**"It's a Wonderful Life" (1946)**

Seasonal favorite about the joys and trials of a good man (James Stewart) who, facing financial ruin on the eve of Christmas, contemplates suicide until his guardian angel (Henry Travers) shows him how meaningful his life has been to those around him. Director Frank Capra's unabashedly sentimental picture of mainstream American life is bolstered by a superb cast (including Lionel Barrymore as a conniving banker) and a wealth of good feelings about such commonplace virtues as hard work and helping one's neighbor. Young children may find the story's dark moments unsettling. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.



CNS photo from Warner Bros.

**Scene from 'The Majestic'**

**Laurie Holden and Jim Carrey play small-town sweetheart Adele Stanton and Peter Appleton, a Hollywood screenwriter who is mistaken for a missing local war hero, in the Warner Bros. movie "The Majestic." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops rating is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

MOVIE REVIEW LINE 1-800-311-4CCC
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN



# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

### Christians called to proclaim Christ's message of peace, says pope

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians awaiting the birth of Jesus, the prince of peace, must work to prepare a place for him in their hearts and in the world, Pope John Paul II said.

"In the face of continuing conflicts in the Holy Land, Afghanistan and other parts of the world, Christians are called to proclaim ever more insistently the message of peace sung by the angels in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago," the pope said Dec. 19 at his weekly general audience.

"Invoking the coming of him who brings peace to the world means docilely opening oneself to the liberating truth and renewing force of the Gospel," he said.

In the days closest to Christmas, he said, the Catholic liturgy gives voice to the world's longing for peace and salvation with increasingly urgent cries.

"At the same time, however, they clearly underline that this implies a concrete commitment to preparing a worthy dwelling place for him not only in our hearts, but also in the surrounding environment," the pope said.

"We must convert to peace; we must convert to Christ, our peace, certain that his disarming love in the manger will defeat every dark threat and violent plan," he said.

Believers must pray continually to the Baby Jesus that "the wonderful energy of his peace would dispel the hatred and vengeance that nests in the human soul. We must ask God that evil be defeated by good and by love," he said.

In special greetings to his Polish compatriots, Pope John Paul spoke about the tradition of breaking and sharing "oplatek," a thin bread, at Christmas.

"Sharing the bread is first of all the exchange of good wishes in the spirit of peace and love. But it also makes reference to the mystery of the Incarnation which occurred in Bethlehem, a name which means House of Bread, thereby expressing faith in the fact that the giver of true love and of true peace is the newborn son of God," the pope said.

The pope said that, as he breaks oplatek Christmas Eve, he would do so "entrusting to the Baby Jesus each and every one of you, your families, the communities of priests and religious and all those to whom you want to convey Christmas wishes in my name."

In connection with the audience, the last Pope John Paul would hold in 2001, the Prefecture of the Pontifical Household released statistics on the general audiences.

According to the prefecture, 550,000 people attended the Wednesday audiences in 2001, down dramatically from the more than 1.4 million visitors and pilgrims who attended the audiences during Holy Year 2000.

The pope held 43 Wednesday audiences in 2001, missing the appointments only when he was making a pastoral visit abroad and when he was on vacation in the northern Italian Alps.

The prefecture said that, since the beginning of his pontificate in 1978, the pope has hosted more than 16.5 million people at his Wednesday audiences.

### Should religion and medicine address substance abuse together?

"So Help Me God" is the title of a white paper released in mid-November by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. The paper's subtitle is "Substance Abuse, Religion and Spirituality."

Joseph A. Califano Jr., the center's chairman and president, held a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., to release the report and announce the key finding of this two-year study, namely, that religion and spirituality should be in harness with "the power of science and professional medicine to prevent and treat substance abuse and addiction."

If the clergy knew more about addiction to drugs and alcohol, and if psychiatrists and psychologists understood how religion and spirituality can contribute to prevention and cure of these diseases, millions of Americans would benefit. But there are two "disconnects" that must first be overcome. The first is that clergy know next to nothing about the causes and medical responses to the problem. The second is the failure of the medical profession to appreciate the role of religion and spirituality in treating substance abusers and addicts.

Of the clergy surveyed for this study, only 12.5 percent had any coursework related to these problems in the seminary, and only 36.5 percent preach about the issue more than once a year. The study also found that only 45 percent of mental health practitioners report a belief in God and thus don't even think about the possibility that spiritual interventions could contribute to patient progress.

An authoritative "Source Book of Substance Abuse and Addiction" aimed at "curing physicians of their unfortunate 'blind spot' about drug abuse and addiction" emerged from the Harvard Medical School in 1996. I consulted it after reading the CASA report and searched in vain for any reference to religion or spirituality anywhere in the book. Despite (or better because of) this deficit, the book belongs in the hands of ministers of religion. What reading might they want to recommend to cure physicians of their "blind spot" relative to the preventive and curative potential of religion in the battle with addiction? The Book of Psalms would be good for openers.

# Looking Around



FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ
CNS Columnist

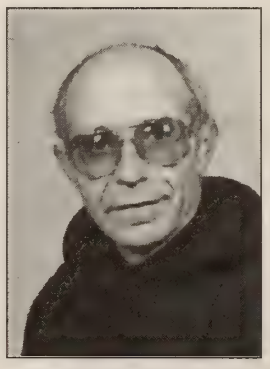
Sprinkled throughout the study report of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse are data supporting the claim that adults who consider religion important and practice their faith are far less likely to use illicit drugs and abuse alcohol than are those who disregard religion. "Teens who never attend religious services are twice as likely to drink, more than three times likelier to use marijuana and binge drink, and almost four times likelier to use illicit drugs than teens who attend religious services at least weekly," according to the study. The study calls for action on three fronts:

—Priests, ministers, rabbis, and imams "should become more engaged in addressing this problem, formally preaching about substance abuse issues and incorporating prevention and recovery messages in their ministry."

—Physicians and treatment providers "should be better trained and informed of the importance of spirituality and religion to prevention and treatment, ... and of the spiritual and religious resources available in their local communities."

—More research is needed "to better understand and enhance the complementary roles that religion and professional substance abuse treatment can play in prevention, treatment and recovery."

It is late, but certainly not too late, for health care providers and ministers of religion to begin appreciating more and reinforcing what each can do to help sick people break the shackles of addiction.



# Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap
Guest Columnist

### Christmas: It's a boy!

The wonder of the Christmas story seems to unfold a fascinating mystery, which cuts through the reality of our daily lives and the dream world of the wonder-land, wonder-man, and wonder-time. Since I cannot do commercials, I will not say, Wonder Bread. For me, Christmas is simply "The Word was made Flesh" which, translated into modern English, is a "Birth Announcement."

In our time, usually, a birth announcement includes what our culture perceives as pertinent information. The baby's gender, name, date, time of birth, weight, hospital, parents, color of the eyes and hair, and a photo of the newborn. In ancient times, the birth announcement was different: the mission of the newborn was announced, as it was done for Jesus. Later on, as we know from the Scriptures, the teachers of the law and the Jewish leaders did not really know the mission of the Son of God, so they question Him, Who are You? And yet, it is clear from the beginning the real mission of Jesus in the world. As a way of reflection on Jesus' mission, we may wonder if we were to send out our birth announcement, how would we describe our own mission on earth?

All around us are the repeated reminders of Christmas: carols, cards, trees, wreaths, lights, sights, pageants, parties, shopping, cooking, baking, traveling. All of the above can be blessings if they help us recognize Christ in our midst, if they help us navigate through the ocean of life without sinking, and to love more rather than getting stressed more. Maybe, for some, Christmas is simply sharing a smile and a prayerful walk in the park, so be it. That's Christmas too.

A young boy was walking home through the park after attending a Sunday school class. Somehow, he couldn't stop thinking about the lesson for the day on Jesus' parable of the last judgment. What impressed him most was when the teacher said: "When you give something to another person, you are really giving to Jesus." As he continued through the park, he noticed an old woman sitting on a bench. She looked lonely and hungry. So, he sat down next to her, took from his pocket a chocolate bar he had been saving and offered some to her. She accepted it with a smile. He liked her smile so much that after she had eaten her piece of chocolate, he gave her more. This time they exchanged smiles and, for a while, they sat together in silence, just smiling at each other. Finally, the boy got up to leave. As he began to walk away, he turned, ran back to the bench, and gave the woman a big hug. She gave him her very best smile. When he arrived home, his mother saw a big smile on his face and asked, "What made you so happy today?" He said, "I shared my chocolate bar with Jesus...and she has a great smile." Meanwhile, the old woman returned to her little apartment where she lived with her sister. "You're all smiles," said the sister. "What made you so happy today?" To which she replied, "I was sitting in the park, eating chocolate bar with Jesus. And, you know, he looks a lot younger than I expected."

As we celebrate the great birthday of the greatest person in heaven and on earth, would it not be nice to make sure that Jesus be present in our Christmas celebrations? That reminds me of the Christmas pageant held a few years back by some school children. The boy portraying the innkeeper in Bethlehem was instructed to turn away Mary and Joseph from his inn. The boy, however, felt so badly for them that he said, "There is no room at the inn, but would you like to come in for a drink?"

I wish Merry Christmas to the publisher, editor, editorial staff, writers and readers of The Catholic News and Herald. If you pass by Hendersonville, please come in for...a prayer!



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### More guests to meet

In my last column I told you about a few of the guests I had the pleasure of interviewing for our Christopher Closeup series when we made a recent visit to Hollywood. Each had a unique tale to tell.

When our producers told me that one of our guests would be the game show host Monty Hall, I was happy and intrigued. I'd always loved his wonderful, spirited work on Let's Make A Deal, but wondered just how he reflected the Christopher spirit. I didn't have to look far.

He told us the wonderful story of his maternal grandfather who left the Ukraine in 1901 with virtually nothing. In fact, they were so poor that his wife and children had to be left behind for several years. When Monty's grandfather arrived in Canada, he was surprised and delighted when someone he didn't know offered him room and board until he could get settled. That offer of charity had a profound impact on this new immigrant. It led to the development of a sense of responsibility throughout his family to help those in need. This was a mandate Monty Hall took very seriously indeed.

Now 78 years old, Monty Hall has raised over a billion dollars for charity. More to the point, the use of his fame to assist the needy has deeply inspired others. Monty tells the story of a call he received from actor Steve Guttenberg. This successful young actor (also a Christopher Closeup guest) had reached a point where he knew that he had to give something back for all the blessings he'd received. So he called Monty Hall and told him: "I want to get into doing more for charity and, around Hollywood, everyone agrees that you're the standard for getting involved and doing good for others. How can I get involved?"

Steve Guttenberg now directs charities that help to restore eyesight to those who might otherwise have no hope. He also founded Guttenhouse, a home for homeless teens.

Yet another impressive guest was broadcast legend Art Linkletter. Host to three of television's most successful shows, he has always enjoyed a special insight into the human soul. His book and TV series Kids Say the Darndest Things (now under the care of comedian Bill Cosby) continues to touch and amuse. Art addressed his belief that the family is perhaps God's greatest gift to us. He spoke lovingly of his wife Lois. Married now for sixty-six years, he credits her with keeping him honest, humble and strong. He shared the remembrance of his daughter's drug-related suicide. Without God, his family and, especially, his beloved Lois, it would have been simply too much. Art Linkletter reminded us to acknowledge and treasure our family members.

Other guests on Christopher Closeup included actress Hattie Winston, star of CBS television's Becker; actor Johnathon Schaech, who will be portraying "Judas" in a new ABC television film; former supermodel and successful clothing entrepreneur Kathy Ireland; actor Eric Close, star of television's Now and Again; and the wonderful veteran film and television actors Efrem Zimbalist, Jr. and Michael York.

I think our founder, Father James Keller, would have enjoyed meeting these talented men and women. And I believe he would be delighted that fifty years after the start of Christopher television, we still celebrate the many ways people in all walks of life continue to make a positive difference for our world.

# Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

### Families and storytelling

The art of storytelling to connect us to the Sacred has been a frequent topic in this column over the years. We have shared with readers how through the stories handed down to us from ancestors we concretize the Salvation Story. The biweekly deadline has given us opportunities to reflect on and record the sacred moments in ongoing family life. These Family Reflections have been our personal memoirs and a testament of our faith. Our intent and hope has been to inspire readers toward similar reflection and appreciation of the traces of God's presence in the ordinary experiences of family.

A characteristic of a good story is its adaptability. Some stories are so inspiring that others claim it for themselves. The Salvation Story of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures is an example. We claim that story for ourselves so that we become part of the story. Its application into our lives shapes, transforms and converts us.

We want to open this process of memoir to you, the readers. Over the next several months we will report your family stories and how they connect us to the Sacred. We invite you to share with us the stories that you have lived and those handed down to you, stories from your biological ancestry and those borrowed. Your stories should have at least one of the following characteristics:

* The story has the power to release us from destructive alternatives.

* The story helps us to see ourselves and the world around us truthfully. Stories that perpetrate untruths blind us to the graces that come our way.

• The story enables us to live in a way that we don't resort to violence. It frees us to live in peace.

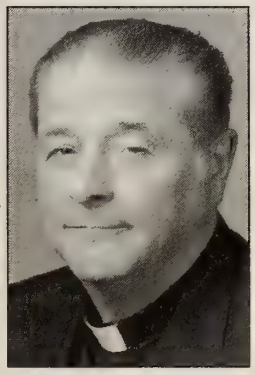
• The story has a sense of the tragic so that we may better face tragedy in our lives; but it also has the power of hope.

• The story promises a magnanimous good, and is capable of greatness. It doesn't limit us. It has the potential to stretch us in the most promising ways.

• The story is characterized by justice. It is inclusive-open to others. It teaches us hospitality. It is not based on an economy of privilege/oppression, but on the economy of justice-the economy of God.

*Send your stories to:*
*Andrew & Terri Lyke*
*Family Reflections*
*P.O. Box 652*
*Matteson, IL 60443*
*Family.Reflections@Lyke2Lyke.com*

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### What Is "Little Christmas"?

*Q. Why is the feast of Epiphany called "Little Christmas"? The dictionary refers to Epiphany as celebrated on Jan. 6, but it doesn't always fall on the same date. Explain? (Connecticut)*

A. The feast of Epiphany (Greek word for manifestation) is the last day of the Christmas season in the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar, which may be one reason for the "Little Christmas" designation. Today its primary focus for us is the coming of the magi to the infant Jesus, symbolizing the revelation of his coming to the gentile world as well as to the Jews.

A related but surely greater reason, however, is that it is the last day of the popular Christian custom celebrating the 12 days of Christmas. The custom originated in England during the time between 1558 and 1829 when Catholics were forbidden to practice any outward expressions of their faith, including Christmas.

Some propose that each part of the popular carol with that name was code for some aspect of Catholic doctrine. Seven swans a-swimming, for example, denoted the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Four calling birds were the four Gospels, and so on.

Also, gifts of some sort apparently were offered on the 12th day, Jan. 6. The king or queen of England traditionally makes an offering of gold, incense and myrrh to the royal chapel on that day. All these together prompt the designation of Epiphany as "Little Christmas."

Epiphany is a much older feast in the church than Christmas, ranked with Easter and Pentecost as the three major feasts of the year. For a long time, particularly in the East, the day celebrated the three major manifestations of our Lord: The coming of the magi, the baptism of Jesus at the Jordan and the miracle at the wedding feast of Cana. Traces of all three remain today in our Epiphany liturgy.

Nearly all the Eastern churches eventually came to celebrate the birth of the Savior on Dec. 25. The Armenian church still observes it, along with Epiphany, on Jan. 6.

In the United States and some other countries, Epiphany is now observed on the Sunday between Jan. 2 and Jan. 8, which explains the difference in dates.

*Q. I recently attended a course on Christian morality offered by our archdiocese. We were informed that the church has now adopted the Hebraic translation of the fifth commandment, "Thou shalt not murder" instead of "Thou shalt not kill." When and why did this change take place? (New York)*

A. I'm not aware of any official change, but the commandment has never been understood to prohibit all killing, but rather what we would generally call murder.

The Hebrew verb "rasah" used in the list of the commandments in Deuteronomy 5, for example, refers to homicide, either intentional or accidental, but not to killing of animals for food, or capital punishment, or killing in battle, all of which were practiced in Hebrew culture.

Thus, the more correct translation, there and in the listing of the Ten Commandments as given in Exodus 20, is: "Thou shalt not murder." This would cover all killing not explicitly authorized under Mosaic law.

I doubt that your instructor presented this meaning as an alteration. It is, in fact, the ancient interpretation of the commandment. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraphs 2258-2330) explains the similar traditional Christian understanding of this part of the Decalogue.

# Ex-Doobie Brother Michael McDonald finds new voice within himself

By MARYLYNN G. HEWITT and FATHER JOE HORN
Catholic News Service

DETROIT (CNS) — Michael McDonald, who gave the Doobie Brothers their signature sound, has found a new voice within himself.

The vocals that anchored much of the boomer generation with "Takin' It To The Streets," "What a Fool Believes" and "Minute By Minute" now sail with messages of hope cast in an eternal nature.

"In the Spirit" (MCA-Nashville), the five-time Grammy winner's recently released gospel/Christmas project, offers bits of traditional music as well as eight songs McDonald has co-written.

The singer-pianist, who spent much of his public life as a front man, has a new concern born of humbleness.

"Being a Christian and doing Christian music isn't so much what makes me wary," said McDonald, who was raised Catholic. "I'm a little reluctant to put myself out there as any kind of example of spirituality. I believe that it's a practical part of our existence and it's something, that given an opportunity, I love to discuss and tell people about it. And we don't talk about it enough."

"It Takes a Miracle," written with Marc Harris, is one such song that bears what McDonald called "a personal message in the sense that I've seen that so many times."

The song is rooted in the times "when we're bankrupt in every way, emotionally, financially, whatever," McDonald told The Michigan Catholic, Detroit's archdiocesan newspaper. "I think that really, so many times, it's setting the stage for God to do incredible things in our lives."

He said he has seen that through his years with Steely Dan, the Doobie Brothers, his solo career and in his family with his wife and their two children. Wife Amy, who was his childhood sweetheart, is in her fifth year of recovery from breast cancer. The cancer, he said, "has changed our lives profoundly. I don't think we all realized how much we all meant to each other until something like this happened."

"Peace," written with Beth Nielsen Chapman, is from the perspective of one of the Magi, but it bears a gift that endures all year.

"In the first days of his journey, he has nothing more than his faith that there's something wonderful. He knows there's something about to befall the world, and it is forever, and he wants to find that. It's of his belief that somehow, the star is the answer of what it is that is waiting for him," McDonald said.

"George Harrison put it really very well in an interview I saw with him recently, just before he died," he continued. "He said, 'There's really only a couple of things we're actually looking for. One is the chance to love someone else and the other is we're looking for God. Hopefully in our journey we can keep our eye on the target and get through this life with those two things intact.'"

McDonald added, "I think that's very true and that's what the song is about to me, that ultimate peace in knowing that all is well in God's world."

"In the Spirit" is dedicated to Sister Patrick Curren, a close friend diagnosed with pancreatic cancer three years ago and told she had three months to live.

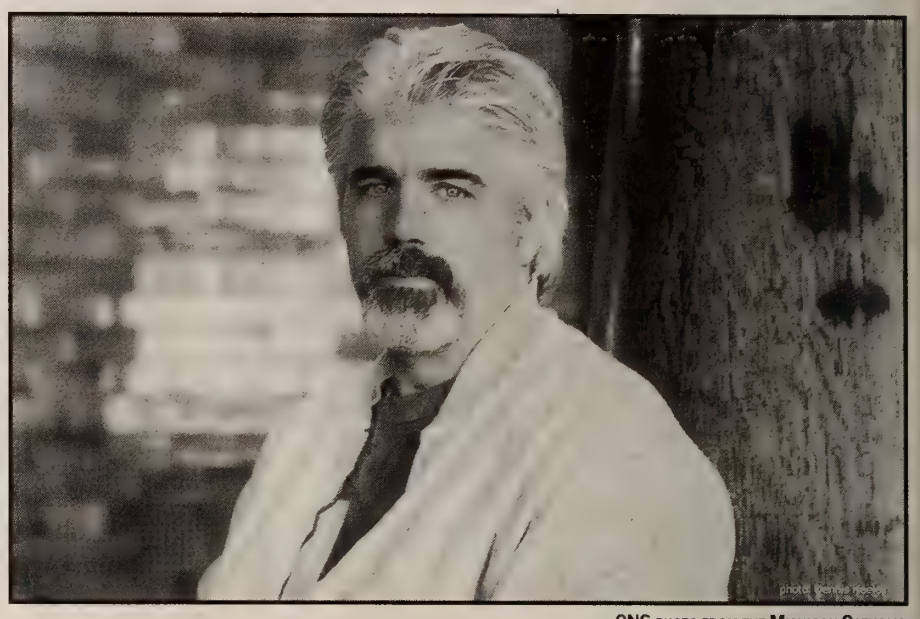
The two struck up a friendship in the early 1970s when she was a member of the Little Sisters of the Poor and knew his grandmother. For the past several years, Sister Curren, now a member of the Sisters of Mercy, was executive director of St. Anthony's Foundation, a $13 million organization providing free health care, counseling, rehabilitation and job training in the inner city of San Francisco.

"She's a woman who has been probably one of the best examples to me — that I've ever known — who has that heightened sense of being a human being," McDonald said. "She's dedicated her life of service to the poor ... with such an incredible passion for making the world a better place. I was so impressed by her and she pretty much turned my life around."

Sister Curren told The Michigan Catholic that the two of them form a mutual admiration society. "He's let me know I'm free to pick up the phone when we have a need — and I have." She recalled the time the mission needed books in several languages for poor children and McDonald saw they were provided.

"He never fell into the superficiality of the entertainment industry. He has a deep love of God, humanity, children and the universe," she said. As for the album dedication, "I haven't gotten over it," she said, admitting that when they first met, she didn't know anything about his music.

"Now I'm a fan," she said with a laugh.



CNS PHOTO FROM THE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC

**Michael McDonald, who gave the Doobie Brothers their signature pop sound in the '70s, has adopted a more spiritual theme in a recent recording. His "In the Spirit" is a combination of traditional and original gospel and holiday songs.**


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# Guadalupe Mass joins people in faith, culture

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

CHEROKEE—It was an evening for firsts and for joining in celebration. The special Mass Dec. 12 at Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLG) on Dec. 12 in honor of the church's namesake was the first that Father Ray Williams had celebrated in Spanish. It also a way to bring together Hispanic Catholics in the Cherokee area.

"If we didn't have Guadalupe in Advent, these people wouldn't be here in church," said Eduardo Bernal, Hispanic Ministry worker for the Asheville and Smoky Mountain vicariates. "Mary brings them together. They would come to Mass, but they wouldn't do anything else. She came in the right time. God knows what he's doing."

After Mass, everyone shared a potluck Spanish dinner in the adjacent Kateri Center.

Father Williams, pastor of St. Joseph in Bryson City, is also pastor of OLG, which is St. Joseph's mission church. He speaks Latin and Italian, but Spanish is new for him. So he read the Gospel and preached his homily in English, with Bernal translating. Father Williams prefaced his homily with a promise: "I wish I could preach to you in Spanish; someday I will."

In his homily Father Williams spoke of Mary's love for humanity. "Her image is a sign of her love," he said. "Her image is a sign that she is praying for all people. Our Lady of Guadalupe tells us that God has not forgotten us. ... She comes to the poor first and foremost perhaps because the poor more readily listen. May we all be as Jesus required us, to be poor in spirit."

After Mass, the 25 attendees, some of whom speak little or no English, applauded Father Williams for his first Spanish Mass.

"He's doing great, 100 percent," Jesus Moreno said. "It's very important. More people can come."

"I enjoyed it," Father Williams said. "I understand it; I know exactly what it's saying. I prayed it. It's a beautiful language."

"We're planning, starting with Epiphany, to have a regular Spanish Mass, at least once a month," Bernal said. "The first couple of months will be very frustrating because we will need to get lectors and other ministers."

The church already has some. Angie Ernst, who's of Hispanic descent, served as lector at the OLG feast-day Mass. Jesus Moreno, her husband, Salvador Sr., and their sons, Salvador Jr., 14, and Gerardo, 9, speak English and attend Mass regularly at OLG, even when it's not in Spanish. The boys are altar servers.

The Mass attendees are looking forward to a regular Spanish-language Mass in Cherokee. Indeed, Bernal said, when he recently visited some Hispanic agricultural workers new to the area, the first thing they asked was "When is Mass?"

Until he left in May, Augustinian Father Chris Nowak, parochial vicar at St. John in Waynesville, occasionally celebrated a Spanish Mass at OLG. Those who have transportation do go to Franklin where Father C. Morris Boyd celebrates a Spanish Mass at 11 a.m. each Sunday at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Father Boyd also says a Spanish Mass every Sunday evening at Immaculate Conception in Canton. St. William in Murphy celebrates a Spanish-language Mass every two weeks and has a bilingual Mass once a month. The distance from Cherokee to Franklin or to Murphy is about an hour.

"This next year, we're starting a very serious faith formation program," said Bernal, "The Southeast Pastoral Institute (SEPI) is coming to develop a two-year program. One weekend every two months, we will have classes in the Catholic faith for adults and teens."

Bernal has prepared a schedule that he will submit to his boss, Sister Andrea Inkrott, interim diocesan director of Hispanic Ministry. He's scheduled the first SEPI weekend for March 23-24 in St. Francis of Assisi in Franklin. Bernal has also planned men's, women's and youth retreats.

It will be more faith formation than many of the Hispanic Catholics in the area have been exposed to. Many come from rural areas where they may see a priest only once or twice a year. Catechists coordinate all religious activities: faith formation and communion services and help organize feasts for the village's patron saint, but being a catechist can be a dangerous occupation in countries where anyone who organizes people may be seen as an enemy of the state.

"This guy I heard of in Guatemala was helping the community," Bernal said. "He was supposed to do a communion service. He knew the army was coming to get him, and he hid the communion in a bag of grain. He gathered his wife and children and made them kneel and promise they would always serve the Lord. Then the army took him away."

Bernal is from El Salvador, where Archbishop Oscar Romero was gunned down while he was celebrating Mass one day in 1989. Romero had spoken out in opposition to the government.



Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**Filomena Silva holds her son, Alfonso, 9 months, whose main focus is his plastic spoon.**

Religious oppression and lack of faith formation in their native countries are not the only problems. The number of Hispanic Catholics in western North Carolina is growing, as it is throughout the United States. In the western region, Hispanic Catholics come from Mexico, El Salvador and Colombia.

"We're immigrants to a new culture, but also to a different kind of church," Bernal said. "Each country has its own music tradition. In Mexico the big feast is Guadalupe. In my country, it's the Transfiguration."

Bernal recently compiled figures so he could apply to the Diocesan Foundation for a $5,000 grant for materials and other expenses, such as SEPI fees. The diocese pays his salary but doesn't allocate money for the program. The Hispanic ministry worker sets up Catholic services where there are none and develops ministry such as training lectors.

To support the grant application, Bernal gathered figures from such sources as the diocese's new "Hispanic Pastoral Plan" (not yet approved) and the 2000 census. The figures showed that in the Asheville Vicariate (Asheville, Brevard, Burnsville, Hendersonville, Hot Springs, Mars Hill, Sapphire Valley, Swannanoa, Tryon 36 out of every 100 Catholics are Hispanic. In the Smoky Mountain Vicariate (Andrews, Bryson City, Canton, Cherokee, Franklin, Hayesville, Highlands, Maggie Valley, Murphy, Robbinsville, Sylva, Waynesville), 29 of every 100 Catholics are Hispanic. The overall figure for the two vicariates is that 35 percent of the Catholics in the two vicariates are Hispanic. However, the figure could be even higher since many Hispanics do not register in the diocese.

Bernal recalled a number he heard a couple of years ago at a SEPI workshop. "It's estimated that in 2050, 85 percent of the Catholics in the United States will be Hispanic," he said. "That's why we're trying so hard in this diocese to get faith formation going. It's a big challenge. We'd better start doing something now so we'll be ready."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

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# Long-standing commitment to faith leads to ordained ministry

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Events in Rev. Mr. Jeff Evers' life have been cyclical. He worked as a land surveyor as did his father and, like his brother, as a police officer. His children attended the same church and schools that he attended, and as a deacon, he served his first several years at his childhood church in Deer Park, Long Island. His most important endeavor has been his family and his involvement with the church, which has grown steadily for many years.

As a child, church was always in his line of vision. Evers walk across the street to St Cyril and Methodius to serve as an altar boy. His Irish Catholic family readily volunteered their time and talent in several ministries. While his father developed land and created neighborhoods, Evers enjoyed his youth playing in the wooded areas that surrounded his home.



Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Evers

"I was free to come and go as I pleased. There were none of the fears that we have today," said Rev. Mr. Evers.

In his early teens, he met Barbara, a Brooklyn girl, and knew she was "the one."

"The seed was planted back then," he said. "We knew we would be married when we met in the eighth grade. We started dating our senior year of high school."

They were married in 1963, two years after Evers graduated high school. Walking the same path as his father, he began working as a land surveyor. "My father had a good amount of influence on me and taught me to be independent at a young age," said Rev. Mr. Evers.

After three years, the Suffolk County Police Department was recruiting young men and women, and he joined. "As a land surveyor, I had no health benefits and decided to try it (the police force) out of sheer desperation for a better job and benefits."

In 1967, he was inducted into the police department and quickly worked his way through the department. He moved from street patrol to administration to the community relations division. As a way of creating better relationships with the public, he taught criminal justice elective courses to high school teens. "It was a great experience because (it was) a nine-to-five job, and I had the weekends off. I enjoyed teaching and being around the kids," he said of his 22 years as a police officer.

His wife, however, went through an adjustment period: "At first, it (his work) was a little frightening. I was alone at night and pregnant during the first few years. As the kids grew up, I became acquainted with the cops' wives and neighborhood friends. It was a nice community, and most of them were Catholic."

During that time, Vatican II arose on the horizon and brightened their view of the church. A catechetical team came to their church to train the parishioners on the changes. The Evers welcomed their "new" church with enthusiasm and open arms.

"We were thrilled to see the church open the doors and windows to let the laity in," said Mrs. Evers. "Many people didn't realize that the church was for them. It was a wonderful and exciting time for us."

The couple became involved with marriage preparation, charismatic prayer renewal and other sacramental and non-sacramental programs. "Marriage preparation was one of our favorite ministries," said Rev. Mr. Evers, who opened his home to engaged couples for 25 years of service. "The house was hopping with many people, and the kids were able to see us share our faith with other couples."

The buzz about the permanent diaconate had begun to stir in his diocese, and his parish priest suggested the ministry to Evers. After about five years of discernment, prayer and discussions, he decided to apply to the three-and-a-half yearlong program. "I consider it a call, one that was affirmed many times in my life by many people."

Mrs. Evers said, "The children were in high school, so it was a good time. I was supportive of his decision, and I knew that he had the calling. We had always been a very spiritual couple, and I loved it. We had many friends in the diaconate."

He was ordained in 1986 and says the classes were uplifting: "The classes were challenging and opened up a whole new world for me as far as my faith was concerned. The classes generated a lot of discussion and thought for us and opened my eyes to many things I hadn't known before."

Rev. Mr. Evers continued his nonstop ministry in his church as coordinator for the parish outreach program and marriage preparation while working and fulfilling his role as father and husband.

"Working while being a deacon was different because there was a house to repair, family issues, etc. I had to be careful to balance my time," said Rev. Mr. Evers, who retired from the police force and became further involved in parish life.

After his daughter moved to North Carolina with her husband, the Evers visited them often. They were entranced with the state and were looking for a change. The man who had never lived more than a few miles from his childhood home moved to Charlotte and joined St. Matthew Church, where he now serves.

"St. Matthew is so alive with so many things with which people can be involved. It is similar to what we left in Long Island. It is a large parish and feels comfortable to us," said the deacon, who works with mutual finds and securities in the compliance department at Bank of America.

The father of three and grandfather of five says that since becoming a permanent deacon he is more aware of his spirituality, the needs of others and the fact that everyone is a part of God's church.

"The diaconate has been a wonderful place for us," said Mrs. Evers, a part-time faith formation teacher. "It has been interesting being married to an ordained minister. The formation classes and the diaconate have made us both more aware of our personal relationship with God, which has to be fully formed before you can serve others."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*


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*New Year's Eve Midnight Mass*
*Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant*
*December 31, 2001*
*Doors open at 11:00 p.m.*

*New Year's Day*
*January 1*
*Mass at 9:00 a.m.*

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December 28, 2001
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# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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***The next edition of The Catholic News & Herald will be published January 11, 2002***

# New era in American history begins with Sept. 11 attacks

BY JOANN S. KEANE
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE - 2001 will be marked in history as the year terrorism reached the shores of the United States on Sept. 11.

A new era in American history began when terrorist attacks with hijacked planes killed more than 3,000 people in New York, Virginia and rural Pennsylvania.

The Sept. 11 events had profound religious and moral dimensions, as millions of Americans thronged to worship services and asked new questions about the existence and meaning of evil.

"We must not let hate rule our hearts," said Bishop Curlin on Sept. 11. "Yes, we must defend ourselves. But we cannot let our anger, our despair, and our desire for revenge defeat us."

While the terrorist attacks and ensuing war mar year one of the new millennium, the church marked many significant moments in history.

At their fall meeting, the U.S. Catholic bishops said the defense of the people against terrorism like that inflicted Sept. 11 was just cause for war, but they warned, "Every military response must be in accord with sound moral principles, notably such norms ... as noncombatant immunity, proportionality, right intention and probability of success."

Pope John Paul II, who turned 81 in May, remained the world's most notable religious figure as he guided the church into the new millennium, traveled to places never before visited by a pope and continued reaching out to other faiths and religions.

Pope John Paul created 44 new cardinals - setting new records for the most cardinals, 184, and for the most cardinals ever eligible to enter a conclave and vote for a new pope.

Locally, Bishop Curlin ordained six new priests, four in June, two in Dec. Since his installation as chief shepherd of Charlotte in 1994, Bishop Curlin has ordained 25 men to the priesthood.

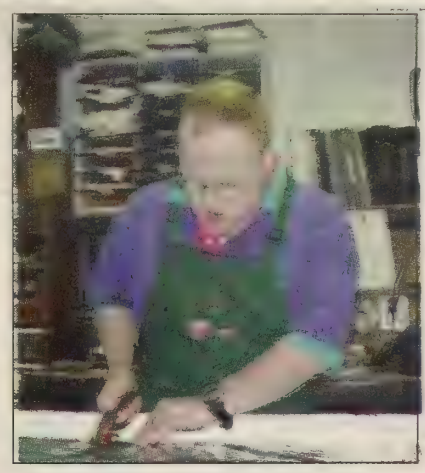
*Catholic News Service contributed to this article.*

*Many events on national and international fronts of the Roman Catholic Church took a backseat to the Sept. 11 events. Inside this edition, we track month-by-month, the year 2001 in review.*

# HOLY ANGELS









PHOTOS BY MARY MARSHALL

**A special center spread on Holy Angels can be found on pages 6 and 7. Pictured here from top to bottom: Maria assembles a bouquet, Gaye Dimmick holds Zachary in the Snoezelen room, Edwin cuts paper, and Andy Wisniewski, a Mercy Volunteer Corp member, assists Jerrod.**

# 2001 month by month

By Catholic News Service

*WASHINGTON (CNS) — Here is a month-by-month overview of some events in the world of religion in 2001.*





## JANUARY

Pope John Paul II closes Holy Door to end jubilee year, issues apostolic letter on church agenda for start of new millennium. U.S. Lutherans and Episcopalians enter full communion. Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick is installed as archbishop of Washington. Afghanistan's Taliban regime decrees death penalty for converting to Christianity or distributing Christian literature. Hundreds are killed by earthquake off Salvadoran coast; India's worst earthquake in 50 years leaves thousands dead. President Bush takes office in Washington, reverses Clinton policy on abortion funding abroad, establishes federal offices for faith-based initiatives. Congo President Laurent Kabila is assassinated, Kinshasa archbishop urges end to country's civil war. British Parliament approves rules letting scientists clone human embryos for research.

## FEBRUARY

Abigail McCarthy, noted Catholic writer and women's advocate, dies. Israel elects Ariel Sharon as prime minister. Bishops of Americas meet to discuss migration issues in Western Hemisphere. John J. DeGioia is named first lay president of Jesuit-run Georgetown University. Pope installs record 44 new cardinals, including three Americans: Archbishop McCarrick, Jesuit theologian Father Avery Dulles and New York Archbishop Edward M. Egan. Twelve U.S. and Canadian bishops of Pacific Northwest issue joint pastoral letter on Columbia River region. Vatican warns of potentially misleading doctrinal ambiguities in book on religious pluralism by Belgian Jesuit Father Jacques Dupuis.

## MARCH

National consultation on women in church leadership draws 150 women who hold diocesan posts. Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George leads pope's Lenten retreat. Death threats force several Catholic missionaries to flee Indian state of Manipur. Afghanistan's Taliban regime destroys massive 1,500-year-old Buddha statues despite international protests. Caritas Internationalis urges immediate suspension of sanctions against Iraq. Church leaders criticize science group's plan to clone humans. Vatican says it is working to address sexual abuse of nuns by priests. Pope urges fight against racism in the church. Pope John Paul II Cultural Center is opened in Washington. Guatemalan court begins trial of five people accused in 1998 murder of Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera.

## APRIL

Cardinal George issues pastoral letter on racism. U.S. and Sudanese bishops urge strong U.S. role to end war in Sudan. Vatican, Dutch church leaders condemn new Dutch law legalizing euthanasia. At least 22 Catholics including bishops and priests reported arrested in China around Easter. Team of scientists claims extraction of stem cells from placenta can bypass embryonic stem-cell debate. Guyana's Catholic, Anglican bishops deplore wide ethnic violence, including attacks on religious facilities, following divisive elections. Pope says world leaders must control forces of globalization. Bush rejects papal plea not to execute Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh. Global coalition of Catholic agencies urges faster, deeper debt relief for poor countries. Pontifical Academy for Social Sciences studies globalization and Catholic social teaching.

## MAY

Pope visits Greece, Malta, Syria; he apologizes for Western Christians' treatment of Orthodox, visits a mosque and urges Christian-Jewish-Muslim cooperation in Middle East. U.S. Charity Sister Barbara Ann Ford is gunned down in Guatemala City; fellow human rights backers call it political execution. Vatican issues strict new rules for translation of Latin liturgy texts into modern languages. Pope convenes 150 cardinals for special consistory on church priorities in new millennium. Bush delivers Notre Dame commencement address. Msgr. John Egan of Chicago, social activist, dies. Zambian Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo weds Korean woman in mass ceremony presided over by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon. Four nuns are among 20 School of the Americas protesters sentenced to six months in federal prison.

## JUNE

Pope meets with Anglican Archbishop George Carey of Canterbury. McVeigh receives last rites from Catholic chaplain before he is executed in Indiana; Catholic leaders urge end to death penalty. Guatemalan court finds three military officers and a priest guilty in Bishop Gerardi's murder. Two nuns are among four Rwandans found guilty of participating in 1994 genocidal killings in Rwanda. U.S. bishops, meeting in Atlanta, adopt statements on Middle East, global warming, Christ's real presence in Eucharist, Communion under both kinds; they

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

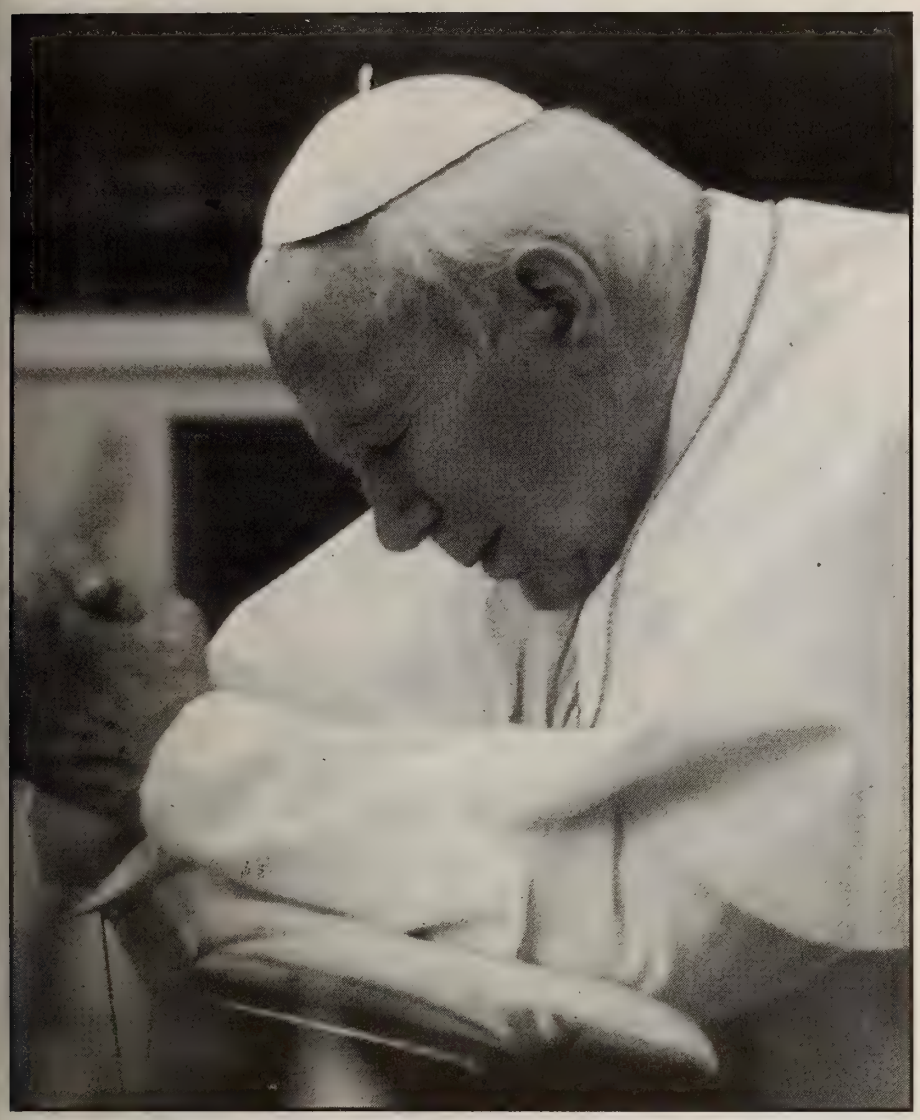
**January 6 — Feast of the Epiphany**
6 p.m. priests' holiday reception
Charlotte

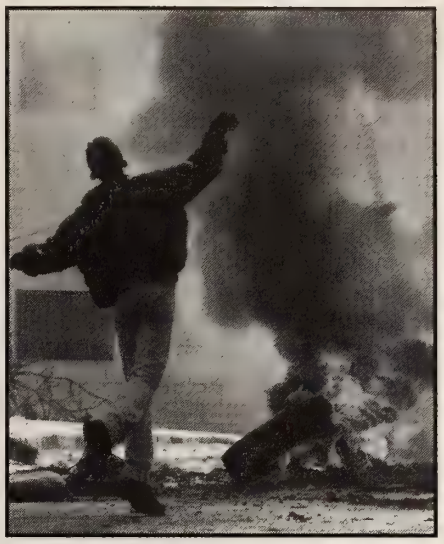
**January 7-11**
Region IV bishops' retreat
Florida

**January 22 — 10 a.m.**
Celebrant at March for Life Mass
Washington, D.C.

**January 27 — 11 a.m.**
Sesquicentennial Mass
St. Peter, Charlotte

**5 p.m.**
Mass for rosary makers
St. Patrick, Charlotte







also criticize U.S. treatment of refugees, make changes in liturgy norms and health care directives and issue guidelines for granting theologians a mandate to teach. Pope visits Ukraine for first time. Leading U.S. ecumenist, Father John Hotchkin, dies. In message to U.N. meeting on HIV/AIDS, pope challenges "exorbitant" cost of AIDS medicines in poor countries. Patriarch Maximos V Hakim of Antioch, head of Melkite Catholic Church for 33 years, dies at age 93.

## JULY

National Conference of Catholic Bishops becomes U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Head of U.S. bishops urges president, Congress not to fund human embryo research. Before Group of Eight summit in Genoa, Italy, pope urges leaders of rich countries to protect rights of poor countries. Vatican says it won't punish two nuns who spoke at international women's ordination conference. Meeting with Cuban bishops, pope calls for lifting of U.S. embargo. Belgian bishops oppose government plan to legalize euthanasia. Vatican warns Archbishop Milingo he faces excommunication. Vatican says Mormon baptism is not valid. G-8 summit is marred by street violence, forms $1.2 billion fund to combat AIDS and other diseases in Africa, but does not advance on debt relief. Pope meets President Bush, asks him not to fund stem-cell research on human embryos. Catholic-Jewish controversy grows as joint team of scholars suspends study of Vatican's World War II archives. U.S. House of Representatives votes to ban all cloning of human embryos.

## AUGUST

Pope meets Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, urges end to violence on both sides in Middle East. Interfaith TV programming venture gets reduced hours as Odyssey Channel becomes Hallmark Channel. Bush announces policy of funding research on stem cells taken from human embryos destroyed before Aug. 9. Archbishop Milingo meets with pope, renounces his attempted marriage, reconciles with church. Jim Nicholson, former Republican National Committee chairman, is sworn in as U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. Mother Teresa's sainthood cause ends local phase, moves to Vatican. Catholic, Anglican bishops appeal for peace in Sudan. Pope calls on science researchers to observe moral limits.

## SEPTEMBER

World Conference Against Racism goes forward despite U.S., Israeli pullout. Pope calls interreligious dialogue critical to world peace. Scores die in Christian-Muslim violence in Jos, Nigeria. Cardinal Ratzinger says globalization has replaced Cold War as world's ideological battle ground. Terrorists strike World Trade Center towers and Pentagon with hijacked planes, killing more than 3,000; pope calls it "dark day in the history of humanity." Heroism of rescue workers inspires country. Attendance soars at worship services, more than $1 billion is donated to victim assistance funds. Catholic leaders urge outreach to Muslims and Asian-Americans to counter acts of hate directed against them. Air travel, tourist industry face heavy losses as unemployment rises in economic downturn. Religious leaders, ethicists agree attacks were an act of war, urge U.S. response to focus on justice, not revenge. Bush demands that Afghanistan surrender al Qaeda head, Osama bin Laden. Bishops in predominantly Muslim Pakistan fear for Christians' safety. Pope visits Kazakstan and Armenia; in Kazakstan he condemns terrorism, begs God to prevent war and warns that religion should not bring division.

## OCTOBER

Bishops from around world meet at Synod of Bishops in Rome to reflect on church governance, ministry, teaching, spirituality and their own church role. First anthrax death — a photo editor Oct. 5 at a national tabloid publishing company in Florida — marks start of bioterrorism by mail. United States, Britain begin bombing campaigns against Taliban and al Qaeda strongholds in Afghanistan. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan wins Nobel Peace Prize. Pope beatifies Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi, first married couple beatified together. Pro-life leaders condemn anthrax threats directed at abortion clinics. Pope seeks dialogue between church, Chinese government. Christian leaders, peace activists march on Bethlehem to urge end to new wave of violence. Vatican approves eucharistic sharing in some circumstances between Chaldean Catholics and members of the ancient Assyrian Church of the East. Pope denounces slaying of 16 Pakistanis at a Catholic church by masked gunmen.

## NOVEMBER

Court challenges follow U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft's decision to prosecute doctors who assist suicide with federally controlled drugs. Vatican challenges World Trade Organization to treat poor countries more fairly; Vatican's U.N. nuncio calls for closing of rich-poor gap of nations. Pax Christi International, French bishops urge end to U.S.-led bombing in Afghanistan. Taliban power crumbles under air, land assaults. Vatican official warns food conference that world hunger is major threat to world peace. Pope urges aid to refugees; Catholic Relief Services seeks $50 million to aid Afghan refugees, displaced persons. Meeting in Washington, U.S. bishops elect first African-American president, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill. They issue statements on facing the world after Sept. 11 and on solidarity with Africa, revise their pro-life activities plan and approve — after a delay to complete voting by mail — a pastoral statement on the Asian and Pacific presence in the U.S. church. As first "Harry Potter" movie debuts, some commentators laud story's moral vision while some parents fear influence of occult on children. Vatican urges international convention banning human cloning. Pope issues post-synodal apostolic exhortation on the church in Oceania. Church officials condemn first reported human cloning. Terrorism crackdown draws growing debate over dangers to human rights, civil liberties. U.S. Catholic-Jewish consultation group warns that losing civil liberties to fight terrorism is "a Faustian bargain." Pope asks Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople to help break deadlock in Catholic-Orthodox dialogue.

## DECEMBER

Vatican says liberalizing drug laws has "disastrous" effects. Gerhart Riegner, a founder of the World Jewish Congress and pioneer in Catholic-Jewish relations, dies in Geneva at the age of 90. Doctrinal congregation takes jurisdiction over church trials of priests accused of sexually abusing minors. Amid escalating Israeli-Palestinian violence, pope pleads for end to "useless spiral of death." National Catholic Youth Conference draws 24,000 to Indianapolis. Pope asks that fight against terrorism not distract nations from addressing severe poverty, injustice and other tensions that "menace the fragile equilibrium between nations." Pope convenes Catholic Holy Land leaders in Rome to discuss pastoral concerns. Pope asks Catholics around world to fast for peace on Dec. 14. In World Peace Day message he says self-defense against terrorists is justified, but forgiveness is needed for peace.

# Catholic Social Services focuses on faith-filled friendship, fellowship

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Inasmuch as Catholic Social Services ministries focus on the community, the community knows the ministries of CSS are far-reaching and diverse and focused on the populations served.

Friends of Catholic Social Services are measured in love. Clients and recipients become friends of the agency that support with an unconditional helping hand. Volunteer friends help the agency with their gifts of time and donations of talent.

Meet the new breed of CSS friends: young professionals eager to become active members of a vibrant community outreach. "Catholic Social Services is an invaluable part of Charlotte's charitable infrastructure," said Bob Hollmeyer, a member of the Charlotte Catholic Social Services Regional Advisory Board. "CSS is held with such high esteem in the Charlotte community by those familiar with the unique role they provide our community."

From the CSS Regional Office Event Committee, thoughts of extending an invitation for involvement to others took flight and Friends of Catholic Social Services (FOCSS) was born.

"The idea of FOCSS is three-fold, awareness, fellowship and participation," said Ann Kilkelly, director of development for Catholic Social Services. "It is an opportunity to learn about CSS and its services and to participate in a variety of ways. It offers a special way for people to join in fellowship across parishes and other groups."

"It's a whole new energy," said Kilkelly of the Young Professionals. "Added to the efforts of past and present supporters,it builds a broader foundation for expanding CSS services."

FOCSS ideas up for consideration are family oriented. "We realize our FOCSS volunteers are families; busy parents who want and need to be with their children," said Kilkelly.

On Dec. 4, the inaugural FOCSS group was treated to a reception against perhaps the most stunning backdrop in Charlotte. From the 60th floor of the Bank of America tower, 101 CSS supporters had the opportunity to meet-and-greet their friends in faith. "As friends of Catholic Social Services, you may feel the desire to learn more about CSS and get involved yourself," said Hollmeyer.

FOCSS has innovative plans for its membership. And as a start-up, the possibilities are endless. "FOCSS is for us to decide, and for the people (the inaugural group attending the reception hosted by the Bank of America) to help set an agenda," said John Beltz.

"I believe my participation with CSS and FOCSS events will provide the opportunity to meet a broad spectrum of people from the Charlotte community," said Beltz. Relative newcomer to Charlotte, Beltz said, "My wife and I are interested in getting active in the community and to give our time, efforts and resources back to a community that has been so embracing and caring."

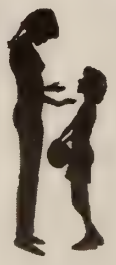
"I look forward to getting involved in making the world and the area a bit better through Catholic Social Services and FOCSS," said Edward Powell.

*For more information on FOCSS and other volunteer opportunities with Catholic Social Services, contact CSS Director of Development, Ann Kilkelly, (704) 370-3349, or Event Committee Chair, Jay Blanton, (704) 906-0143.*



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## Diocesan planner

**January**

**3** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Ladies' Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

**6** BOONE — Watauga County District Attorney Tom Rusher will offer a presentation entitled "Historical Efforts to Diminish the Death Penalty" at St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way, between the 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses from 9:40-10:40 a.m. For further information, call the church office at (828) 264-8338 or (828) 264-6347.

7 CHARLOTTE — Because of the holiday, the cancer support group meeting usually scheduled for the first Tuesday at St. Matthew Church will be cancelled. St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., will hold its normally scheduled first Monday meeting tonight at 7 p.m. in the ministry center in Room D. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**8** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Arthritis Support and Education Group will meet this morning from 10-11 a.m. in Room D of the parish ministry center located at 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**9** CHARLOTTE — All are invited to learn more about how death impacts children at a session entitled "Children and Grief" at the St. Gabriel Church ministry center, 3016 Providence Rd., from 7-8:30 p.m. Totty Lee from Hospice of Charlotte will talk about how children understand death at different ages and how families can work together to heal after a loss. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

**9** CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will be having a meeting with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center. The Amity Line Dancers will provide the entertainment. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. Next month's meeting will take place on the usual 1st Wednesday date of Feb. 6. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**9** CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Bobbe Conlin at (704) 643-1376 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

**12** CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo community will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight and every second Saturday of the month for a school of leaders at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For further information, call Ky Do at (704) 532-9094.

**13** CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon with a prayer service with teams at 3 p.m., Mass at 3:30 p.m., a healing service in front of the Blessed Sacrament at 4:30 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Father Swamy from St. Ann Church will be the celebrant. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

**Ongoing**

ASHEVILLE — The hours for the Nazareth House Family Ministry

# Woman defines life through benevolent works for others

By DIANE M.A. RIGGS
Correspondent

BURNSVILLE — God's calls may be veiled or direct. Elizabeth Turner had no doubt that God was presenting her with a direct call when, at a political function in the mid-1990s, her right arm involuntarily shot forward, and she found herself walking rapidly across a parking lot to shake hands with someone she had never seen.

That God-directed encounter began a journey that led to the founding of Sagrado Corazon, a Catholic Hispanic mission church northwest of Asheville, and innumerable friendships with Mexican immigrants in Yancey County.

Much in her life had prepared the Maryville, Tenn., native for the catalyst role in which she found herself. Turner grew up in a family immersed in Vatican II Catholicism; those times and Pope John XXIII inspired her parents, who became Catholics as adults. They were hopeful and idealistic young Catholics, active in the church's prayers and strivings for peace and racial justice.

"The most important thing my parents gave me was my faith," she said. "I am totally grateful that they were so faith-filled and excited about (it)." Sent to St. Genevieve of the Pines in Asheville for high school, Turner loved the Sisters of Religious Education. The sisters were "smart, strong, the best role models," she said. "They had a huge influence on me." Turner recalled receiving permission slips to go on civil rights protest marches, "in our white St. Genevieve uniforms, so everyone would know where St. Genevieve's stood on the issue (of civil rights)." By her junior year, she was heavily involved in running a neighboring school's after-school program housed at St. Genevieve.

Always considering herself Catholic, Turner left the church as an adolescent, and spent years searching for a spiritual home. Meanwhile, she and her husband "Hap" (Henry Clay Turner III), who designs and builds houses, began a family. Abandoning her doctoral studies to become a full-time mother, she and her husband eventually bought a farm in the Burnsville area, living without electricity, raising goats, and home-schooling their three children. "I have the best husband in the world," she said.



The sacraments were extremely important to Turner, and over the years, she attended different Masses, though alone. Like her parents before her, she tried to give her children her faith, "but you cannot give it without the sacraments," she said.

A meeting with Jesuit Father Frank Reese and Mercy Sister Peggy Verstege, then at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Mars Hill, opened the way back into the church. "They were the perfect gift of God to us," she said. Her children were baptized about 1990 and her husband a year later. "The people at St. Andrew were wonderful people, living their faith," she said.

Through the years, Turner and her family involved themselves in various ministries. At the former Yancey County Correctional Center, they and neighbors stood outside the fence singing Christmas carols to the prisoners, who, by the second year, began singing them back until the facility closed.

Ministry with immigrants was not something she would have anticipated. However, while she and the Rev. Robert Moore talked about a difference in sacramental understanding, it soon became clear that God was concerned with the Mexican persons living right in their midst. "He thought Hap was called to hire Mexicans — which he was," she said. But that was just the beginning.

Soon the Turners were transporting Mexicans to a little Methodist church in Bakersville where Moore and another pastor held services. In this way, she was slowly introduced to the Mexican community at large. "I didn't know so many Mexicans were already here — and most were Catholic," she said.

"This Methodist minister was so good — feeding them spiritually through their lives, life stories, especially the men away from their families, in their loneliness," said Turner. "(But), I thought, 'How can they live without the sacraments?'"

Through a chain of events, including a meeting with Father Reese and Sister Peggy, Capuchin Father Alfonso Pagliara, based in Hendersonville at the time, celebrated a Spanish Mass at St. Andrew. Thus, an "official" Catholic presence emerged among the Hispanic Catholics in the northwestern counties. Soon, the Mass moved to Sacred Heart in Burnsville because of the large number of Mexicans in Yancey County and because many of the Mexicans were within walking distance of the church. Turner said 80 people attended the first Hispanic Mass at Sacred Heart, and Jesuit Father Edward M. Ifkovits, pastor of St. Andrew and Sacred Heart, said, "Here's a whole other parish." That was the beginning of Sagrado Corazon.

Today, after that promising beginning and the continued assistance of many people, the Mexican community "feels very, very at home at Sagrado Corazon," Turner said.

Father Reese, who received special training, says the Mass in Spanish three times a month. Father Ifkovits, the pastor, says Mass once a month; Sister Peggy, who also received Hispanic ministry training, teaches faith formation. Others also help, including a nun, who used to drive all the way from Cherokee.

In the mission church's early days, Turner was involved in many leadership roles. Today, she says with satisfaction, "Now I am only a member — I teach only first Communion."

Turner, her husband Hap and others encouraged the emergence of Mexican lay leadership. Several young men have made visible differences in the community, including one who said the rosary with many men gathered around him, for 30 days in a row at a trailer camp. While some have had to return home to Mexico because of their families, the mission now has a music ministry whose Hispanic leader has written worship songs and even a Mass liturgy composition.

"This Mexican community brings so much to our (North American) church. There is such a tremendous faith, reverence and remembrance of what is holy. And, (they) really know how to be community to each other," she said, citing their easy willingness to offer shelter, food or money to those in need or their spontaneous, intergenerational play.

They have been community to Turner and her family, as well. She has visited Mexico and knows a bit of Spanish, but she credits the Burnsville Mexican community with her current grasp of the language: "I would just say, 'Hello, I'm Elizabeth. I'm a Catholic.' They were very patient. My family and I have become immersed in the lives of Mexicans."

Not only do phone calls come in nightly from the Hispanic community wanting help with everything from homework to understanding insurance problems, she believes she and her family have gained immeasurably from experiencing a different culture. And she has made true friends — the kind with whom she has laughed and cried.

and Lending Library, 474 Haywood Rd., are as follows: Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m., Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Nazareth House is a family ministry dedicated to promoting the blessings of Christian marriage, chastity, natural family planning and post-abortion healing. For further details, call (828) 250-9690 or e-mail nazarethhouse@juno.com.

BRYSON CITY — The St. Joseph Church thrift shop is open every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and Thursday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call the shop, located at 316 Main St., at (828) 488-2266 or Katherine Kelly at (828) 488-2519.

Perpetual and Daily Adoration

ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., hosts eucharistic adoration on the following days: Friday mornings immediately following the 9 a.m. Mass until noon, Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:15 p.m. every first Friday from 9:30 a.m.-8:45 p.m. For more information, call the church at (828) 684-6098.

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., hosts daily adoration from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information, call Jane Sorrells at (828) 298-0334.

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd., hosts perpetual adoration in the campus chapel. For volunteer and other information, call Marie Siebers at (704) 827-6734.

CHARLOTTE — All are invited to St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., for perpetual adoration. For volunteer and other information, call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas, 1400 Suther Rd., hosts eucharistic adoration every first Friday from 1:15 p.m.-midnight, and eucharistic holy hour takes place every Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Aquinas Hall is open everyday from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.

HIGH POINT — Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., hosts perpetual adoration in the chapel. For volunteer and other information, call Theresa Hansen at (336) 273-1507.

SYLVA — Eucharistic adoration takes place every first Saturday at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., following 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For more information, call Annette Leporis at (828) 497-7464.

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# HOLY ANGELS: Providing Dignified, Empowering Life Oppo

BY MARY MARSHALL
CORRESPONDENT

On Thursday, Dec. 20, residents, staff members, and special guests of Holy Angels gathered for the ribbon cutting, house blessing, and official naming of the fourth Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR) on Holy Angel's campus in Belmont, North Carolina.

"This is truly a wonderful day for Holy Angels," said Regina Moody, President/CEO of Holy Angels. "We are able to continue to meet the changing needs of these medically fragile young adults who we have been serving since they were children. We will be able to continue our approach of concentrating on their unlimited abilities with unconditional love. It is a comfort for their families to know that the special needs of their sons and daughters will continue to be met by Holy Angels."

The new group home is named Belhaven, whose origin stems from "bel" for Belmont and "haven" for a safe place. Belhaven was the name of Holy Angels' first group home, recently closed due to funding changes.

The new home was designed by architects Martin, Boal, Anthony and Johnson of Shelby and constructed by Pinnix Construction Co. of Gastonia. Funding for the $760,000 facility was through foundations and private donations. Foundations included: The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, Bank of America Foundation, Duke Endowment, Pearl Dixon Balthis Foundation, Carrie E. & Lena V. Glenn Foundation, Community Foundation of Gaston County, and The Philip Van Every Foundation.

Designed to be as "homey" as possible, the house features a large great room (recreational/gathering space), nursing and therapy areas, and a Snoezelen (sensory stimulation) room. The bright and airy interior has a nautical theme with vivid blue counter tops, fish and dolphin wallpaper borders and a blue ceiling in the great room. "These people probably will never have the opportunity to see the beach, so we're bringing the beach to them," said Moody.

Belhaven will be home to four males and four females all over age 21, who have extensive medical and developmental needs. It will be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. "We will continue to help them develop in the best way we can," said Moody. "The house will be self-contained yet complemented by the programs available on campus."







PHOTOS BY MARY MARSHALL

**From Holy Angels, pictured above, one of the littlest angels. Below, Robert assists Father Frank O'Rourke during Mass. And pictured above, the newest home.**

The dedication of the 6,500 square-foot group home comes during the 45th anniversary of Holy Angels, and on the 46th birthday of Maria Morrow, the first resident. "What began as a love story between Sister Patrice and Maria has grown into a complex comprehensive service designed to meet the needs of both children and adults with developmental disabilities," said Moody. "Holy Angels began when a young mother brought her severely disabled baby girl to the nuns for help. Maria was not expected to live long. Today, she works part time as receptionist at Holy Angels and also helps make candy bouquets at Cherubs Candy Bouquet."

## WHAT IS HOLY ANGELS?

Holy Angels is a place of loving, living, and learning which maintains the highest standards of excellence in service while continuing to develop outstanding innovative programs that respond to the changing needs of our community. Holy Angels was originally staffed by the Sisters of Mercy. Today, there are two sisters within the staff of 250. "We served 35 medically fragile children when I came here twenty years ago," said Moody. "Today we serve a total of 125 in residential and day programs which include 65-70 children and adults with mental retardation and additional physical disabilities. The majority of these are medically fragile needing 24 hour nursing care. We've gone from an operating budget of less than a half million to today's budget of $7.5 million, and from one facility to 13 facilities."

Holy Angels' residents are from North Carolina, primarily Gaston, Lincoln, Cleveland and Mecklenburg counties. An ecumenical facility, it is the only Catholic facility in the state of North Carolina for the mentally fragile. Holy Angels was originally a custodial facility. As the years progressed, the programs advanced to developmental, helping each person reach his or her fullest potential.

Each person's needs are analyzed and creative programs are developed. Development takes place by bringing the environment to them. For example, a Snoezelen room of sensory stimulation arouses the senses of sight, touch, and smell. Colorful bubble machines are soothing to watch; a board of colored lights and various textured items encourages touching; vibrating and heat control lounge chairs are soothing. Cause and effect are demonstrated by one hitting a timer to renew the cycle of operation. Residents can play in the dirt or paint a pot in the horticultural center. They have the opportunity to see cause and effect by planting and watering. In the Main Cen-

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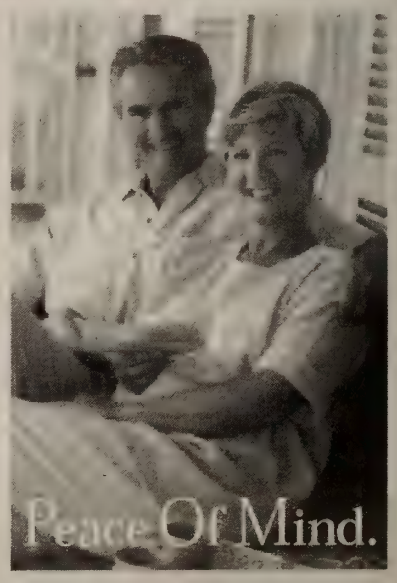
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### ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS OFFERED BY HOLY ANGELS

Holy Angels offers other programs such as the Community Group Homes, which provide a residential service for adults and adolescents who have mild to moderate mental retardation. These programs provide a normal home environment and assist each resident in attaining his or her highest level of independence. Supported Living is a service of support to individuals with mental retardation who are living in a more independent environment within the community. These supports are in areas of transportation, financial management, medical and counseling assistance, and independent living skills training. Cherubs Café, Gifts & Candy Bouquets provides vocational training and meaningful supported employment options for individuals with mental retardation. Located on Main Street in Downtown Belmont, Cherubs offers the community and surrounding areas the opportunity to learn more about the programs, services, work and ministry of Holy Angels.

### HOLY ANGELS, A PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

Holy Angels Inc. is the parent board that oversees policy making of all programs and services. The Holy Angels Foundation board of directors oversees the fund raising. The 35 members on these two boards are volunteers from the Charlotte region who contribute their expertise in banking, business, law, architecture, and health care.

Twenty-five percent of Holy Angels' operating budget is dependent upon individual contributions, corporate grants, special events and other fund raising efforts.

### VISION

Each individual, regardless of physical and mental ability, has the right to the highest quality of life.

### MISSION

In a positive environment of spiritual, physical, educational, social, and emotional support, Holy Angels provides children and adults with dignified and empowering opportunities for living, with special emphasis on those individuals with varying degrees of mental retardation who may also have multiple disabilities.

### VALUES

At the heart of our vision and mission are the values of the Sisters of Mercy: sacredness of life, human dignity, justice, compassion, service, and excellence.

# Fulfilling a Parent's Dream

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

When Kimberly Sarvis was born with profound mental retardation and physical disabilities, her parents, Gary and Phyllis Sarvis, were told she might live three to six months. The Sarvis' plan was to care for her at home. By the time Kimberly turned 11, her condition became even more medically complex, requiring round-the-clock care.

It was Gary who first visited Holy Angels. "You must come and visit," he told Phyllis. "She is missing so much by not being at Holy Angels, such as physical therapy, hands-on activities, visiting the greenhouse, and round-the-clock nursing care." As soon as Phyllis was introduced to the Main Center, she knew this was the place for Kimberly. That was 12 years ago. Throughout the years, Phyllis has kept up with Kimberly's schedule, activities, and her health on a daily basis. Phyllis is also a familiar sight around campus.

"Holy Angels is a God-send," said Phyllis. "You feel love when you walk through the front door. I'm very close to the people here; there are so many dedicated people who love these children as their own."

But there was a fear hanging over the Sarvis' head. Once they fell in love with Holy Angels, they began worrying about their daughter's future care. What would happen to Kimberly when she reached age 21, the maximum age of care? The only alternative at that time, although not a good one, was to place her in a nursing home.

Holy Angels also began researching the options for those residents who were living longer and would age out of the Main Center. In 1996, they began the process of presenting their needs to the state with the goal of attaining the necessary certificates to building an eight-bed facility to accommodate some of the residents who were living in the Main Center but were aging out.

Phyllis actively joined in the process, writing letters, making phone calls, conducting interviews on WJZY TV, and traveling to Raleigh, where she was a spokesperson at a legislative breakfast. Phyllis joined Holy Angels' Board Chair Lynn Leonard, who is guardian of one of the people that will be living in the new home, speaking on behalf of Holy Angels to the State Health Care Coordinating Council. It took three years to attain all the necessary certificates. An architectural drawing was then prepared and bids sent out to contractors. On December 20, 2000, a ground-breaking ceremony took place for the new group home, which will be called Belhaven. Kimberly along with three other women and four men will move into the 6,500 square-foot home in mid February.

"We're elated," said Phyllis. "This is such a peace of mind; I no longer have to worry about her care as she can stay here for as long as she lives. I knew I couldn't let her leave Holy Angels. Now, my dream has come true."


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*For more information, contact Gina Rhodes, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203, gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org*



# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Juan Diego, Padre Pio, Opus Dei founder headed for sainthood

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II ordered the publication of decrees clearing the way for the canonization of Blessed Juan Diego, Blessed Padre Pio and the founder of Opus Dei.

The decrees issued Dec. 20 recognize scientifically unexplainable healings related to intercessory prayers to the three men.

Acceptance of a miracle is the last step needed for canonization; dates for the ceremonies will be set only after Pope John Paul discusses the causes in late January or early February with cardinals living in Rome.

The three decrees were among 13 read at the Dec. 20 ceremony.

The miracle in the case of Blessed Juan Diego, the peasant who saw Our Lady of Guadalupe, involved a 20-year-old man who suffered a crushed skull in a suicide attempt; his mother's prayers for her son's life were answered over the course of a week in 1990.

Blessed Padre Pio, an Italian Capuchin, was invoked by an 8-year-old Italian boy's parents, doctors and staff members at the hospital Padre Pio founded in San Giovanni Rotondo in January 2000. The boy was in a coma in intensive care suffering severe organ damage as a result of meningitis.

The boy, Matteo Pio Colella, attended the Dec. 20 ceremony with his parents and leaders of the Capuchin community of San Giovanni Rotondo.

Colella carried with him a statue of the Baby Jesus from the monastery's Nativity scene, a statue the friars said was particularly dear to Padre Pio.

Pope John Paul kissed the hand of the statue before kissing Colella on the head and blessing him.

Prayers for the intercession of Blessed Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer, the Opus Dei founder, were credited with saving the life of a Spanish physician suffering from end-stage skin cancer as a result of years of exposure to X-ray radiation. The doctor was not a member of Opus Dei and although he had been given a holy card with Msgr. Escriva's image on it, he did not begin praying for healing until finding similar holy cards in a church in Vienna, Austria.

But Joaquin Navarro-Valls, papal spokesman, told the Italian news agency ANSA that Blessed Padre Pio's cause "followed the ordinary procedures; nothing was accelerated and no one put pressure on anyone."

Other decrees issued Dec. 20 cleared the way for the canonization of an 18th-century Italian Capuchin, Father Ignazio da Santhia, and a 19th-century Italian Benedictine, Sister Benedetta Cambiagio Frassinello.

Decrees recognizing the miracles needed for the beatification of four Italian priests and one Spanish priest, all founders of religious orders, also were read.

### It Keeps Giving and Giving and Giving



By GINA RHODES
Dir. Planned Giving

The little figure in the commercial promoting long-lasting battery power reminds me of the enduring character of an endowment fund. Once established, it just keeps paying out money year after year after year. But unlike the battery that eventually runs down, the endowment fund lasts in perpetuity. And perpetuity is a long time.

The permanence of an endowment is exactly what attracts some of our donors to this means of supporting The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. They like the idea that the principal of their gift will stay intact while the income will be used for a worthy cause. They realize that someday they will be gone and their outright annual gifts will no longer be available to help meet current needs. But through an endowment they can keep making their annual gifts.

Some endowment donors are attracted to the opportunity an endowment gives to memorialize a loved one or other respected person by naming an endowment after them. They use this perpetual giving arrangement to bring honor and recognition. Other thoughtful donors want to establish an endowment in their own name as a means of placing themselves on permanent record as persons who believe in and support either their parish, the Foundation, the Diocese, Catholic school or Catholic agency.

An endowment can be created during life, or at death through a bequest, trust, real estate, life estate, annuity, life insurance or retirement plan. It can be restricted to specific needs or unrestricted for general use. You can create your own endowment or contribute to one that already exists. Endowments can be made at once with a single gift or established over time with repeated gifts. Endowments can originate from a single source or through the efforts and support of many persons. Endowments are especially useful in drawing other family members into the giving arena. For example, grandparents who establish an endowment in the family's name are providing their children and grandchildren with a continuing tie with The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte as well as a means for them to enjoy the satisfaction of seeing "their" annual endowment grant benefit a worthy cause.

There are other good reasons for tapping into the endowment opportunities at The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. You owe it to yourself, and your family, to consider this charitable option.

*The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte has developed sound policies for creating and managing our endowment funds. This information is available upon request.*

*Please contact either me at 704-370-3320 or gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org or Jim Kelley, Executive Director, The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte at 704-370-3301 or jkkelley@charlottediocese.org.*



By DAN MORRIS
Catholic News Service

### Making New Year's Resolutions for Others

There are two hard-and-fast rules about New Year's resolutions. First, the ones we make for ourselves are usually way too hard to keep unless it is something like, "Eat tasty-yet-terminal fast food as often as possible because it supports millions of entry-level jobs."

Second, it is much easier to make resolutions for others. With this in mind, I have started a New Year's resolution list for the church in the United States with as little personal sacrifice on my part involved as possible.

So, for starters, how is this for the bishops of the United States: Call a moratorium on pastoral letters until it can be established that three out of five adult Catholics: a) know what one is; b) can name one they have read; c) are convinced it would speak to the message of Jesus more clearly than spending the same amount of time volunteering at a soup kitchen as it took to write it.

For pastors: Be more cognizant of fatigue, and do not consider it a sign of weakness to seek retreat, rest and renewal. Signs of fatigue might include dozing while driving, bouncing one's forehead against the confessional wall and/or screaming "Oh, yeah, big surprise!" when the parish secretary says, "It's for you on Line 1."

For women religious: Find a young family with at least a couple of kids and ask if you can stay at their place for a couple of days.

For deacons: Pray to accept and appreciate the leavening power and potential of your ministry even when at times it seems invisible or misunderstood.

For chancery employees: Keep in focus that you are very much to be the hands and voice of Jesus, that your income is provided by the free-will offering of many who make less than you (often far less) and that ministry begins in one's heart not one's job description.

For youth ministers: Pray daily for the vision to understand how the wisdom, clarity and energy of the young people with whom you work too often fades or disappears in less time than it takes to turn 23.

For St. Vincent de Paul members: Give thanks often for the lessons the poor can teach and for the grace God has given you for reaching out to them — even when you are treated less than kindly.

For finance committee members: Hold close to your heart the truth that witness speaks more powerfully to those of us in the pew than slogans, slick handouts or guilt-o-grams.

For those of us in the pew: Spend one minute per week praying over the reality that the holy Mass is an occasion of joy and that we need to resist the easy trap of letting our attendance become mechanical, habitual and heartless.

Certainly, it is only fair that these folks make New Year's resolutions for me, in turn. I only hope they sympathize with the fact that I prefer resolutions that involve MSG-enhanced, tasty-yet-terminal fast food.

(Comments are welcome. E-mail Uncle Dan at cnsuncle@yahoo.com.)



# Light One Candle

FATHER MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Giving Us Pause

Michael Berresse, a native of Joliet, Illinois, is a star on the Broadway stage. His two biggest roles so far, have been in the hugely popular shows Chicago and Kiss Me Kate. He's also appeared in several movies, including Steven Spielberg's much discussed film A.I.

This talented young man is clearly on the move. He was recently a guest on our Christopher Closeup television program. Our taping took place shortly before Michael was scheduled to move to London and reprise his Tony-nominated part there as Bill Calhoun in Kiss Me Kate. Few members of the Broadway cast were asked to take part in the English production, but Michael's singing, dancing and amazing acrobatic skills are a marvel. Yet what most impressed me about Michael Berresse was something else entirely.

Michael should have left New York City around the time it was attacked. Instead he chose to stay. Here's what he later wrote from London: "I too was in New York on the 11th of September. I delayed my departure until the 19th so that I might find solace and hope in the connection with so many in search of a greater unity. It was incredibly powerful to see so many eyes meet mine in the streets hour after hour, day after day following the disaster. All pleading for contact. No judgment, no borders. I have never felt such grief and reverence simultaneously. It is a magnificent lesson in understanding that peace and security do not come from without, rather from within. The desire to connect is a beautiful one, but even more so when one can find the holiness and peace in that connection."

In yet another message from London, Michael spoke about the many British people who have offered support and kind words simply because he's an American. "So much sorrow and grief," he added, "and yet so much potential for growth and unity." This "potential" offers a unique opportunity.

Those stories you've heard about New York are true. In the wake of horror, people were and are different. More people now hold the door open for others. Drivers are not as consumed with bolting past the light. Cursing, swearing and mean-spiritedness are the exception. In fact, it seems not unlike the spirit you find at holiday time. Around Christmas, people who once shared only anonymity make an effort to connect. We see ourselves as members of the human family, setting aside differences and allowing for the possibilities of goodness in one another. We are not surprised when a total stranger wishes us a hearty "Merry Christmas" or "Happy New Year" for no reason except to share the goodwill or the season.

I, too, will always treasure being in New York during these last few months. In the midst of unspeakable tragedy, people responded with kindness, care for others, and an unexpected civility.

Most importantly, that sensitivity hasn't faded. Instead, people act as though they're in this for the long haul. September 11th changed us in so many ways - not least in giving us pause, and helping us to remember that we are sharing the human journey. The ties that bind are so much more vital than those that separate. It's as simple as this: We need each other.

The power that inspired Michael Berresse and others to stay in New York, to come here, to connect and to share with their brothers and sisters is alive and well in the U.S.A.and in the world, today. May it be a spirit that grows and prospers.

# Bottom Line



BY ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

### Resolved: No More Worry Waiting

My New Year's resolution this year was inspired by Ray Romano, the star of "Everybody Loves Raymond."

I became impressed early in life with the romanticism of new starts and how we get the chance every Jan. 1 to resolve to make some. I can hardly remember a year I didn't tell somebody, usually my patient children, about the resolutions I was making.

In time, these became a kind of frothy ritual, having a boring sameness every year. You know: Don't gain weight. Do more exercise. Stay in better touch with friends. Don't criticize co-workers. Eat more vegetables. Throw out the old clothes in the closet.

Yet, some years I'd come up with a new resolution, one that was worth going for. This is one of those years.

I've probably seen, at most, a half dozen episodes of "Everybody Loves Raymond," laughing a lot at each one of them. I credited Ray Romano for his talent and would have assumed he was a celebrity with a strong dose of confidence.

Then I saw him interviewed on a morning show. There he was, saying honestly that everything might be going well for him, but always lurking in the background is his fear that he won't measure up for the next opportunity. He said he's always got "worry waiting," and while he smiled, he projected an honesty about this fear of the future.

I grabbed a pencil and wrote it down: "worry waiting."

Wow, did that hit home. If I had to count all the times in my life that a good achievement got short shrift because I worried immediately that I wouldn't be able to keep up the good work, I'd run out of numbers. I thought about relatives, friends and co-workers I have known who have been similarly bogged down.

First I remembered that when I was a teenager I read that "worry is the interest you pay on money that you never had." Now, I asked myself, why is it that we let something as ambiguous as worry take root in us when we get to be adults?

What are we really afraid of? Each of us has to find our own very personal answer to those questions. I know that for many of us worry is the baggage we carry after some traumatic event shakes our lives. We worry that if we were hit once, we can be hit again, and we live in mortal terror of a new pain shattering us, one we might not be able to handle.

So we live with miserable, constant "worry waiting."

Thanks to Ray Romano, I learned something important, and I made a New Year's resolution: No more "worry waiting."

I invite you to join me in this resolution. There's help, too, from above, if we can believe, as these words, found on a mantle in an old English hotel, profess: "Fear knocked at the door. Faith answered. No one was there."

Have a happy, worry-free New Year!

### Boundaries and Rules: Blessings or Curses?

In the house behind us live a couple of dogs — beagles. Most of the time they're inside. But twice a day, they come out for some air.

There's no fence between the properties, so I can see the happy little critters out my back window as they bound out and sniff the ground. It's a calm little scene much of the time.

But once in a while, the mood changes. For while there's no physical fence as a barrier between the dog's yard and the rest of the world, there is something designed to keep them contained: one of those underground electrical fences which sends a nasty little shock via the dog's collar when he crosses over.

One of the dogs is fine with the situation. He obviously absorbed his lessons well, and never crosses the invisible line. Such is not the case with his brother. It's easy to tell when he's ventured further than he should: The yelping does it. When I look out the window, I can see him hopping too, as if in mild pain.

None of this stops him from his real job, though. Yipping and jumping, he keeps right on sniffing the ground in our yard, then around to the front and into the neighbor's until one of his owners comes and fetches him.

I cannot make up my mind whether that dog is brave or just stupid.

Is he a creature with a strong will and a determination to follow adventure wherever it leads, no matter the cost? Or is he just too stupid to figure out the source of his pain and what will stop it?

You may have a similar quandary when it comes to the boundaries in your own life, and I'm sure there are scads of them: curfews and house rules, term-paper deadlines, uniform regulations and class rules. There are guidelines for how you're to look, what to say and how to act at work. Then there are the boundaries that aren't so definable: You will go to college. You will major in something "useful." You will not embarrass your mother or father.

Is crossing these boundaries a brave act of exploration of your true identity? Or is it just a stupid act that shows you just don't know what's good for you?

# Coming of Age



BY AMY WELBORN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Well, it depends.

Not all boundaries are there for the same purpose, and an important part of growing to adulthood involves learning to distinguish them. The person who slavishly reveres all rules just because someone made them is just as foolish as the person who thinks it's the height of maturity to disdain all boundaries.

Would you like a helpful clue to help tease all these boundaries apart so that you could see which are useful and which could stand a little stretching with no harm to you or others?

Look at Jesus.

Jesus pushed some boundaries to the limit: he mingled with the despised, which was supposed to render him "unclean." He broke Sabbath rules about eating and working.

But he respected just as many boundaries as he challenged: He talked tough about marriage and divorce. He was enraged by those who violated the sanctity of the temple.

Yes, you're surrounded by boundaries: invisible fences that just might shock you if you cross them. With Jesus' help, though, as you grow you'll be able to tell which crossings are worth the pain and which are just plain stupid.

# Pope says true peace must include justice as well as forgiveness

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In his strongest statement since the Sept. 11 attacks, Pope John Paul II said countries had a right to defend themselves against international terrorists.

But he said true peace could not be achieved without "justice and that form of love which is forgiveness."

In a message for World Day of Peace, celebrated Jan. 1, the pope urged Jewish, Christian and Islamic religious leaders to condemn terrorism publicly in order to deny "terrorists any form of religious or moral legitimacy."

He said the international community must fight terrorism by addressing underlying injustices like poverty, but he called the terrorists' claim to be acting on behalf of the poor "a patent falsehood."

The 14-page text, "No Peace Without Justice, No Justice Without Forgiveness," was released at a Vatican press conference Dec. 11 and focused on the unstable world situation since Sept. 11. The message's theme, originally announced in June as a reflection on the role of forgiveness in peace, was changed after the attacks to add the element of justice.

The pope said the terrorist attacks, through which "the power of evil seems once again to have taken the upper hand" in the world, had made him think of the suffering of his friends and acquaintances in Poland under Nazism and communism.

"I have often paused to reflect on the persistent question: How do we restore the moral and social order subjected to such horrific violence?

"My reasoned conviction," he said, "is that the shattered order cannot be fully restored except by a response that combines justice with forgiveness."

People often see justice and forgiveness as contradictory, the pope said, "but forgiveness is the opposite of resentment and revenge, not of justice."

"Forgiveness is in no way opposed to justice, as if to forgive meant to overlook the need to right the wrong done," he said.

"But because human justice is always fragile and imperfect, subject as it is to the limitations and egoism of individuals and groups, it must include and, as it were, be completed by the forgiveness that heals and rebuilds troubled human relations from their foundations," he said.

The pope said countries had a right to defend themselves against terrorism, as long as the right was exercised "with respect for moral and legal limits in the choice of ends and means."

"The guilty must be correctly identified, since criminal culpability is always personal and cannot be extended to the nation, ethnic group or religion to which the terrorists may belong," he said.

Vatican officials at the press conference declined to comment directly on whether the U.S.-led bombing of Afghanistan or a potential extension of the military campaign to other countries like Iraq, Sudan or Somalia would fit the pope's ethical parameters. Several said the lack of solid information coming out of Afghanistan made it impossible to form a judgment.

But one official, Bishop Giampaolo Crepaldi, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, approvingly noted U.S. stated objectives in Afghanistan to target only the terrorists blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks and the Taliban regime that gave the terrorists protection and support.

The pope said international efforts to fight terrorism must include addressing "situations of oppression and marginalization which facilitate the designs of terrorists." But, he said, "it must be firmly stated that the injustices existing in the world can never be used to excuse acts of terrorism."

In addition, those hurt most by the breakdown of global order caused by terrorism are the poor, especially those in developing countries, he said.

"The terrorist claim to be acting on behalf of the poor is a patent falsehood," he said.

The pope condemned terrorism as a "true crime against humanity," saying it "springs from hatred" and "is built on contempt for human life."

He said the "fanatic fundamentalism" that often breeds terrorism "is an attitude radically opposed to belief in God" and offends human dignity by trying to force one's own vision of truth on others.

"Even when the truth has been reached — and this can happen only in a limited and imperfect way — it can never be imposed," he said. "Respect for a person's conscience, where the image of God himself is reflected, means that we can only propose the truth to others, who are then responsible for accepting it."

The pope said no religious leader could condone terrorism, much less preach it. He said he intended a Jan. 24 summit of world religious leaders in Assisi, Italy, to be a sign of hope to the world and a joint commitment for peace and forgiveness.

"We will show that genuine religious belief is an inexhaustible wellspring of mutual respect and harmony among peoples; indeed, it is the chief antidote to violence and conflict," he said.

The pope acknowledged that forgiveness, which he defined as "a decision of the heart to go against the natural instinct to pay back evil with evil," was often difficult to understand and accept.

"Forgiveness, in fact, always involves an apparent short-term loss for a real long-term gain. Violence is the exact opposite; opting as it does for an apparent short-term gain, it involves a real and permanent loss," he said.

Saying he hoped that his insistence on the necessity of forgiveness would spur "serious and mature thinking on this theme," the pope closed his message with prayers not only for peace and for victims of terrorism, but also for the terrorists.

"May the light of our prayer extend even to those who gravely offend God and man by these pitiless acts, that they may look into their hearts, see the evil of what they do, abandon all violent intentions and seek forgiveness," he said.

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**Movie Review**

# "Kandahar"

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A few months ago, most Americans probably would not have been interested in a small movie by an Iranian director dealing with the plight of the Afghan people. Most also would be hard-pressed to find the city of Kandahar, Afghanistan, on a map. But by now, nearly all Americans are familiar with the Afghan city that was home to the Taliban leader Muhammad Omar, and curiosity about things dealing with Afghanistan has grown.

This is, in a strange way, good news for director Mohsen Makhmalbaf's grim drama "Kandahar" (Avatar). One of the most influential directors in Iran today, Makhmalbaf has created a visually exotic film which addresses the plight of women under the stringent Taliban rule and the accumulated misery of the Afghan people. Inspired by a true story, the film has a simple premise, but packs an emotional wallop as it describes the suffering and oppression of the Afghan people in graphic, inescapable terms.

Nafas (Nelofer Pazira), a young Afghan woman exiled in Canada, is desperately trying to reach Kandahar from Iran to rescue her maimed sister, who was left behind when the family fled the country. Her sister intends to commit suicide during the last solar eclipse of the millennium, giving Nafas' trip the urgency and motivation needed to make the perilous journey into Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. But this central story isn't what is compelling to the viewer. It is the incidental people and situations that Nafas encounters along her journey, depicting a horrifying view of life under the Taliban regime, that grips the viewer.

Hidden behind a head-to-toe burqa, Nafas is guided first by a refugee family, then by a boy expelled from a religious/military Quranic school, an African-American working as a self-taught paramedic, and finally a man maimed by a land mine. Most of the "actors" in the film are refugees living in camps in northeast Iran close to the Afghan border where the film was shot. This gives the film a realistic — almost documentary — quality.

It was Pazira who inspired Makhmalbaf's story. A radio and television journalist in Ottawa, Pazira was drawn back to the region after receiving a desperate letter from her closest friend who was living an oppressive life as a woman under the Taliban's rule. Having difficulty entering Afghanistan alone, Pazira contacted Makhmalbaf to make a documentary of her planned voyage. Though the director could not accept at the time, he contacted her a year later and proposed a fictionalized version of her story.

Visually, the film has a lyrical, poetic feel. As women line up on a bleached-white desert to be searched by the military, their long, colorful burqas flap in the wind, creating a burst of color against the stark sand. At a Red Cross station, dozens of men missing legs line up to receive painkillers and prosthetic limbs. And when a helicopter starts dropping plastic legs by parachute, a flock of men are seen from overhead, hobbling frantically across the desert to reach the falling limbs in the hopes of being made whole.

Throughout the film, Makhmalbaf uses images to create emotionally charged metaphors such as the burqa as a prison and artificial legs as freedom. Two important issues come to light: the obliteration of women's dignity as they are stripped of their civil rights and the devastation and mutilation caused by land mines. However, despite the vivid depiction of suffering, and as visually arresting as the film is, it is sometimes hampered by heavy-handed dialogue, most of it in English, that lessens the film's overall impact.

Yet "Kandahar" is nevertheless a moving experience that serves to remind that each person, whether male or female, whole or crippled, deserves to be treated with respect and compassion.

Some subtitles.

Because of a few startling images of amputees, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings*
*Dec. 30, 2001*
**Cycle A Readings:**
**December 30, The Holy Family**
1. Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Psalm 128:1-5
2. Colossians 3:12-21
3. Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

By BEVERLY CORZINE
Catholic News Service

One hot September afternoon I welcomed the blast of refrigerated air as I entered the mall. The Christmas season was the farthest thing from my mind. Labor Day had just passed, and the atrocities of Sept. 11 had not arrived. I simply had decided to saunter through my favorite store with the happy knowledge that I had my birthday gift certificate poised in case a great bargain should present itself. It has been my experience that time spent wandering among stacks of merchandise may occasionally lead to serendipitous discoveries, which emphasize the word "gift" in gift certificate.

Rounding the corner into what recently had been the linen section on my last visit to the store, I found myself deep in the heart of Christmas decorations 2001. Here on this hot September afternoon the strains of "Away in a Manger" filled the air. Another shopper gave me a knowing look that said, "It starts earlier every year!" After a few minutes of examining the latest Christmas decor, I was ready to free myself from the holiday maze and move on to the allure of discovering the new home of the elusive linen department.

Then I saw it. On a shelf at almost eye level were the most beautiful Nativity figures I had ever seen. I stopped and just looked. I then followed their delicate lines with my fingertips. Mary looked serene and peaceful. Joseph looked mature and tender. The baby could barely be seen among the folds of his mother's wrap.

Unexpectedly, I paused once more to marvel at the miracle of the incarnation. The artist had captured every perfect, stylized ideal that we have come to expect in a rendition of the Holy Family. However, we know like the audience in a suspenseful play that this idealized moment of calm will be fleeting.

Today, in this season of Christmas, we savor the drama of the infancy narratives in Matthew's Gospel. They contain a truth that time, space, separation and pain cannot diminish. The family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus were not immune from people of evil intent right from the start. However, from the beginning we see the strength of this family, its trust in God and its will to survive. Of course, we know that because of this family and its remarkable child we have been given the gift of assurance that even death can be conquered.

**QUESTION:**
In the narrative of your own family's progress, can you see the hand of God leading, providing, offering grace?

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Dec. 30 - Jan. 5**

**Sunday (The Holy Family),** Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23; **Monday,** 1 John 2:18-21, John 1:1-18; **Tuesday (Mary, Mother of God),** Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:16-21; **Wednesday (St. Basil and St. Gregory Nazianzen),** 1 John 2:22-28, John 1:19-28; **Thursday,** 1 John 2:29—3:6, John 1:29-34; **Friday (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton),** 1 John 3:7-10, John 1:35-42; **Saturday, (St. John Neumann)** 1 John 3:11-21, John 1:43-51

**Scripture for the week of Jan. 6 - Jan. 12**

**Sunday (Epiphany),** Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12; **Monday (St. Raymond of Penyafort),** 1 John 3:22—4:6, Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25, **Tuesday,** 1 John 4:7-10, Mark 6:34-44; **Wednesday,** 1 John 4:11-18, Mark 6:45-52; **Thursday,** 1 John 4:19—5:4, Luke 4:14-22; **Friday,** 1 John 5:5-13, Luke 5:12-16; **Saturday,** 1 John 5:14-21, John 3:22-30

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| *Rev. Arthur J. Racette* | *1975* |

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# Family and faith frequent deacon's life

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — It was only a country club membership. Gordon Forester had been a longtime member of his Westbury, Long Island, country club until something told him —twice — to resign. What he experienced was not as fantastic as the voices that Kevin Costner's character heard in the movie "Field of Dreams," but the messages were similarly inexplicable. Ignoring the first directive, he listened the second time and left.

Five months after he gave up his membership, he saw the headline "Diocese of Rockville Centre installs diaconate" in his diocesan paper. He instantly knew why he felt compelled to resign from the club.

"I would have been playing golf on Saturdays, and the formation classes were held on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.," said Rev. Mr. Forester, who was ordained in 1979 and retired from full-time service three years ago. "The classes were exhausting, but they paced them well. We had magnificent teachers in that first class of deacons.

"I feel that I was called to it (the diaconate), and I get a great deal of pleasure out of being a deacon and being able to perform ministry. What has been most rewarding for me was performing baptisms and weddings for my grandchildren," said the father of six and grandfather of seven. "I derive pleasure out of working with people and being reaffirmed by those who have been touched by ministry."

Long before serving as a permanent deacon, Forester, the oldest of three boys, grew up in Evanston, Ill. His father was a furniture salesman who frequently traveled to North Carolina furniture stores, and Forester would sometimes accompany him to Hickory and surrounding areas. He attended Catholic school and served as an altar boy as a child and while attending the University of Notre Dame.

"My past has been asphalted over," said Rev. Mr. Forester wistfully of his elementary and high schools being torn down for parking lots.

He graduated from high school in 1941, the same year the United States entered World War II. Forester, like many young men around the country at that time, wanted to enlist. An overbite prevented his joining the Navy, so he went to Notre Dame on a scholarship and majored in business administration.



Rev. Mr. Gordon Forester

Determined to serve his country and with his overbite corrected, he joined the Navy ROTC. One semester before earning his degree, he was sent to the Pacific in 1944. Kamikazes hit his ship in 1945, and the vessel had to be towed to the United States. The sailors thought they were through with attacks, but nature had other plans. A typhoon knocked their vessel up and down 40- to 60-foot waves against a backdrop of dark, stormy skies.

"I was working the radar and was too busy to be scared, but I was scared," he said.

He returned home to marry his high school sweetheart, Ann, who had waited anxiously for him. They met when she was 14; he was 17. They wed in June 1946, a few months after becoming engaged. He graduated in September 1946 with his business degree and moved to New York to accept a position with Chase Manhattan Bank.

In need of a better salary, he began working as a buyer and became the head of purchasing for J.C. Penney. After 12 years, he moved to Imperial Reading, now Health Tex, as a jeans salesperson for major department store chains.

"I enjoyed it because of the personal relationships I developed. I got to know these people well and maintained friendships with many of them," said Rev. Mr. Forester who often traveled to North Carolina to textile mills as his father did years before.

His faith life developed more slowly than his professional life. He says that his wife was more spiritual than he at that time, so they attended Mass twice a week.

"I had a sense of spirituality but was a normal Sunday Catholic at first," he said. "We became involved in things because of the kids. It was hard to get your kids in Catholic school back then. We had to get involved in parish work; it was a necessity in those days."

Marriage preparation, Girl Scouts, Little League, charismatic renewal and eucharistic ministry consumed the couple's time as Forester grew closer to his faith. He spearheaded the development of a grief support group that met twice a year.

The diaconate created more opportunities for his involvement in church, including faith formation work and other ministries. After retiring from the merchandising industry, he entered the world of academia as an adjunct professor of marketing for Nassau Community College for many years. The Southern bug bit him as he and his wife pondered where they would spend their retirement years.

Greensboro was one of their main choices. His familiarity with the small city from his travels, the climate and a friend living in the area were solid reasons to move in the late '80s. The Foresters joined St. Paul the Apostle Church, which reminded them of their home parish. He began a grief support group in his new parish and also became involved in hospital ministry as an adjunct chaplain at Moses Cone Hospital.

His life changed in 1998 after a family trip to France and a visit to his oldest grandchild in Florida. He and his wife had driven up the coast to Hilton Head, S.C., and she began complaining of breathing problems. He followed the ambulance to the hospital, but it was too late. His wife of more than 50 years had died of an aneurysm of the thorax en route to the hospital.

"It was a horrible experience for the first seven or eight months. I had been working in grief support ministry, but it made it no easier for me," said the deacon, who continues to serve when needed and spends his spare time playing golf and fishing. "(There comes) a time when you overcome grief, or it overcomes you. You never get over it completely, but what has helped me is working with others."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*


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"I will make you a light to the nations that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."
— Isaiah 49:6

# Patient hands string rosaries for overseas military

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE—Fifty-nine beads lovingly strung on a cord 64 inches long all connected to a plastic crucifix make a simple rosary that brings great comfort to U.S. military personnel in Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Persian Gulf and surrounding areas.

There's nothing extravagant about these rosaries. To meet military requirements they are black or brown and are strung on sturdy cord of the same color with plain black crucifixes. They are an inch longer than a regular rosary since military men and women often wear them around their necks, close to their hearts. The restrictions are practical—plastic beads and cording make no sound; wearing them around the neck prevents them from falling out pockets and leaving a trail.

Caring hands patiently stringing the beads belong to the Rosary Makers of St. Vincent de Paul Church, Our Lady's Rosary Makers of St. Matthew and Our Lady's Rosary Makers of St. Patrick Cathedral. The groups belong to Our Lady's Rosary Makers of Charlotte.

"Some people don't have a relationship with God," Mina Heiy of St. Matthew said. "These rosaries are the closest connection they may experience."

Following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks many people turned to the rosary as a source of comfort and strength. "The rosary is a powerful tool backed by the power of Our Lady's intercession," said Marina Rief of the St. Matthew group.

Shortly after the attack, New York Auxiliary Bishop Francisco Garmendia, vicar of the South Bronx, placed rosaries made by the Rosary Makers of St. Vincent de Paul at locations where families gathered to await news of their loved ones. "We look to Jesus and Our Blessed Mother to bring peace to so many brokenhearted families and to the whole country as we enter into the reality of war," Bishop Garmendia said. "The rosary is the spiritual tool that the Blessed Mother has given to us."

In addition, some of the St. Vincent rosaries were sent to a Marine base, where men and women were packed and awaiting orders to go overseas.

The 29 members of Our Lady's Rosary Makers of St. Matthew were already meeting bimonthly to recite

See ROSARIES, page 7



Photo by Mary Marshall

# Day of reflection to address issues of faith and culture

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — In response to the National Black Catholic Congress' (NBCC) nationwide call to dioceses, the African American Affairs Ministry (AAAM) of the Diocese of Charlotte will conduct a day of reflection in preparation for NBCC's Congress IX to be held this year in Chicago Aug. 29 through Sept. 1.

The diocesan day of reflection, scheduled for Feb. 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation (OLC) Church in Charlotte, will consist of presentations and discussions from AAAM board members and is a continuation of last year's Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. This gathering will combine the celebrations of the Annual Diocesan Memorial Celebration for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month for the first time in the diocese.

The NBCC, which has its headquarters in Baltimore, is an organization promoting the evangelization and ministerial and spiritual development of African-American Catholics around the country. Since the first Congress, held in 1889 in Washington, D.C., the organization has been fueled in the remembrance and embrace of African-American history and culture while preserving the tradition of Catholicism.

Promotion of this idea of solidarity and oneness has sparked the development of the NBCC Declaration of Principles and Pastoral Plan of Action. Congress IX will focus on the two documents. The Declaration of Principles concentrates on eight priority areas: spirituality, parish life, youth and young adults, Catholic education, social justice, racism, Africa and HIV/AIDS, said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, diocesan vice chancellor and vicar for the African American Affairs Ministry. The Pastoral Plan will work in conjunction with the declaration through implementation and action steps.

"The new direction of the Congress and the two documents is designed to provide guidance for black Catholics as well as people of the wider church in the United States, so as to contribute to the evangelization efforts and the leadership direction in the apostolate serving people of African descent," said Rev. Mr. Todd. "The NBCC has asked dioceses to schedule a diocesan-wide day of reflection to present the two working

See REFLECTION, page 4

### Baltimore Catholic hospital's K-9 unit tough on criminals

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Ty the German shepherd may appear mellow as he playfully rolls over and turns his large brown eyes adoringly on his owner, but don't let him fool you. Underneath the soft black and tan exterior is a specially trained bomb-sniffing dog ready to launch a fierce attack at a moment's notice. One of five such German shepherds used by downtown Baltimore's Mercy Medical Center, Ty patrols the hospital and its grounds in an effort to detect and deter crime. "Usually something bad happens, and then you react," said Dan Collins, senior manager for media relations at Mercy. "We tried to be proactive and think about what we could do to enhance the safety of patients and staff."

### New Notre Dame football coach is school's first black head coach

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (CNS) — With the hiring of Tyrone Willingham as its new head coach in football, the University of Notre Dame has acquired the first African-American head coach in the school's history. The hiring of Willingham, who had been head coach at Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., for the past seven seasons, was announced Jan. 1. Willingham, 48, replaces George O'Leary, whose tenure at Notre Dame lasted just five days in December when he resigned under fire after it was discovered he had lied on his resume. "Is this significant?" Willingham asked aloud about his hiring at a Jan. 1 press conference. "Yes. I say it is significant. But I am first and foremost a football coach at the University of Notre Dame. The young men will expect me to be that, to be the kind of leader that they expect their fathers to be and that's the role that I will try to go for."

### Christmas Eve accident near Catholic church kills two parishioners

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas (CNS) — To newlyweds Quan Pham and Ricky Nguyen and their friend, Trung Dieu, St. Joseph Vietnamese Church in Grand Prairie was more than a church. It was family. But on Christmas Eve, the church that had given them so much happiness became the site of unbelievable tragedy. The three had attended Mass, celebrated at the rectory with Father Peter Phong Nguyen, and were returning to get together with friends at the church when a car struck them as they walked across the road. Nguyen, 31, and Dieu, 35, were killed instantly. Nguyen's widow, Pham, 28, learned of her husband's death while she was being treated at the hospital for a broken leg.

### Cardinal Egan named grand marshal of St. Patrick's parade

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal Edward M. Egan has been named grand marshal of this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York. Because this St. Patrick's Day falls on a Sunday, the parade will be held the preceding day, March 16. James P. Barker, executive secretary of the organization that handles the parade, told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview Jan. 3 that the officers and directors often were divided on the selection of grand marshal, but chose the archbishop New York by a unanimous vote.

### Communicants in Texas run little risk of exposure to meningitis

FORT WORTH, Texas (CNS) — Health officials said parishioners who drank wine from the chalice during a Dec. 30 morning Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Arlington are considered to be at an "extremely remote risk of contracting bacterial meningitis," even though a woman who drank from the chalice died two days later of one form of the disease. Linda Pfleger, a 49-year-old elementary school teacher from Arlington who developed meningococcemia during the weekend of Dec. 29, died 12 hours after being brought to the hospital of multiple complications and infections from the disease. Her memorial service took place Jan. 3 at St. Vincent de Paul. Tarrant County Public Health Department officials released a statement Jan. 2 saying that anyone who drank from



CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL DINNEEN, CATHOLIC ANCHOR

**Alaskan subsistence hunter scans for moose**

**Native Alaskan subsistence hunter Gregory Gilbert of Arctic Village scans for moose along the shore of the Chandalar River in Alaska. Bishops in the state are preparing to address the controversial issue of fishing and hunting rights in a forthcoming pastoral letter.**

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**January 22 — 10 a.m.**
Celebrant at March for Life Mass
Washington, D.C.

**January 27 — 11 a.m.**
Sesquicentennial Mass
St. Peter, Charlotte

**5 p.m.**
Mass for rosary makers
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**January 29 — 11 a.m. Mass**
Asheville Catholic School, Asheville

**January 30 — 9:40 a.m. Mass**
Charlotte Catholic High School, Charlotte

## Diocesan planner

**January**

**14** CHARLOTTE — Because of the holiday, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

**18** NORTH WILKESBORO — Al and Marianna de Lachica will be teaching a four-class course on natural family planning (NFP) starting tonight at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church, 275 C.C. Wright School Rd., at 7 p.m. The de Lachicas are representatives for the Couple to Couple League, an international organization specializing in the Sympto-Thermal Method of NFP. For registration and other details, call the de Lechicas at (336) 667-9044.

**23** CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend the monthly memorial Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, taking place tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones for remembrance during Mass.

**23** GREENSBORO — All women interested in joining or hearing more about the Greensboro Council of Catholic Women are invited to a potluck luncheon at noon today at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. Council members will provide the food, while all new ladies will attend as guests. For further details, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

**23** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**24** BELMONT — Belmont Abbey, 100



CNS PHOTO BY EDWARD ZELACHOSKI, CATHOLIC ACCENT

**Olympic tourch passes through Pennsylvania Diocese**
**Patricia Godla of Epiphany of Our Lord Parish in Monessen, Pa., carries the Olympic torch through Uniontown, Pa., Dec. 20. She and support runner Tim Noll were cheered by Geibel Catholic High School students as they participated in the cross-country relay. The torch is scheduled to arrive in Salt Lake City for the Winter Games by Feb. 8.**

the chalice during the 9:15 a.m. Mass Dec. 30 and had symptoms of low-grade fever, headache and stiff neck within the week should consult their physician to possibly obtain a two-day series of antibiotics that can reduce the risk of infection.

### Official opposes death penalty for Texas mother who drowned children

AUSTIN, Texas (CNS) — The director of the Texas Catholic Conference has criticized the decision of a Texas prosecutor to seek the death penalty for a woman who drowned her five children last year while suffering from postpartum depression. In a Jan. 3 statement, Holy Cross Brother Richard Daly, executive director of the conference, said "this tragic case has caused enough pain and suffering for all the individuals and the families affected. We do not need another victim but, rather, healing." Jury selection began Jan. 7 in the case of Andrea Yates, charged with capital murder in the drowning deaths of her five children. Yates was diagnosed with postpartum depression following the birth of her fourth child, attempted suicide twice and has been hospitalized for treatment several times. She admitted drowning her children. Her attorneys said she would plead not guilty by reason of insanity.

### Sociologist addresses challenges of multicultural parishes

MUNDELEIN, Ill. (CNS) — Becoming a truly multicultural church requires "much effort and ingenuity," Jesuit sociologist Father John A. Coleman said in a Mundelein speech. He said the ideal parish situation for new immigrant groups is not a multicultural parish, but their own ethnic parish. Where necessity dictates multicultural parishes, the values achieved in an ethnic parish should be regarded as a model for each cultural subunit in the parish, he said. He added that multiethnic parishes "work best if there are only two or at most three ethnic groups involved." Father Coleman is a professor of social values at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. His address was given at the annual ministry seminar Nov. 29 at Mundelein Seminary in the Chicago Archdiocese.

### Italian bishops approve low-gluten host for celiac disease sufferers

ROME (CNS) — In a policy move that reflects differing medical opinion in Europe and the United States, Italy's bishops approved a low-gluten Eucharist host for sufferers of celiac disease. The bishops' national liturgy office, backed by the scientific committee of the Italian Celiac Association, said the amount of gluten in hosts specially made by a German firm met church law requirements but would not provoke health problems in celiac patients. In a statement posted on the bishops' Web site in December, the liturgy office asked priests who have parishioners with celiac disease to obtain the special hosts and take precautions to prevent their contamination through contact with regular hosts. The statement said the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith explicitly approved the German low-gluten hosts in an August letter to the Italian Celiac Association.

### Pope ordains 10 bishops, asks them to be 'courageous missionaries'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Celebrating the feast of the Epiphany, Pope John Paul II ordained 10 new bishops and asked them to be "courageous missionaries" in their service to the church on four continents. The pope said he expected the bishops to lead the church's new chapter of evangelization in the third millennium and urged them to "put out into the deep" as they take the Gospel around the globe. "Do not fear the shadows of the world, because you are sent by 'the light of the world,'" he said in a sermon. The nearly three-hour ordination Mass was held in St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 6. The newly ordained included six Europeans, three Africans and an Asian, all of whom were recently appointed to their posts. Five hold Vatican positions and five are resident bishops

### Poll reports Israeli, Palestinian attitudes on terrorism, violence

JERUSALEM (CNS) — While 92 percent of Palestinians continue to support armed attacks against Israeli soldiers and settlers, a recent survey said 71 percent of Palestinian respondents favored a return to peace talks. Sixty percent of the Israeli population would support the return to negotiations under conditions described by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell in a Nov. 19 speech in which he called for the implementation of a cease-fire, an end to incitement against Israel, U.S. support for a Palestinian state, the end of Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, and a freeze of settlements. The survey found that 57 percent of Israelis support the dismantling of most of the Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories as part of a peace agreement. The public opinion survey, conducted by the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research in Ramallah, West Bank, was a continuation of an ongoing research project.

Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd.; Mepkin Trappist Abbey in Moncks Corner, S.C.; Holy Spirit Monastery in Conyers, Ga.; and Gethsemani Abbey in Trappist, Ky., will be offering "Live-in Experience" vocational retreats today-Jan.27, Feb. 7-10 and March 13-17. Participants can learn about monastic life firsthand while praying, working and enjoying vocational talks given by the monks. Space is limited, so those interested are advised to make reservations early. Mepkin Abbey dates are available on an individual basis. For more dates and information, call Natalie Smith toll-free at (866) 548-3463.

**26** CHARLOTTE — Mercy Sisters Jeanne Marie Kienast and Therese Galligan will be presenting an all-day retreat entitled "Journey into Lent" at the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd., from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to experience prayer, meditation, relaxation, imagery and journaling throughout the day. Drinks will be provided, but lunch must be self-supplied. Call Susan Krasniewski at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 271, for registration and other information.

**27** ARDEN — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr. Next month's meeting will be held at the usual Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville location. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

**28** CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia will be held today and every fourth Monday from 10-11:30 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. With advanced notification, activities for the memory-impaired can be provided. For more information about the support group or the Shining Stars Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday at St. Gabriel from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and every Thursday at Sardis Presbyterian Church from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

### February

**1** HAMLET — St. James Church, 1018 W. Hamlet Ave. (off of Hwy. 74 West), will be having its annual pit barbecue from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. today. Attendants may choose to eat in or take out pork or chicken cooked on site with Cole slaw, baked beans and rolls. Orders of 10 or more can be delivered. For further information, call the church office at (910) 582-0207.

**2** BOONE — In an effort to prepare catechists for the responsibility of forming faith communities, the Boone Vicariate Faith Formation will sponsor a daylong training session at St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way. There will be two CRP II as well as two CRP I workshops. All catechists and other interested learners are invited to attend to learn more about faith development. For further details about the Jan. 27 registration deadline and other information, call Peg Ruble, Central Regional Faith Formation Coordinator, at (704) 391-0445.

**2** CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will have its annual attic and bake sale today from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 523-4641.

### Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — New Creation Monastery, 11517 Spreading Oak Lane, is opening a new House of Prayer in south Charlotte off of the Carmel Rd. Extension below Hwy. 51. Father John Hoover invites everyone for morning or evening prayer. For reservations and other information, call (704) 541-5026.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# Eighth annual 'Stand Against Violence' campaign readied

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The response to terrorism is a new theme in this year's "Stand Against Violence" campaign, which is sponsored by the U.S. bishops. The campaign is in its eighth year.

The campaign begins Jan. 15, the birthday of civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and ends Jan. 22, the anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision legalizing abortion virtually on demand.

One element in the campaign is a 25-page resource packet distributed by the National Catholic Anti-Violence Working Group to diocesan, parish, college and school groups.

"The Sept., 11, 2001, terrorist attacks heightened our challenge as a Catholic community to confront violence in our communities, in our nation and in our world," says one section of the packet, "Seeking Justice, Not Vengeance."

"Each January our nation honors the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His commitment to overcome violence, racism and injustice inspires us to do the same," it added. "The week between Jan. 15, his birthday, and Jan. 22, the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, spur us to both renounce violence and lift up the sanctity of life."

"In uncertain times such as these, when we are confronted with threats to our security from those we cannot see or find, we must resist the temptation to simply turn away and hope that it all goes away," says the introduction to the resource packet.

"If there is to be a less violent world, each one of us will have to do our part to get there. `Peace be with you' must become more than just a traditional prayer," it said.

Also included in the packet are:

— A letter from Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington, chairman of the bishops' Domestic Policy Committee.

— Suggestions for diocesan leaders, parishes and youths in school and parish settings on dealing with violence and working to prevent violence.

— A section listing Catholic just-war criteria and respect-for-life sections from the "Catechism of the Catholic Church."

— "Stand Against Violence" information sheets on "Crime and the Catholic Community," "Death Penalty: The Innocence Protection Act," "Development Aid Reform" and "Protecting Children: The Safe Havens Support Act."

— "The ABCs of Nonviolence," a brief summary of the U.S. bishops' statement "Confronting a Culture of Violence."

— A 2002 calendar listing dates and observances where people can take a stand against violence.

— Quotes from church leaders on the Sept. 11 terror attacks and the war on terrorism.

— An excerpt from the bishops' pastoral message, 'Living With Faith and Hope After Sept. 11."

*Editor's Note: Resource materials are available on the Web at www.usccb.org/sdwp/national/criminal/index.htm.*

# REFLECTION, from page 1

documents for reflection and the development of three action plans by attendees.

"Based on the eight principles, these three plans will include short-, mid- and long-range goals that can be achieved in the next 12 months, three years and over the next five years."

All Catholics are invited to attend and help shape the direction of the diocese in complying with the NBCC Declaration of Principles and its Pastoral Plan, said Rev. Mr. Todd. The three diocesan plans will be submitted to the NBCC office to be considered with reports from other dioceses to be presented at Congress IX, he said.

Dr. Hilbert Stanley, executive director of the NBCC, directed a workshop on evangelizing people of African descent at the annual King Celebration at OLC in January 2001. His message sparked his audience to strive for participation and leadership in the church and the community.

"The National Black Catholic Congress exists to provide education both to people of African descent and those of other ethnic groups in the church," Dr. Stanley said in an interview. "So often the history, culture and values of black people are not included."

Stanley emphasized the difference between forming new culture-based rites in the church and culture-based adaptations of liturgy and catechesis to effectively evangelize. A recent study, he said, found that black Catholics overwhelmingly opposed any new rites; they simply want to be welcomed as a contributing and vital part of the universal church.

The program Stanley led was developed by the NBCC around a 1997 address to the U.S. Catholic bishops by Bishop Edward Braxton, bishop of the Diocese of Lake Charles, La. In that message, Bishop Braxton urged his brother bishops to find culture-appropriate ways of evangelizing their congregations. Likening the neighborhood barbershop as a beacon in black communities where people can come for comfort, conversation and community, Bishop Braxton said the church is an even stronger refuge.

According to statistics from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, there are over two million self-identified African-American adult Catholics in the U.S. Rev. Mr. Todd said there are approximately 2,000 registered black Catholics in the diocese.

**For more information about the Day of Reflection, the NBCC or the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry, call Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd at (704) 370-3339.**

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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### New book gives something to think about every day

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — To those who say they don't have time for inspirational reading, The Christophers have an answer.

They have recently published the 36th volume of "Three Minutes a Day," a book of stories for each day of the year that go along with a prayer and a Scripture verse.

Most of the stories are about those who have done something to make a difference. They range from a man who scoured a parking lot looking for a woman's lost engagement ring and someone who cheered a frightened child to individuals who have started volunteer programs, pushed for legislation or triumphed over cancer. They include famous names readers will recognize and unknown names of people simply living out their faith.

The book is also interspersed with helpful hints on how to live more spiritually, make more time for family, get involved and have simpler lives.

The first edition of "Three Minutes a Day" was written in 1949 by Father James Keller, founder of The Christophers, as a way to share with busy people the good news found all around them and provide a starting point for the daily practice of reflection and prayer.

# Bilingual caseworker grant monies received from Z. Smith Reynolds

By DIANNE M. A. RIGGS
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — The Western Regional Office of Catholic Social Services (CSS) has received a $19,500 grant to create a full-time bilingual caseworker position for the area's growing Hispanic community. The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, which awarded the grant, made the announcement in a letter in December.

"It was an answer to prayer," said Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity Sister Marie Frechette, CSS director. Up to now, the caseworker position has existed part time but was not secure, she said. Most of the funding, except for United Way monies, was through donations.

The position exists to help Spanish-speaking immigrants deal with North American culture in Western North Carolina. "A lot of time the gap is so tremendous between (our) cultures," said Brian Graves, CSS bilingual caseworker. He said that North American culture is technological, whereas much of Hispanic culture is more communally oriented. Additionally, many Hispanic immigrants have limited knowledge of English.

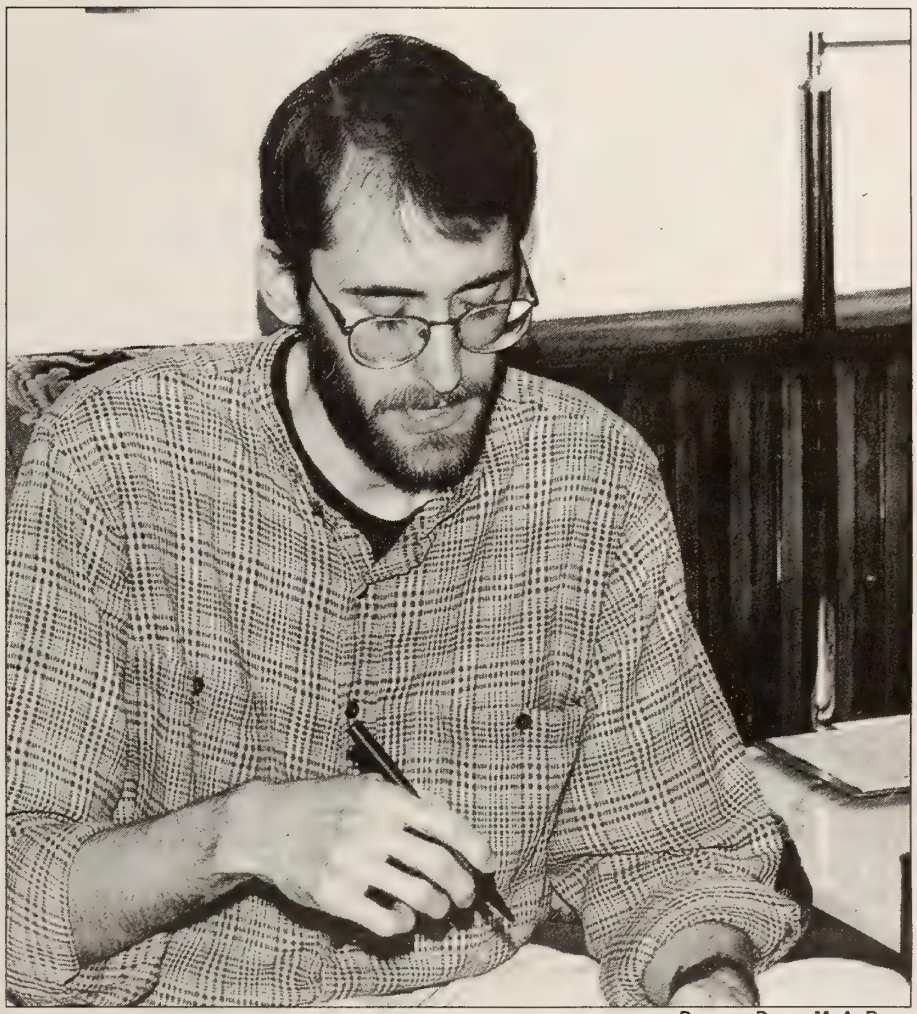


Photo by Dianne M. A. Riggs

"A lot of what I do is troubleshooting," Graves said. "Most stuff is small to us (North Americans) but difficult if you can't speak English. For example, if a (suspected) error has been made at a utility company, an immigrant might not know what an account number is or even that he or she can actually call the utility."

Simple, everyday things may be barriers, such as dealing with banks, the court, a landlord or other agencies, Graves said.

As set forth in the grant proposal, Graves has two intertwining goals. The first is to help the client understand and resolve the problem or question that brought him or her to CSS, including contacting an individual or agency. The second is to help the client learn, from the methodology used, to resolve future concerns.

One difficulty with modeling problem solving for people, Graves said, is that it only goes so far when people do not speak enough of the language, and many Hispanics are afraid or unable to attend English-as-a-second-language courses.

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation has been awarding grants to North Carolina recipients since 1936. CSS applied to the foundation because its focus areas include issues that impact minorities and women. "After we sent the proposal and met with the program associates, (the foundation) indicated this was the kind of program they wanted to fund," Graves said.

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*For more information contact Gina Rhodes, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320, or Jim Kelley, Director of Development, 704-370-3301, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203, gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org*



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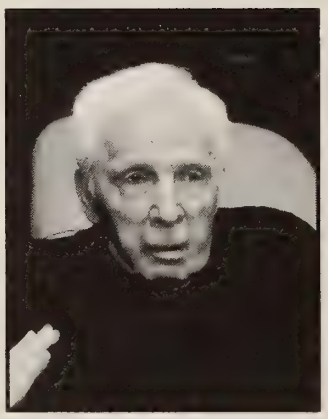
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# Father Joseph McCarthy, retired priest, dies Dec. 20, 2001

HIGH POINT — Father Joseph Leo McCarthy, 84, a priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, died December 20, 2001, at Maryfield Nursing Home, High Point, N.C.

Father McCarthy was born June 17, 1917, in Elmira, N.Y., son of the late James Francis McCarthy and Agnes Curran McCarthy. Following World War II, he received a baccalaureate degree from the University of Scranton and a master's degree in education from Fordham University.

In the early 1960s he decided to become a priest after a career as a social worker in New York. He began his studies at St. Philip Neri Seminary in Haverhill, Mass. He also attended St. Pius X Seminary in Erlanger, Ky., before completing his studies at Christ the King Seminary in St. Bonaventure, N.Y., in 1969. The late Bishop Vincent S. Waters of the Diocese of Raleigh ordained him at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro on May 15, 1969.



**Father Joseph Leo McCarthy**

Father McCarthy's first assignment was with the Missionary Fathers Apostolate at St. Anne in Edenton. In June of 1970, he became an assistant at St. Ann in Charlotte and was serving when the Diocese of Charlotte was established in January of 1972. In April of that year, Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley named him administrator of St. Francis of Assisi in Lenoir and three months later, he became pastor of Immaculate Conception in Forest City. In July of 1976, he became pastor of St. Charles Borromeo in Morganton and served there until July of 1979, when he became pastor of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville.

Father McCarthy returned to Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro in November of 1982 and served as parochical vicar until July 1, 1987, when he became chaplain to the Maryvale Sisters at their motherhouse in Vale. In retirement he lived at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point, cared for by the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, the Sisters at Maryfield.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Dec. 26, 2001, at St. Patrick Cathedral by Bishop William G. Curlin. Interment followed in Belmont Abbey Cemetery, and visitation was held at St. Patrick Cathedral.

He is survived by two sisters in law, Carrie L. McCarthy and Katharine W. McCarthy; and nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Diocese of Charlotte Seminary Program, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28203.

Harry and Bryant Company served the family.

### Amid new rumors of papal health, pope prays for his own strength

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Amid continuing questions about Pope John Paul II's health, the 81-year-old pontiff publicly prayed for the strength to continue his busy ministry. The pope obviously struggled through his long speech Christmas Day, but moved with greater ease and spoke more clearly on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. A small Italian newspaper's Dec. 30 report of the pope's allegedly failing health was ignored by most media until the pope himself spoke Dec. 31. "I ask God for the strength to continue for as long as he wants in faithful service to the church of Rome and the whole world," he prayed at a thanksgiving service marking the end of 2001.

### Korean POW priest's sainthood cause advocated

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Father Emil Kapaun, an Army chaplain who died in a North Korean prisoner of war camp, is being promoted as a candidate for sainthood by one of his seminary classmates. Because of Father Kapaun's countless acts of courage and compassion while a POW, others are alive today to tell the priest's inspiring story. Msgr. Patrick J. Molloy, a St. Louis archdiocesan priest, is working with both the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services and Father Kapaun's native Diocese of Wichita, Kan., to advance the cause of Father Kapaun's canonization. Publicizing his case, he also is searching for those willing to pray for a miracle through the chaplain's intercession.

### First-grader who rescued mother honored by St. Paul police chief

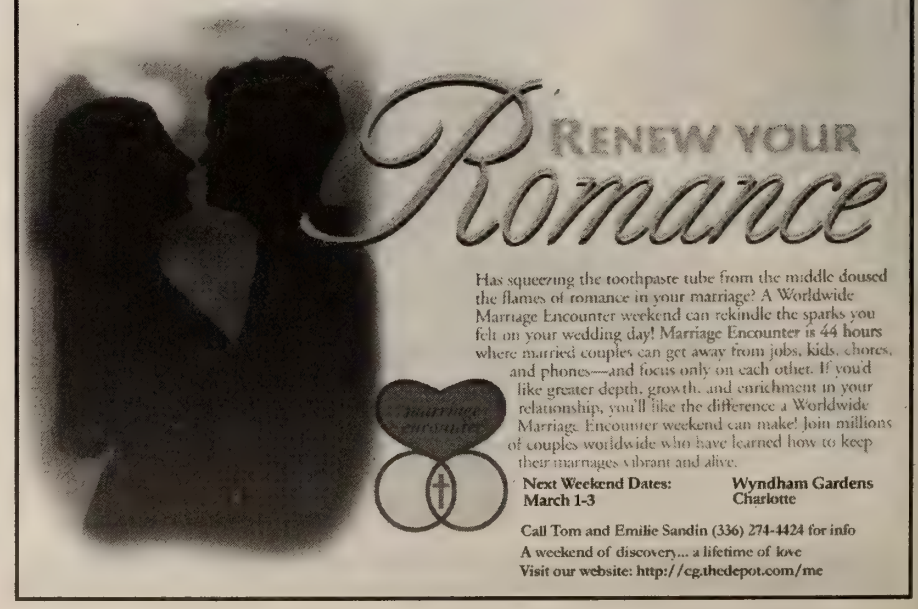
ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — For 6-year-old Darius McDonald, rescuing his mother, Jennifer, was as simple as opening a can of Coke. St. Paul Police Chief William Finney, however, saw it differently. That's why he gave the St. Mark School first-grader a special Chief's Award Dec. 20 for finding help for his mother after she lost consciousness during a windy snowstorm Nov. 26. The evening proved eventful for the single mother and her only child when, first, the power in their home went out, then she lost consciousness during a diabetic reaction. Because of her diabetes, Darius knows to try to give her something with sugar, like a can of Coke or juice, when she is showing symptoms. But this time, she was unable to drink, so Darius went out and found help.


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## ROSARIES, from page 1

the rosary, praying for special intentions and their neighbors throughout the world, and to make rosaries for missionaries and the military.

"It's a great feeling to know that in some small way I am helping our servicemen," Carol Wilcocks said.

"It is a good feeling to know they have the protection of the rosary and feel the strength of Mary near their heart," St. Matthew's Donna Adams said.

As reserve units were called up, making rosaries took on a more personal meaning. In November, the husband of one of the group's members was deployed. She e-mailed her husband to ask if his chaplain would like some of their rosaries. Following a very favorable response, she mailed them off.

Little did the group realize the impact their labor of love would have. "The chaplains placed them on a table in the base-chapel tent," her husband replied. "Within a few days, all of the rosaries were gone. Some took them understanding the real meaning and how to pray them, while others took to wear like a cross. One evening during Advent before the Saturday Catholic Mass, the chaplain held a class on how to say the rosary. The following three Saturday evenings, we met as a group praying the rosary together."

Back in Charlotte, the member makes rosaries as she waits for e-mail responses from her husband. "It's very comforting for me to make the rosaries while communicating with my husband," she said. "I believe he is especially safe during these moments."

Each member makes 70-80 rosaries at home between their meetings. The group produces 6,000 rosaries a year. Chaplains' requests for rosaries are published monthly in a military newsletter published in Kentucky. Our Lady's Rosary Makers respond to these lists. They purchase their supplies through catalogs for missionary use only. Each rosary costs 11 cents for supplies and takes 15 minutes to make. The group functions through member donations and support from other parish organizations.

Father Jon Brzek at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., appreciates the dedication of Our Lady's Rosary Makers of St. Patrick Cathedral who send him rosaries for the Marine recruits. "Many come here for all sorts of reasons," Father Brzek said. "Each grows physically, mentally and emotionally. Oftentimes something happens that they never expect. God touches their hearts, and they grow spiritually, too. This ministry helps us put a rosary into the hands of every recruit who asks for one."

# Doctor scoffs retirement, on-call for those in need

By DIANNE M.A. RIGGS
Correspondent

HENDERSONVILLE — Kathleen R. McGrady, M.D., known affectionately as "Dr. Kay" has never let the word "retirement" define her. In fact, "retirement is not in McGrady's vocabulary. The 75-year-old physician continues in her activist role concerning children and their needs in Western North Carolina. Her current interests include Friends of Santa Claus, Mountain Community School (a charter school in Hendersonville area), and the Henderson County Children's and Family Resource Center.

McGrady calls Friends of Santa Claus, an organization that assists terminally ill children, one of the most worthwhile things she is engaged in. It sponsors Santa Claus four times a year, operates summer camps, and helps parents cope. "Kids confront you with your mortality," she said. "They have taught me so much about death and dying."

McGrady always wanted to be a doctor. She came from a long line of surgeons and doctors of philosophy on her father's side, but it was her mother's confidence and prayers to Mary that gave her the courage to enroll in medical school at a time when the class ratio was 98 men and four women. (Her 50th class reunion comes up next year.) Excelling, she became the first female pediatric chief resident at the University of Maryland Medical School.

While there, she met and married her husband, Charles ("Mac"), a surgeon. At the time, he was not Catholic, but faithfully attended Mass with her and their three children. On their 32nd wedding anniversary, he surprised her by announcing that he wished to become a Catholic. Of course, she was more than thrilled.

The couple practiced medicine in Florida for 20 years. They "retired" to a Christmas tree farm in Cashiers, N.C., in 1971. Faithful to his retirement, Mac became a devoted tree farmer. But after four months, Dr. Kay "was chomping at the bit," she said. Cashiers residents urged her to return to medical practice, as there was no physician in the town at that time. She agreed to serve children, and space was made available in the community center for the first years of her pediatric work. Children came not only from North Carolina, but also from nearby communities in Tennessee and Georgia. Most of the people at Cashiers at the time had never met a Catholic, she said, and she was given many opportunities to dispel fears about Catholicism.

Through the years at Cashiers, the McGradys, with three growing children, attended several area churches, including Our Lady of the Mountains in Highlands, and were charter members of St. Jude in Sapphire Valley.

When the children were grown, McGrady "retired" again, this time traveling and square dancing with her husband. They moved to Hendersonville. When Mac suddenly died in 1989, she was heartbroken and six months later developed severe pain. At first, she said, it was written off as "stress." Not for several years was the final diagnosis made—neuropathy, a disease or abnormality of the nervous system. Her terminal form, she explained, is an inflammation of nerves that causes loss of the use of muscle tissue. "The disease takes your arms and legs," she said, but like cancer, it has remissions and, in her case, has been gradual.

Even this has not kept her retired. Until she could no longer drive, McGrady, a member of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, was the Henderson County visitor for Ministry to Sick and Dying, a group that assists the sick, dying and their families by bringing Eucharist, giving rides and visiting.

Interested in the hospice movement from the time of her mother's death in 1973, McGrady helped established hospice and train volunteers in Franklin and Sylva. She spearheaded the hospice facility in Hendersonville, "The Elizabeth House," named in honor of her mother, who was a nurse.




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# Scholarship nourishes students in faith

By CONSTANCE HOLLOWAY
Correspondent

BELMONT — At Belmont Abbey College, young scholars are being groomed as future leaders while paying tribute to an icon of the Gaston County school's past.

The Hintemeyer Scholarship for Leaders program awards tuition and room and board to a core group of campus leaders. In previous years, the program has awarded 10 scholarships per year. The goal of the program is to increase awareness of Catholic intellectual and spiritual traditions among the student population. A committee of faculty, staff and monks at this Benedictine institution in Belmont selects the recipients; past scholarships have been renewable for three years.

"It's a unique program because it's a Catholic leadership program," says Mike Harrison, who directs the Belmont Abbey Leadership Program and oversees the Hintemeyer scholars. "We hope that they leave the Abbey and will go into the community to be young Catholic leaders." Harrison, a retired FBI agent, meets weekly with the scholarship recipients.

The program honors Father Felix Hintemeyer, prior of Belmont Abbey, who served the first abbot, Leo Haid, from 1887 to 1924. In 1886, two years after Rome erected the first Benedictine abbey in the American South, The German emigre arrived at the Abbey. Throughout his tenure Hintemeyer served as chief lieutenant to Haid, who traveled extensively and gave Hintemeyer responsibility for much of the daily administration of the church.

All of the grand, liturgical events at the Abbey, the first alumni reunion (1913), the dedication of the Basilica (1894) and Grotto (1891), a Lourdes pilgrimage (1908) and other commemorations, were all overseen by Hintemeyer. Known for his devotion to the college, this priest and member of the monastic community is credited with helping the abbot and the Abbey grow and develop. Hintemeyer, once a timid figure in his early years, grew to become the hidden strength of the college. Haid lauded him for "his charity towards all" and urged all to try to emulate his leadership skills. In 1924, on his way to visit the Holy Father in Rome, Hintemeyer died. Fifty-one years later, Belmont Abbey created the Hintemeyer leadership program to honor its namesake and foster the leadership potential of a select group of young Catholic men and women.

As Hintemeyer scholars, the Catholic recipients are expected to meet numerous requirements that including maintaining a 2.75 grade point average, living on campus; and participating in Belmont Abbey's spiritual life, including attendance at daily mass.

The "three-pronged" Hintemeyer program consists of a coffeehouse lecture series, featuring various executives, which "gives the students an opportunity to have dialogue with these people (CEOs, lawyers, etc.,) who have actually been out in the world being leaders," Harrison says.

Hintemeyer scholars also participate in an "outdoor leadership" component that includes a five-day Outward Bound adventure in western North Carolina that includes whitewater rafting, sea kayaking, indoor mountain climbing, horseback riding and golf.

The third part of the program consists of volunteer work.

"That's where the Hintemeyers interact with the other student," says Harrison.

On-campus activities range from leading students on school tours to setting up and planning homecoming events. Scholars' community volunteer projects are varied and extensive. They have worked on recycling projects, cleaned cemeteries, organized "abortion mill" rosaries and visited nursing homes.

"It (the volunteer aspect) has been very useful in improving the relationship between Belmont Abbey and the surrounding counties," notes Harrison.

Students' community work even takes them across this country and overseas. Last year, Kate Matthews participated in a pro-life walk across America to raise awareness about the effects of abortion, and Sarah Wisely traveled to Romania, where she worked in an orphanage (see related stories). All Hintemeyers, says Harrison, are "encouraged to come up with some innovative ideas" for volunteer work.

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## Walk the walk,

# Students take their m

By CONSTANCE HOLLOWAY
Correspondent

BELMONT — In 1995, as a response to the call of Pope John Paul II for youth to stand up for life, Franciscan University student Steve Sanborn organized a walk known as Crossroads. Students have been giving up their summers to support the ministry each year since, staying in churches or host homes along the way.

Last May, Belmont Abbey College students Kate Matthews and Christopher Iwancio started the walk in San Francisco. Iwancio ended the walk in St. Louis, but Matthews and numerous young people from across the country finished their trek in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 11. Another team of walkers began their journey in Los Angeles and also ended it in D.C.

Her reason for going? "To have that kind of structured prayer life for the summer." The Hintemeyer scholar and Raleigh native says she gained much more than that. "It did definitely prove to be one of the best things that I've ever done."

From the moment she first read an article about Crossroads in a Catholic newspaper from Georgia, Matthews was convinced that the mission was for her.

"I just felt such a peace about it," says the junior who's majoring in theology. "It was all I could think about during Christmas break."

Part of the American Life League, a nationwide, grassroots pro-life organization, Crossroads was endorsed last year by former U.S. Ambassador Alan Keyes; former Franciscan University chancellor, Father Michael Scanlon; Congressman Christopher Smith (R-N.J.); and Pro-Life Action League Director Joseph Scheidler.

"It's a really powerful thing, and it's a really powerful witness in itself. Part of the walking also is a sacrifice in reparation for the sin of abortion," says Matthews.

Matthews, 20, and her team members walked Monday through Friday, logging at least 60 miles a day.

"You don't walk the entire distance yourself," Walker explains. Team members took turns walking (typically "one guy and one girl" each walked 15 miles at a stretch), and riding in a van. "The most we ever got in one 24-hour period was 90 (miles)."

On Saturdays, the teams spent several hours praying and counseling outside abortion clinics, then stayed with families or outside churches in the van. They visited parishes on Sundays, speaking at Masses about their mission. They also asked for parishioners' prayers, and donations for food and gas.

Matthews' team consisted of up to 10 people. Each wore a white T-shirt bearing the words "Pro-Life Cross Country Walk: America Is Pro-Life."

The 12-week pilgrimage taught Matthews many lessons, including one about the perception, fueled by the media, that abortion enjoys overwhelming support in this country.

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# ssage coast to coast

"We put that (America Is Pro-Life) on the back of our T-shirts because that is by far the overwhelming response that we received (from people during the trip)," she explains.

The walkers encountered few problems on their trip.

"Every now and then, someone would say something derogatory or obscene," Matthews recalls. Somewhere in the desert (Matthews can't remember in which state), their van broke down. Even then, she says, God provided for them when "someone stopped and gave us all this Gatorade."

The hardest part was staying focused on their mission, in spite of the physical demands it placed upon them. "But you stay focused because you remember what you're doing (supporting life)," she says.

Matthews' three-month odyssey was filled with many unforgettable moments. Some of the best occurred in Nebraska.

"I really enjoyed Nebraska. It was flat, and the people were the friendliest," says Matthews.

In Nebraska, she recalls two indelible images: corn and a train. One day as they passed miles and miles of the Midwest staple, a train conductor tossed bottles of water to the thirsty travelers.

Somewhere around Lincoln, Neb., Matthews and her team stopped to pray the rosary outside an abortion clinic. A couple left the clinic, walked to their car, then walked over to Matthews' group. The woman said she'd taken a morning-after pill that didn't work.

"They told us that they wanted to put the baby up for adoption," says Matthews. She later learned that the couple decided to keep the baby and got married.

"If you save one life, it makes everything worth it, the entire summer," says Matthews.

"This is an issue that I feel very strong about, and it's something that I feel so called to do.

It (the mission) did definitely prove to be one of the best things that I've ever done."

Matthews realizes that embarking on such a journey is not for everyone.

"Not all of us (are called to) walk across the country, but all of us, as Catholics, as Christians, as decent people, we are called to be pro-life to support the human dignity (of everyone) from conception," she says. "This is something, an issue that, has really been swept under the carpet for too long."

# World Mission opens eyes for college students

By CONSTANCE HOLLOWAY
Correspondent

BELMONT— This time last year, Sarah Wisely's plans for the summer were taking shape. The Belmont Abbey sophomore's online research led her to a mission she calls a "once-in-a-lifetime thing." She and fellow Abbey student Patrick Sutton decided to work in an orphanage in Romania.

"Patrick and I knew that we wanted to do some sort of volunteer trip abroad. We just thought it would be a good experience" that they should embark on before graduating and entering the workforce, says Wisely.

The two signed up with Teaching and Projects Abroad. Peter Slowe, a geography lecturer, founded the organization in 1992. The aim was to find places for new geography graduates to teach in the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe and the Third World. Teaching and Projects emerged in its present form during 1996 and 1997 as more people asked to go to more countries. It now sends over a thousand people abroad every year on various projects. Participants are sent to a dozen countries across the globe. Wisely and Sutton worked alongside students from Ireland, Scotland and other countries. They arrived in Romania in July.

During their stay, Wisely, a native of Birmingham, Ala., and Sutton lived with a host family in Brasov. A minor cultural difference surfaced during their first dinner in Romania. Wisely, Sutton and their male host were already seated at the table while his wife was busy in the kitchen.

"The husband, he just sort of looked at me. I was just not sure what he wanted me to do. Eventually I realized that he wanted me to get up and serve the food," Wisely recalls. He laughed and told her, in English, "In my country, the woman serve the man." Sutton dished up his host's meal.

Each weekday, Wisely and Sutton headed to the orphanage. For a facility located not far from "Dracula's Castle," medieval home of the tyrant Vlad the Impaler, "it (the orphanage) really was not the Gothic image that you would imagine. It was very cheerful, colorful and clean," says Wisely.

The Hintemeyer scholar worked with children ages three to nine, many of whom suffered from autism, fetal alcohol syndrome and spina bifida; Sutton worked with toddlers.

Despite the challenges of working with disabled kids, Wisely, a sociology major, was gratified that, "after 30 days there, we ... had made progress with many of the children."

She often read to the children shortly after they arrived each day, then helped feed them.

"That was one of the most trying things, feeding the children who (because of their disabilities) didn't want to have anything to do with food," she recalls. "After that, it (the next activity) was up to me." She usually took the children outside to play then helped the staff feed them lunch and prepare them for naps.

"During naptime, we were almost always in the city," Wisely says. They also traveled on the weekends. Though they carried a phrase book with them, they often didn't need it.

"You'd be surprised how many people there know English. ... It always just sort of worked out."

Wisely also enjoyed the friendships forged with her overseas counterparts. "It was really amazing that we got to meet and got to know people from all over the world."

Those friendships gained greater significance after last year's terror attacks on America.

"We still keep in contact with those people," she says. "After Sept. 11, they were calling us and e-mailing us."

Wisely highly recommends such a mission to others. "I would do it again. I think that it's something that everyone should try." If they could have, she says, she and Sutton "would have stayed longer."


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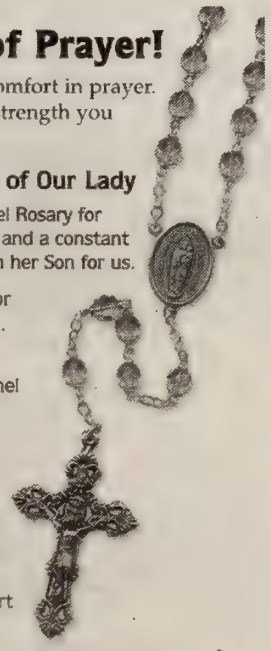
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**Book Review**

# Children's book conveys complex themes

Reviewed by
CAROLE NORRIS GREENE
Catholic News Service

The child picked up "Moonlight Miracle," written by Tony Magliano, flipped the pages, stopped toward the middle to read one, then resumed flipping to the back cover, which she studied. Then she started over again, this time reading the mostly single-sentence pages more carefully.

***MOONLIGHT MIRACLE,* by Tony Magliano; illustrated by Susan Andrews Brindle. Paulist Press (Mahwah, NJ, 2001). 32 pp., $9.95.**

This deceptively simple book by Catholic News Service columnist Tony Magliano held the attention of this child reader.

At last the child, named Cierra, said, "I didn't know you could do that." She pointed to the flower-embroidered page which had first caught her eye. It read: "You see, if you cup your hands on a moonlit night, where the moon's light enters your window, you can really and truly hold a piece of moonbeam right where you are." On the page next to it was a colorful illustration of a sleepy-eyed little boy who is tucked snugly in bed. His hands are outstretched to receive the moon's light through his bedroom window.

Cierra also liked how the book began: "At day's end, when the sun has done its job and darkness has nearly covered the land, a great and gentle light rises in the night to take its place." She found it comforting, she explained, adding with a mischievous smile, "especially when I'm mad with my mom and dad."

The book's second illustration, of cottages nestled in moonlit woods with purple hills in the background, prompted the child to ask if artist Susan Andrews Brindle used stencils to do her blues and browns, her golden yellows, splashes of pink, soft grays, milky whites and sea greens. The "pretty" colors, Cierra said, made her think about her own room, and what color she'd ask her dad to use to paint it. Since the book's pages aren't numbered, perhaps she could neatly tear some out and put them on her wall!

"Moonlight Miracle" with its splattering of children from all ethnic backgrounds reminds me of a scene from the TV presentation of Alex Haley's "Roots." In it, an aging slave woman, whose babies had been sold "down river" many years ago, looks up at the stars, smiles, then says how good God is to give them — regardless of where they were — the same stars to look at every night! Being able to do this one simple thing kept them connected!

The children of the world can do the same with moonbeams, believes Magliano. He writes, "If in all the world each boy and girl would capture a moonbeam, they would become linked together by holding onto the very same light."

Magliano's son Joey was 5 when Magliano first got the idea to write "Moonlight Miracle." He wanted Joey to understand not only the beauty of the moon, but how it is "nature's friend" which "helps push the oceans' tides; guides loggerhead turtles as they lay their eggs; assists salmon as they make their way to the sea; ... lights the way for the great horned owl in its search for food; and smiles kindly on us with its soft night light." Just as in the Genesis story of creation, Magliano moves from the moon's quiet influence on the elements, insects and animals, and finally on mankind.

In this post-Sept. 11 climate, it's not a bad idea for children in the United States, China, Russia, Iran, Afghanistan, Africa — children all over the world — to focus on what they have in common. It could begin with moonbeams, and end up with their realization of the preciousness of their shared humanity.

*Greene is an associate editor in Catholic News Service's Special Projects department.*

# Word to Life

***Sunday Scripture Readings: Jan. 13, 2002***

*Cycle A Readings*
*January 13, The Baptism of the Lord*
1) Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9b-10
2) Acts 10:34-38
3) Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

By JEAN DENTON
Catholic News Service

When I was a child my parents introduced me to many people for my benefit. They would tell me ahead of time, "I want you to meet so-and-so," or, "You need to meet Mrs. (whoever-it-was)." They would say that because these people had something to offer for my edification: knowledge, a particular talent, attitude or personality worthy of emulation or a goodness I should witness.

Then one day, after I was grown, my mom said, "I want Mrs. (whoever) to meet you." The reversal of the phrase — and its meaning — was slightly jarring, not to mention flattering: My mom had a friend whom she thought would benefit from meeting me.

Now that our own children are grown and have benefited from the influence and attention of a wide variety of fine adults to whom we've introduced them, I understand how that comes about. Now I find myself wanting certain people to meet one or another of my children because of what the latter has to offer the encounter. And I have to say, sometimes I'm half inclined to introduce them with, "This is my daughter (or son) of whom I am well pleased."

Of course, I don't.

But in this weekend's Gospel, that is what God said, effectively, to all the world when Jesus emerged from the waters of his baptism by John. That grand introduction was the announcement that Emmanuel (God with us) had come of age. He had met us, grown in knowledge, was just now being anointed with the Spirit, and God wanted us to meet him — for our benefit. "This is my Son, of whom I am well pleased," God said. ("You've gotta meet this guy!") At the Transfiguration, in Luke's Gospel, he adds: "Listen to him."

**QUESTIONS:**

As a follower of Christ, how do you carry out your responsibility to embody the anointed one with people you meet in your daily life? What can you do to better open yourself to the Holy Spirit for your personal Christian mission?

**SCRIPTURE TO ILLUSTRATE:**

"I have formed you and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations" (Isaiah 42:6)

# Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Jan. 13 - Jan. 19**

**Sunday (Baptism of the Lord),** Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17; **Monday,** 1 Samuel 1:1-8, Mark 1:14-20; **Tuesday,** 1 Samuel 1:9-20, Mark 1:21-28; **Wednesday,** 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20, Mark 1:29-39; **Thursday (St. Anthony),** 1 Samuel 4:1-11, Mark 1:40-45; **Friday,** 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22, Mark 2:1-12; **Saturday,** 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1, Mark 2:13-17

**Scripture for the week of Jan. 20 - Jan. 26**

**Sunday (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Isaiah 49:3, 5-6, 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, John 1:29-34; **Monday (St. Agnes),** 1 Samuel 15:16-23, Mark 2:18-22; **Tuesday (St. Vincent),** 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Mark 2:23-28; **Wednesday,** 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51, Mark 3:1-6; **Thursday (St. Francis de Sales),** 1 Samuel 18:6-8, 19:1-7, Mark 3:7-12; **Friday (The Conversion of Paul),** Acts 22:3-16, Mark 16:15-18; **Saturday (Timothy and Titus),** Titus 1:1-5, Mark 3:20-21

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**TV Review**

# "Roots," Jan. 20-25, Hallmark Channel

By HENRY HERX
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — ABC made television history by broadcasting its 12-hour adaptation of "Roots." It was proof that American television was maturing and trying to make good its promise of meaningful entertainment. "Roots" will be rerun Sunday-Friday, Jan. 20-25, 9-11 p.m. each night on cable's Hallmark Channel.

"Roots" is Alex Haley's account of seven generations of his family tracing back its origins to Kunta Kinte, a youth abducted by slave traders from the west coast of Africa in the 1750s. Haley's narrative is based upon a prodigious amount of research providing the links from Kunta to the present. The result is more than popularized history or ephemeral best-seller. Whatever its merits as a literary work, Haley has written a family saga that mirrors the history of all black Americans. But it also shows the ugly roots of racism in our society which we must recognize in order to exorcise.

The importance of "Roots" is that it enables us to experience the evil of slavery as an institution by showing it through the eyes of those who suffered the loss of their humanity by being reduced to the legal status of property. The experience for viewers is certainly unpleasant and at times horrifying. It may be a painful way of acknowledging the guilt of our national past, but it is at the same time uplifting in showing how indomitable is the human spirit in its struggles to be free despite the chains of slavery.

The first segment of "Roots" describes the African society in which Kunta is raised and ends with his capture by slavers and his transportation to America. Born into a Muslim tribe whose economy is partly agricultural and partly hunting, and supported by the strong ties of family and the peaceful nature of his people, young Kunta passes a happy boyhood and is eventually initiated into the responsibilities that belong to maturity.

Ominously paralleling this narrative is another, that of an American slave ship which is being outfitted and placed in the command of a captain new to the trade. As an experienced mate explains to the captain how such a ship operates, the viewer learns the depths of inhumanity demanded by this traffic in human beings. When Kunta is taken, our worst fears are realized as we see the treatment of the slaves packed prone in chains in the ship's hold.

Producer David L. Wolper is mainly known for his documentary productions, and it is not surprising that this dramatic re-creation of "Roots" is flawed. Star personalities in cameo parts perform well but detract from the flow of the material. The dialogue is at times forced to fit the needs of the script, and the depiction of African life borders on pseudo-Hollywood.

The BBC series "The Fight Against Slavery," which was offered to U.S. TV stations at the same time of the first run of "Roots," succeeded rather better at dramatizing its historical material without sacrificing a credible level of authenticity.

However, such reservations are minor compared with the strength of the contents of "Roots." If nothing else, it succeeds in arousing a righteous sense of outrage at an age in which people enslaved their fellow human beings. By the end, viewers have a deeper understanding of the precious nature of human freedom. The script succeeds best in illustrating the hypocrisy that rationalized the system of slavery, justifying it as a means of "civilizing primitive savages or bringing the blessings of Christianity."

Although the BBC series was extraordinary television, it only touched upon the American experience. "Roots," because of its star personalities and more conventional presentation, reached a much larger audience with its specifically American content.

"Roots" is a television event that has the potential for affecting American society and its attitude toward racial equality. If "Roots" should reach a cumulative audience comparable to that of "Gone With the Wind," it will be an indication of the progress of our society as well as of the entertainment medium itself.

*Herx is the retired director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

**Movie Reviews**

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — Following *are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

**"Baran" (Miramax)**

Moving drama about a teen-age boy (Hossein Abedini) working on a construction site who loses his cushy job to an illegal Afghan worker (Zahra Bahrami), but his bitterness unexpectedly gives way to compassion when he discovers the worker's secret. Despite slow pacing, director Majid Majidi probes the difficulties of Afghan workers in Iran by setting his lyrical film against a romantic backdrop with beautiful visuals. Fleeting violence and crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

**"Behind the Sun" (Miramax)**

Striking drama set in the Brazilian badlands about a young man (Rodrigo Santoro) who begins to question the violent tradition that requires him to avenge the death of his older brother, the victim of an age-old land feud between neighboring families. Under vast, sun-scorched landscapes, director Walter Salles fixes upon the senselessness of vengeance as justice, sharply contrasting the doomed characters with the expansive and poetic imagery. A sexual encounter, brief violence and fleeting crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.


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Presenter Joan Rosenhauer coordinates the Task Force on Catholic Social Teaching & Education for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Presenter Mumtaz Ahmad, Ph.D. is Professor of Political Science at Hampton University, VA, with areas of scholarly focus in Islam, political theory, and socio-economic change.

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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Pope tells believers to praise God continually, wholeheartedly

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said Christians should learn to praise God continually and wholeheartedly, a practice he said was rooted in the prayer of "our elder brothers" in the faith, the Jews.

"Praise becomes a profession of faith in God the creator and redeemer, a festive celebration of divine love that unfolds, creating and saving, giving life and liberation," he said.

Speaking to pilgrims at his weekly general audience Jan. 9, the pope highlighted Psalm 150, the last in the Book of Psalms. His talk continued a series of reflections on the Liturgy of the Hours, a psalm-based daily prayer.

The pope said the psalm's repeated invitations to praise, "almost constant music and song, seem never to stop, just as will also occur in the celebrated 'Alleluia' in Handel's 'Messiah.'"

"Praise of God becomes a sort of breath of the soul that knows no pause," he said.

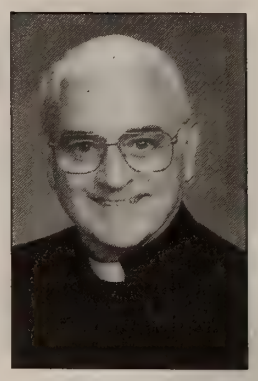
Drawing on musical imagery, like "clanging cymbals" and "strings and pipe," the six-verse psalm 10 times calls believers to praise God. It ends with the word, "Alleluia," which in its Hebrew root means, "Praise the Lord."

All of living creation shares in the constant praise of God, the pope said, but "a position of primacy in this choir is reserved to human creatures."

"Through the human being, spokesman for all creation, all living things praise the Lord. Our breath of life — which also expresses self-consciousness, awareness and freedom — becomes the song and prayer of all life that pulses in the universe," he said.

The pope called the psalm the "real 'amen' in the usual prayer of our 'elder brothers,'" the Jews.

# Spirituality For Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

**Is it possible to love these enemies?**

Obeying the Lord can influence you to do things you would never think of doing on your own.

There is one passage in Scripture that flies in the face of right reason. Jesus said: "Love your enemies, and do good to those who hate you" (Mt 6:27).

Why would the Lord say such a thing? It doesn't make sense.

We have just lived through a nightmarish period of turmoil due to the atrocities of Sept. 11, 2001, when murderous terrorists turned commercial airplanes into weapons of destruction. What more justification would one need for hating the culprits who planned and executed such a demonic act?

Our minds have been stunned by the TV images of hate-filled zealots screaming, "Death to all Americans." It's enough to make your blood boil. How does one process these emotions? Even if we wanted to forgive them, how is it possible?

Jesus once answered such questions: "Learn of me for I am meek and humble of heart.... With man it is impossible, but with God, all things are possible."

Once you admit that you are too angry to forgive, you are making progress. You can then turn to the Lord for help. He knows that your anger is truly justified. When he asks you to forgive, it is not the same as saying, "It doesn't matter."

It does matter! The evildoers must be stopped. Stopping them, in no uncertain terms, does not mean hating them.

They deserve our monumental outrage. Yet we must also ask ourselves why Jesus wants us to forgive them.

Because he wants to give us a place in his kingdom. Hate disqualifies a person from entering heaven. To become a child of the Light, one must live in harmony with God.

God is unchanging love. He causes the sun to rise, and the rain to fall on the good and bad alike. He wants us to love as he does. "If you love those who love you, what merit have you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good only to those who do good to you, what merit have you? (Mt 6: 32,33)

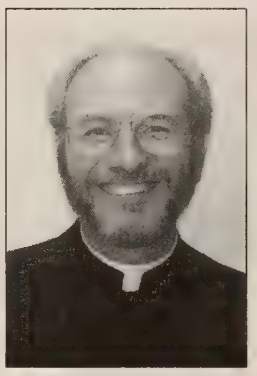
Once you accept the challenge and understand that forgiveness is not a feeling, you can begin to make progress. Forgiveness is not in the feelings, it is in the will. The will has only one function: to say yes or no. Either you forgive the enemy, bad feelings included, or you do not.

Once you say, "Yes, Lord, I will obey you, I do forgive," the bad feelings will start to evaporate. It will take time, but they will recede. We now play baseball with the once-hated Japanese.

To truly forgive, you have to do it before you feel like it. Sister Elizabeth of the Trinity once wrote: "Love unites the soul with God, and the greater the love, the more it is centered in him. When God's love penetrates your soul's inmost depths, you become transformed into Christ."

"Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do." These words of Jesus are there for all of us to ponder. He uttered them before his enemies even asked for mercy.

Each and every one of us, with the help of God, can imitate Christ on the cross and forgive our enemies. The gift of joy is the reward of harmony with the mind of Christ.



# Economy of Faith

GLENMARY FATHER
JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

**"Not poor" versus self-sufficient**

April walked into the church center holding a disconnect notice from the electric company. Unless she paid the $89 due, she would start the new year in the dark. She and her husband, James, barely make ends meet in good times. This month when their hot water heater quit and they had a minor accident with the car, it meant financial crisis.

April works full time at a convenience store in a small Appalachian community. After five years making minimum wage, she got a raise this past year to $6.65 an hour, $216 take home per week. James works seasonally at logging, but winter and rainy days cap his income. Their combined earnings qualify them for $227 a month of food stamps. April and James with their two children, ages seven and eight, represent a family living in poverty. More precisely, they are the working poor.

According to the official definition of the U.S. Census Bureau, the poverty threshold for a family of four in 1999 was $17,184. In 1963 Mollie Orshansky, a researcher with the Social Security Administration, developed the methodology to define poverty. She identified as poor an individual or family that lacked sufficient income to afford a nutritionally adequate diet. She then fused two pieces of information. First, from the 1950s, the U.S. Department of Agriculture determined that a moderate-income family spends one-third of its earnings on food. Second, the agency developed a series of food plans that provided the minimum calories necessary to survive. Orshansky chose the economy food plan and multiplied by three. Adjusting for the number and age of family members and accounting for the average increase in consumer prices, this method still establishes the federal poverty line today.

While the Orshansky method helped define poverty in economic terms for the 1960s, forty years later this approach limps. The early budgets omitted the cost of child care assuming one parent stayed home. And, since the 1950s essential family costs like housing, health care and transportation have risen faster than the cost of food. Whereas formerly food costs represented one-third of a family budget, today it comprises only an eighth. Using the Orshansky method the poverty line would be calculated at eight times, not three times, the cost of food.

If together April and James earned above the poverty line figure of $17, 184, they would be classified "not poor," yet still lack the resources to live self-sufficiently. One study by Diana Peace and Jennifer Brooks defines self-sufficiency as "maintaining a decent standard of living and not having to choose between basic necessities." For April and James this would eliminate the trade-off of fixing the family car essential for going to work and paying the electric bill.

From a faith perspective self-sufficiency means affirming everyone's human dignity by allowing each person to participate in society and make a contribution. Different from the concept of "rugged individualism," self-sufficiency represents an interdependence between families, churches and local organizations that knits together the fabric of community.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development continues to remind us that 32 million Americans still fall below the poverty line. Of these 12 million are children. Another 7.2 million represent the working poor. Public policy that encourages living wage laws and universal health insurance would target the neediest among us. CCHD's support for self-help efforts will forge an alliance between the marginalized and church members. Authentic development goes beyond supplying just enough calories to survive. It allows families like April and James to drive on the road to self-sufficiency.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Thinking over the future

Sometimes I know why people come to talk with me. Other times it's a surprise. I've known Christian since he was a kid in elementary school. He went on to be an honors student in high school, attended a top-notch university and secured his CPA in short order. He's financially well set, engaged to be married to a lovely woman named Kim. So what, I wondered, was our talk to be about?

Christian came in looking subdued and serious. "Father Jim, you know that I always wanted to go into the world of finance. I've been blessed, I got my first job right out of grad school and I really want for nothing money-wise." As he spoke, I could sense his life plan was falling short. "September 11th really wiped me out," he said, recounting the toll of knowing young people like himself, many with little children, who were no more.

Christian recounted his experiences: attending over twenty funerals, helping to raise money for the lost firefighters and the families who now survived them, doing his part to help alleviate the suffering of too many. He was quick to point out, 'I'm doing no more than millions of others. Everyone wants to do something good, something helpful. We just don't want the people who are lost to be forgotten." Everything Christian said was welcome, but not unusual. His response to this tragedy was exactly what you'd expect of people with working consciences. Then he went further.

'Those firefighters, the cops, the emergency medical service workers, they really were givers. They put themselves in harm's way because they chose a vocation of service to others. I want their life. I want to change direction. I want to get involved in a service career." Now, you'd have to know Christian to realize that this was a major departure in his life plan. Accruing money and things had always been what he termed a "successful" life. Oh, he'd give to charities. But his giving would be after profits and from the safety of a different world. The new Christian didn't want to keep a distance.

I asked him just what he was thinking about doing. He didn't know exactly, but spoke of the obvious choices, firefighter or police officer, as well as mentioning nursing or teaching as possibilities. He just wanted, he said, "to be able to say I made a direct difference for the good."

Christian's final decision might or might not mean a complete career change. Instead, he could commit some of his time and energy to volunteer work. One way or the other, I am convinced he will stay involved.

My conversation with Christian was not unique. People seem genuinely changed by the happenings of September 11th. Governor George Pataki of New York mentioned some of those changes at a dinner held recently in support of the families of police officers killed at the World Trade Center. "It's inspiring, and not a little bit surprising," he noted, "to see the American flag pin on lapels of people who might not have expressed such a public witness to our love of country before." And he's right. We woke up on September 12th to the reality that we have much to be grateful for, living in this free land. And when a people are blessed for many years, it sometimes becomes easy to take the blessings for granted. People seem less inclined to do that now.

We've always been grateful that some people give their lives to the service professions. Now, we see how much we need them. Just maybe, we've been awakened to the importance of living our lives, at least in part, beyond our own desires. When Christian looks to his future, it will include something done, hands on, for others. Can you imagine the world we could make if each one of us did the same?

# Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

### The extent of God's forgiveness

A reader shared with us a story of redemption from his teen years. In 1970 at the age of 18, he was arrested for shoplifting at a discount store. The circumstances that led to his arrest and the responses of the arresting officers and his mother are particularly crucial to his story.

Bill and his two best friends went to the store to purchase eight-track tapes that were on sale. After rummaging through the limited selection of tapes, they had found only a few they wanted to buy. However, the check-out line extended all the way to the rear of the store. Bill's buddies immediately decided to take their tapes without paying for them. Bill, known to be an upstanding person among his peers, refused to follow suit. His friends chided him for being a "chump" as they slipped their tapes into their pants and walked out the door.

As he waited in the long check-out line his moral resolve began to weaken. He began to rationalize that his purchase wasn't worth waiting in the long line for. But it wouldn't be worth his valuable time to leave without what he came for. Eating at him also were his friends' berating him as a chump. He imagined them gloating over their "free" tapes. Either he would go without or he would pay the premium of waiting in the very long line plus the price of the tape.

In that moment of weakness, Bill gave in to the pressure. Like his friends, he slipped the tape into his pants and headed toward the door. As he exited the door, a security guard stopped him, reached into his pants and retrieved the stolen tape.

The store security, after questioning Bill and determining that he was not the typical offender but one who had made an uncharacteristically bad choice, agreed to release him to his parents. Making the call to his mother was the most difficult thing for Bill to do. He felt such shame that he didn't want to face his mother.

Upon her arrival, she saw how broken her son was. She saw his embarrassment and took pity on him. Without words spoken she embraced him and said, "Let's go home." Never a word was spoken about the incident. His mother had released him and freed him to live up to the moral ideals she knew her son had in his heart.

Knowing he was forgiven filled him with such gratitude that he vowed never again to do anything that would bring shame to himself and his family. Today, Bill is a husband and father who remembers the compassion of a forgiving mother as a sign of God's compassion and a remnant of Jesus' redeeming action on the cross.

Questions for Reflection

* When have you experienced forgiveness from someone?

* How did it shape your life?

* Do you recognize traces of God's compassion in that forgiving?

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Determining a Charitable Organization's Legitimacy

*Q. I have been sending donations to an organization in Mississippi for a long time, thinking it is a Roman Catholic group. Could you please let me know if it is and how the money is distributed? Some news about fraudulent organizations has made me want to be sure that I am helping someone with the money I send. (Mississippi)*

A. Your concern is legitimate; not every establishment that advertises itself as Catholic (or other religious or charitable group) is authentic. It's good to know where your financial assistance is going.

Obviously, it is impossible for me to give you background on every deserving or undeserving association that you hear from. But two avenues, at least, are open for you.

First, the chancery office of your diocese will be able to inform you if a particular group is an official Catholic organization and in general what their purpose or mission is. Even better is to contact the chancery of the diocese in which the group is actually located.

The chancery office is located in the city where your bishop resides. Your parish office will be able to give you the phone number and address.

Second, write to the organization itself at the address they give you. Tell them of your concerns, and ask them to send you their Catholic credentials and how contributions are distributed.

Aware of the concerns you mention, any legitimate charitable or missionary organization will be happy to answer your questions.

*Q. My Alcoholics Anonymous groups like what we call the Serenity Prayer. But none of us know where it came from. Someone said it was written by St. Francis, but no one knew for sure. (Ohio)*

A. The Serenity Prayer is one of those invocations that could probably be traced to many sources through the centuries. As we have it today, however, it seems to have been authored by the renowned Protestant theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, who died in 1971.

In 1934, about the time Alcoholics Anonymous was founded, he wrote a prayer, the first part of which is the familiar Serenity Prayer. The whole prayer, however, is such a source of wisdom and hope it is worth repeating:

"God, grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference, living one day at a time, accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.

"Let me take, as he [Jesus] did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting he will make all things right if I surrender to his will.

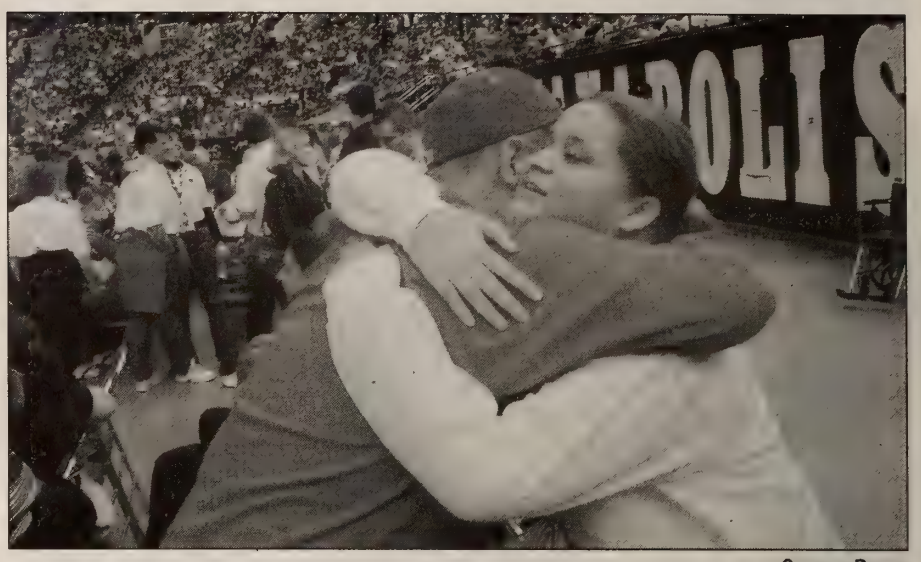
"May I be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with him forever in the next."

*(A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*(Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.)*

# Youths find hope, friendship and stronger faith at national conference





COURTESY PHOTOS

**Pictured above left, clockwise from left, Timothy Henry from St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, Michael Smith from St. Barnabas Church in Arden and Jessie Mesa from the Diocese of Raleigh strike a fun pose at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 9, 2001. Pictured above right, Emily Dillard from Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem hugs Tony Powers from the Diocese of Raleigh.**

BY JENNIFER DEL VECHIO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — The National Catholic Youth Conference ended much the way it began.

After three days of taking part in what organizers said was the largest Catholic youth conference in U.S. history, teen-agers were still clapping Dec. 9 for Jesus, shouting "Amen" and getting to know one another by celebrating their Catholic identity in Indianapolis.

The 26th biennial conference sponsored by the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry drew almost 24,000 teen-agers and adult chaperons Dec. 6-9, 2001, to Indianapolis to hear about vocations and how, as the young church, they can be an example of hope.

The conference, hosted by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis at the RCA Dome and Indiana Convention Center, also brought 48 bishops from across the nation to celebrate the Catholic faith with the youths and 1,500 volunteers, staff and exhibitors. The theme of the conference was "Hope at the Crossroads.

"This year, there were twice as many bishops as before," said Paul Kotlowski, director of youth ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte. "At every one of the gatherings, the bishops have a youth congress, and this year, it was on vocations. We wanted to invite youth who were actually considering vocations."

Paul McNulty, 17, from St. Mark Church in Huntersville, N.C., and Michael Smith, 18, from St. Barnabas Church in Arden, N.C., both participated in the congress with around 300 other teens from around the country. McNulty is considering a vocation in the priesthood, while Smith is interested in working in youth ministry.

McNulty said that the bishops spoke about discernment and vocations and spent time answering questions.

"I thought it was great to be able to learn more about my calling and meeting other people with the same type of calling to the clergy or to the sisterhood," said McNulty, who has been aware of his calling since childhood but has recently begun praying about in which direction he wants his life to go. "I am praying to be able to accept God's will, whatever it may be."

"This (conference) has been a true, true blessing," said Marlene Stammerman, associate director of youth ministry for the archdiocese. "To see this many young people surface and share their talents, I stand in awe."

McNulty added, "It was cool to see so many people from different places with some of the same goals and ideals as myself. It was a rewarding experience."

Two years ago, the national conference drew about 22,000 teen-agers and adults when held in St. Louis.

The increase in participants this year was attributed to more scholarship money for teen-agers to help pay their way to the conference and an increase in the number of youth ministers across the nation.

"Paid youth ministers across the country are increasing rapidly," said Paul Raspa, director of development and marketing for the conference. "The more youth ministers the more youth that are getting invited."

At the conference, teen-agers heard Miss America 2001, Angela Perez Baraquio, and MTV "Real World" celebrity Matt Smith share how living their faith had to be their top priority despite their high-profile commitments.

Smith spoke to a group of diocesan teens at St. Mark Church in Huntersville, N.C., in February 2001. He is a cradle Catholic from Hiawassee, Ga., near the southern North Carolina border, who has ties to the Diocese of Charlotte through his confirmation by Bishop William G. Curlin at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hayesville in 1995. He told the Carolina group that he wanted people to realize that he is just a normal person who wants to share his faith in God and his church. "I believe that God has given me lots of grace, and I try to do what is best. My faith makes me who I am and gives me the confidence and freedom that I have in public. It gives me this cocky flair that God is going to watch after me, that I have nothing to fear. With him, we can do anything together."

The largest groups of youths came from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, the Diocese of Rochester, N.Y., and the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo.

Those who attended said the conference reinforced their faith and helped show them they are not alone when trying to live it.

Kotlowski said that this year, the smallest delegation from the Diocese of Charlotte, 57 including adults, traveled to the national conference. "I attribute that (the small number) to the events of Sept. 11. It (the tragedy) was brushed upon with some of the speakers, but it didn't seem to be a big factor throughout the conference."

"I'm coming away with a better understanding of God and my relationship with him," Amanda Klaiber, 16, from St. Mark Parish in Indianapolis, told The Criterion, newspaper of the Indianapolis Archdiocese.

Holly Lambert from New Orleans said she came because the conference was about her Catholic faith.

"I see all these Catholic teen-agers together," she said. "They are interested in (the faith) the same as me and I can look to that for support."

While the young people were kept busy with workshops, keynote speeches and Christian concerts, the event also helped teen-agers get in touch with the sacraments of the church.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein of Indianapolis urged teen-agers to take advantage of the sacrament of reconciliation and to "spend some time as you open your hearts and minds before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament."

The archbishop also told the youths that they were the next leaders of the church.

He asked them to look around at the massive crowd and think about who from among them would someday be in charge of the nation's schools and universities or who among them would become the church's future religious leaders, becoming perhaps one day a bishop or cardinal. "It may be you," the archbishop said.

The conference, which fell during the


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feast of the Immaculate Conception, held special liturgies for each region to celebrate the feast. Before the Mass, a brief catechetical explanation about the Blessed Mother was done with skits and songs.

A living rosary also was held to celebrate the Blessed Mother at St. John the Evangelist Church in downtown Indianapolis. Teenagers also had opportunities to make rosaries for soldiers overseas.

While the conference did not dwell on the events of Sept. 11, speakers and participants said the conference theme, "Hope at the Crossroads," was needed more than ever before.

One teen-ager spoke about how she lost her father in the World Trade Center attacks but still decided to come.

Others came from military bases in Germany and Italy where they faced the reality of war each day.

Maureen Hurrle, who chairs the Indianapolis archdiocesan youth council, exhorted her peers to use the conference as "an example of peace to the world."

Regardless of the struggles, temptations and challenges, youths were asked to remember one thing when they returned home.

"You are a beautiful gift of God for the life of the church today and tomorrow," said Bishop Matthew H. Clark of Rochester, who gave the homily at the closing Mass Dec. 9. "When you go home tell the people about God and the living Christ."

Kotlowski said, "This is an opportunity for our young people to share faith with their peers throughout the entire country. Being able to take youth where they can see 24,000 Catholics who are excited about their faith and in love with the Lord is incomparable. This is the type of event that leaves a lasting impression."

*Staff Writer Alesha M. Price contributed to this story*


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# Philippines Catholics split over McDonald's built on church grounds

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BALAYAN, Philippines (CNS) — Philippine Catholics are split over the construction of a McDonald's restaurant on the grounds of a historic church.

Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Balayan, 45 miles southwest of Manila, has leased 480 square yards of its property to one of the American chain's franchises, Father Ernesto Mandanas of the cathedral parish told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

The priest said that the $1,400 monthly income from the lease would help support an archdiocesan center for elderly and sick priests and youth catechesis.

Father Mandanas said a government restriction imposed in December would be lifted soon, allowing construction of the two-story restaurant to continue.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources prohibited work on the structure, which had begun in November after a rival food chain questioned the lack of an environmental clearance for construction. The municipal government later ruled that clearance is required only after construction is completed, Father Mandanas said.

He called the 10-year contract with McDonald's "a stroke of blessing" and said half of the rent would go to Lipa Archdiocese's center for retired and sick clergy, whose families cannot afford long-term medical and professional care.

The other half will be used to buy materials and pay salaries for a proposed Sunday school program for public school students, Father Mandanas said.

Municipal councilor Anna Arroyo, 46, said that though she understood the church's reasons, elderly parishioners "will not like this."

The brightly colored red-and-yellow McDonald's building clashes with the Spanish colonial architecture of the church, built in the 1870s and declared a historical site in 1986, explained Arroyo.

She cited critics of the deal, who said the restaurant should have been built at the back of the property.

However, she added, many parishioners said nothing can be done about the project now "because it's already there."

Father Mandanas said the restaurant would be built some 200 feet from the cathedral and would not block the view of the church.

Susana Sale, 16, said church leaders should have thought of other fund-raising plans. She predicted that teen-agers would hang out at the McDonald's, making it "really noisy," even during Mass.

Cleotilde Dugay, a candle vendor who sells near the church gate, said her 19-year-old son studying in a nearby public high school hopes to work part-time at the McDonald's.

In a letter to the editor of a local daily newspaper, McDonald's Philippines Executive Vice President Kenneth Yang wrote that his company "is working with the local parish as well as the municipal government of Balayan to ensure that there is no encroachment on historic grounds."

# Difficult life molds deacon into husband, father, ordained minister

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

NORTH WILKESBORO — Rev. Mr. Harold Markle has seen angels in his lifetime. They were not the heavenly bodies often depicted in the media but were earthbound people who helped to shape his life. Teachers, neighbors, friends and relatives all had a positive influence in his otherwise rough childhood.

"I had three teachers who were really surrogate mothers to me. All three of them were Catholic, and I knew that I would be Catholic even though Catholicism wasn't something that was mentioned," he said. "My family was very anti-Catholic."



Rev. Mr. Harold Markle

Abandoned by his parents after their divorce at age four, he lived with an abusive grandfather and uncle and aloof grandmother. His grandmother would send him to church and Sunday school with a dime. Unbeknownst to his grandmother, Markle would strike a weekly deal using a nickel to buy ice cream and using the other nickel for the offertory.

"By age 12, I went through several different faiths and hated going to Sunday school," explained Rev. Mr. Markle.

To escape the abuse, he demanded that he live with his father and stepmother. The experience was mired with alcoholism, but his step-grandmother, a devout Catholic, was his protective guardian.

Sixteen-year-old Markle later began living with his paternal aunt and uncle in Western Pennsylvania. His uncle was looking at the possibility of being drafted during World War II, and Markle was going to help in the household. This move was a desperately needed light in his life. The teen, who had no scholastic focus and had been seriously thinking of quitting school to work full-time, began to blossom into a man spiritually and emotionally.

He paid for room and board per his uncle's request, and the ideal that there are no free rides in life was instilled in his young mind.

"At this point, I left that kid and became a whole new personality," he remembered. "I feel somewhat detached from that kid and feel sorry for him. I left the baggage of that abused kid behind. It (my life) was a very positive thing because it helped me to become who I am."

His aunt strongly encouraged him to finish high school and to attend any church regularly. He expressed his desire to become Catholic to his aunt, a Catholic convert. Instruction from the local priest led to his own conversion in 1944. Even though the country was embroiled in the throes of war, Rev. Mr. Markle fondly thinks of those times because of his success in school and dedication to his new faith.

He was drafted into the Army and became a sergeant before the age of 19. "It (being in the Army) gave me a confidence I never had before," he said of his 18 months of service.

While stationed at Fort Knox, Ky., he met Virginia at a USO function with other Catholics. They attended Mass and went to breakfast for their first meeting and were engaged within six weeks. "It was love at first sight," he said.

After being discharged, he attended Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania and transferred to Western Kentucky University to "be near my sweetheart." He did not allow his past relationship with his caretakers to hinder a reconciliation, so he returned to his grandparents' home on the weekends. "We have to forgive. We can't be weighed down as victims, and we have to move on. I forgave my grandfather, and we became friends."

Planning to teach English and history, he graduated in 1950 with a degree in education. He and Virginia married in 1951. The start of family life superceded his dream of working in education. He became a bookkeeper, attended accounting classes at night and earned an associate's degree in accounting. Sealtest Foods hired him as an accountant, and he worked his way up to senior accountant.

Although his professional plans had changed, his faith life continued at a steady pace. He and his wife busied themselves with parish and schoolwork and raising their seven children in Louisville, Ky. Their church was the center of their world as they delved into their faith and introduced it to their young family.

With layoffs, plant closings and a general decline of the company structure lurking in the distance, Markle's work life made an eastern turn when he accepted a position with a large family co-op of dairy farmers in Louisville, Ky. He was later sent to a plant in North Wilkesboro, N.C., and flew back and forth between the two locations. Reluctance to move did not prevent the Markle family from packing up and relocating to the small, mountain town in 1970.

"Imagine moving from Louisville that was 65 percent Catholic to a church in North Carolina that seated 60, and we brought 10 people, including my mother-in-law," joked Rev. Mr. Markle. "At that time, North Carolina was two percent Catholic, but the kids adjusted well. Everything fell into place."

The couple became involved in their new parish home, St. John Baptist de la Salle, and settled into the coastal state. One typical Sunday, Markle was standing at the lectern reading a brochure to the congregation about the diocese's first class of the permanent diaconate.

"The more I read, the more excited and interested I became. My wife said she would support me all the way but would not be in a large role. She taught faith formation and helped in various ministries but didn't want a place in the spotlight," he explained.

Markle was accepted into the first class of deacons and was ordained in 1983. His brother deacons and their wives became his support system after he was laid off from 15 years with his company in the late 1980s. Work and heavy commuting with RJ Reynolds in Winston-Salem and a home health agency in Chapel Hill, N.C., consumed his next few years. His outlets were his family, the church and his ministry. "At that time, I thought that my whole world dropped out, but I realized that the world doesn't come to an end unless you allow it."

Rev. Mr. Markle decided to take early retirement when he was 62 and began working part-time for a non-profit organization serving the poor and homeless. Prison, hospice, gay and lesbian and AIDS ministry have been his focus since retirement, and he and his wife, who celebrated 50 years of marriage in April 2001, have surrounded their lives with their nine grandchildren and ministerial work.

"After a while, it (the permanent diaconate) becomes a part of your life," he said. "God has been so good to me, and I have had 18 years of an interesting life as a permanent deacon. Everything that has happened in my life has been with God's help."


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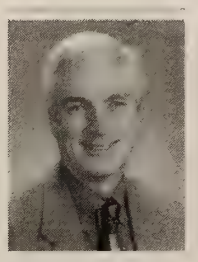
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With a degree from the University of Notre Dame and a master's in Theology from Sacred Heart School of Theology in Detroit, Ralph Martin has worked for years in the Cursillo Movement and in the development of the charismatic renewal movement. He was the founding editor of New Covenant Magazine, founding director of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office, and is currently a visiting professor at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ave Maria College, and Sacred Heart School of Theology. In addition he has authored several books.

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NEWS & HERALD
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"Every child has been created for greater things, to love and be loved, in the image of God."

— Mother Teresa

# Passionate volunteer honored with 2001 Governor's Award

By Dianne M.A. Riggs
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — When Rick Newman arrives home after work, he never knows what he'll find on his back porch: boxes of candy jars, clothes, puzzles, canister sets. It all comes from St. Joan of Arc church members, family, friends or volunteers. They know that the Mountain Area Hospice Foundation will be getting ready for another megasale, called "Superflea."

Because of his work with hospice foundation, the 40-year-old Newman was one of five Buncombe County residents to receive the Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service for 2001. Nancy Emerson, foundation CEO, said.

Experience prepared him and made him a natural for the needs of the hospice foundation. For 15 years, he has been assistant manager of the Asheville branch of If It's Paper and serves on that corporation's informal think tank for goods and merchandizing.

Newman first got deeply involved with hospice through the death of a close friend. When the hospice volunteer coordinator asked him to help out, he found himself selling Christmas ornaments at the Festival of Trees, the foundation's main fund-raising event each year. The next year, the foundation sent him to Atlanta to purchase ornaments for the sale. He also decorated one of the trees sold to the charity's sponsors. He managed the festival gift shops, which have consignments with local crafters as well as others, for four years.

While he continues to decorate trees (last Christmas his tree theme was Harry Potter) and assist in other areas, his current major involvement is leading "Superfleas." Each of these rummage sales boasts more than an acre of "treasures"—from fine antiques to common "stuff." These Superfleas earned more than $60,000 dollars in 2001.

Newman is a hands-on leader. He is busy with every Superflea detail, including item donation pickup, clean-up, sorting, merchandising, advertising, pricing, selling tickets, cashiering and directing Superflea volunteers. This is a year-round undertaking, which is how Newman accrued more than 550 volunteer hours with the foundation in 2001. (That is the equivalent of three-and-a-half months of 40-hour workweeks.)

"It's very rewarding," he said. "You get a lot out of it. What good you do comes back triplefold, quadruplefold." Newman finds his faith encourages him by emphasizing community and helping people.



Photo by Dianne M.A. Riggs

Newman is not a cradle Catholic. A dying Catholic friend introduced him to Father C. Morris Boyd, then-pastor of St. Joan of Arc. Father Boyd invited him to the church and mentored him in the faith through conversations and the RCIA. "I felt drawn to Catholicism: the community, communion, homilies," Newman said. "It's a deep, grounded faith." He was confirmed in 1995.

Mountain Area Hospice in Asheville serves advanced terminally ill patients in their homes and at long-term care facilities and Solace, hospice's inpatient facility. Rather than curative care, hospice emphasizes physical, mental and spiritual well-being of patient and family. Hospice's other prong is its foundation, which provides funding for the direct patient care.

Newman is proud of hospice's record: "Hospice has been in homes with two maids and in homes with dirt floors." Perhaps that is why he is so fervently involved. He once told his father, "I'm passionate about it—that's why I do it." And last year, his father spent his last two weeks in hospice.

The Asheville-area native finds hospice is like family when one is involved as deeply as he is. "It's hard work—sometimes it's a *Tylenol* day," he quipped. "But it's not difficult." Newman said he has over the years, "thrown stuff and pitched fits." He laughed. "It's like family—you get over it." He is so enthusiastic, that he has managed to involve his mother, brothers and sisters, as well as St. Joan of Arc church members. "Volunteering gives me energy—it's addictive." he said.

Newman encourages any interested person to volunteer, but especially "younger" persons, those who have not reached retirement age, even if they can only give four or six hours per week.

### Mattress company's generosity lets the weary rest easy

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (CNS) — Somewhere out there in the city a child, an elderly person, a refugee or a battered woman is at long last having a good night's sleep, thanks to Catholic Charities and the Simmons Mattress Co. Each week a Catholic Charities truck backs up to the loading dock of the Simmons mattress manufacturing facility in Shawnee, Kan. Two men from Holy Family Furnishings, a program operated by Catholic Charities, and a group of men from Simmons quickly load the truck with mattresses. Some weeks they load as few as 10, and other weeks as many as 30. Simmons dealers have shipped the mattresses back to the factory. They have minor flaws or tears, which render them unfit for sale.

### Don't let terrorism harden hearts against immigrants, urges bishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 should not "harden our hearts" to immigrants, refugees and migrants, said the former chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration in messages issued for National Migration Week Jan. 6-12. Addressing parishioners, young adults and children, Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio of Camden, N.J., encouraged Catholics to overcome security fears and make the church a welcoming community to foreigners. The messages were posted on the Web site of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Bishop DiMarzio was head of the migration committee when promotional materials for the weeklong observance were prepared. His successor, Miami Auxiliary Bishop Thomas G. Wenski, was elected Nov. 13.

### Opus Dei founder's life, message celebrated at Rome conference

ROME (CNS) — For a Nigerian member of Opus Dei, the Rome celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the prelature's founder is all the proof needed that he has the relevance and universal appeal of a modern saint. Dympa Ezeani of Enugu, Nigeria, was one of 1,200 people from 57 countries who gathered in Rome Jan. 8-11 to mark the birthday of Blessed Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer. "There are so many people here from so many countries because of one man who had one idea, that everyone is called to holiness in their everyday lives," Ezeani said. "The pope should hurry up and canonize him," she added. In late December, Pope John Paul issued the decree clearing the way for the canonization of the Spanish priest, who founded Opus Dei in 1928. No date has been set for the ceremony, although it is expected sometime this year.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Unemployed Argentines march under national flag**
**Unemployed workers from the slums of Buenos Aires march under the national flag in the Plaza de Mayo Jan. 15. Argentine bishops called for an end to political corruption, the creation of new jobs and fine tuning of the justice system to help alleviate Argentina's economic crisis.**

### Vatican auction raises $16,000 to assist Afghan refugees

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's missionary office auctioned off donated jewelry and silver objects, raising nearly $16,000 for Afghan refugees. The centerpiece items at the Jan. 10 auction were two carved ivory tusks donated by Pope John Paul II, who received them on trips to Nigeria and India. They sold for $1,400 and $2,000. Cardinal Crescenzio Sepe, prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, said he hoped to make the auction an annual event coinciding with World Mission Sunday and dedicated to a humanitarian cause chosen by the pope. The auction, held in a 17th-century chapel at the congregation's offices in Piazza di Spagna, drew about 50 people.

### Media professionals discuss ways to evangelize American continent

MIAMI (CNS) — Representatives from Catholic radio and television networks, Internet portals, newspapers and Hollywood production companies, meeting Jan. 9-12 in Miami, looked back at the days when Bishop Fulton J. Sheen aired on prime time and beat Milton Berle in the ratings. They brainstormed about what the church can do to "take back" the culture and once again use the mass media to evangelize. "We have to change the culture," said Father Bernard Heffernan, who worked for many years with Father Patrick Peyton's Family Theater productions. "Somewhere along the road we gave up the culture. We all decided to take a back seat," agreed Ben Angelotti, president of Angel Communications, which distributes the "Dr. Laura" radio program.

### Welcoming Hispanics is key to keeping them Catholic, bishop says

MIAMI (CNS) — The lure of fundamentalist sects is a serious problem in Latin America, and it could become a serious problem in the United States unless dioceses here "open wide the doors" to Hispanic immigrants, said Bishop Charles V. Grahmann of Dallas. The president of the New Evangelization of America was in Miami attending the group's fourth annual meeting. In an interview with The Florida Catholic, Miami archdiocesan newspaper, he said, "Hispanics are finding comfort and a home among fundamentalist groups that speak their language and help them immediately to find a job and a place to live."

### Maryland parents, educators rally in support of state textbook aid

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Debbie and Jeffery Stirn know all about the sacrifices involved in providing a Catholic education for their seven children. Jeffery Stirn works two full-time jobs to pay $30,000 in annual tuition at John Paul Regional Catholic School and Seton Keough High School in Baltimore. On top of caring for the children, his wife works as a teacher's assistant at John Paul Regional. The parishioners of St. Gabriel in the Baltimore suburb of Woodlawn skimp and save as much as they can to make sure their children receive a high-quality education. For the Stirn family, it makes a big difference to have a $60 per-student allotment from the state to help pay for their children's nonreligious textbooks. That's why Debbie Stirn was among the thousands of parents who rallied Jan. 7 in support of continued funding for the textbook loan program.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**January 27 — 11 a.m.**
Sesquicentennial Mass
St. Peter, Charlotte

**5 p.m.**
Mass for rosary makers
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**January 29 — 11 a.m. Mass**
Asheville Catholic School, Asheville

**January 30 — 9:40 a.m. Mass**
Charlotte Catholic High School, Charlotte

**February 1 — 11 a.m. Mass**
Sacred Heart School, Salisbury

**February 3 — 2 p.m.**
Mass and dedication
Immaculate Heart of Mary, High Point

## Diocesan planner

**January**

**23** CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., will be offering Lenten small faith-sharing groups meeting once a week during Lent beginning today to explore and reflect on the Sunday Scripture readings. Sign up begins today and will continue through Feb. 6. For details, call Sue VanderJeugdt at (704) 541-8362, Ext. 38.

**26** CHARLOTTE — Mercy Sisters Jeanne Marie Kienast and Therese Galligan will be presenting an all-day retreat entitled "Journey into Lent" at the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd., from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to experience prayer, meditation, relaxation, imagery and journaling throughout the day. Drinks will be provided, but lunch must be self-supplied. Call Susan Krasniewski at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 271, for registration and other information.

**27** ARDEN — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr. Next month's meeting will be held at the usual location at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

**27** CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will be having its parish mission today through Jan. 30 from 7-8:30 p.m. Sun.-Wed. with a daily session following the 12:10 p.m. Mass Mon.-Wed. Conducted by Good News International, light refreshments will follow the evening sessions. Everyone is invited to attend and bring a friend. For more information, call the church office at (704) 523-4641.

**28** CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia will be held today and every fourth Monday from 10-11:30 a.m. in the St.

### Pope baptizes 20 infants, urges parents to instill them with faith

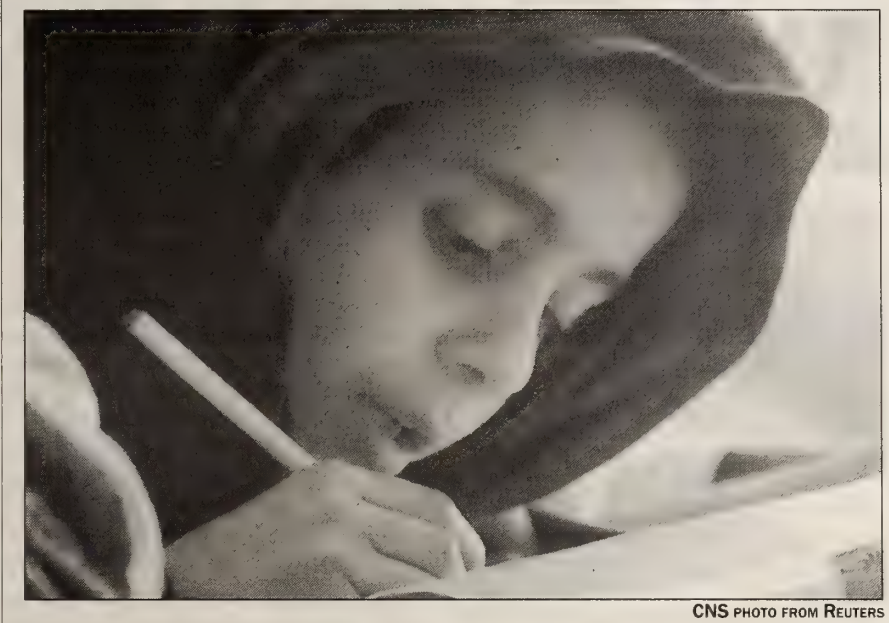
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a ceremony that spanned the church's generations, Pope John Paul II baptized 20 infants and urged their parents to witness the faith daily in order to instill it in their children. The 81-year-old pontiff presided over the baptismal Mass Jan. 13 in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican, an annual liturgy he began years ago so that he could personally administer the sacrament to an international group of infants. This year, the group included 17 Italians, and one each from France, Spain and the United States. They punctuated the liturgy with crying, despite their parents' rhythmic efforts to keep them quiet.

### Half of participants in pope's Assisi peace pilgrimage to be Muslim

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More than 50 religious leaders, including about two dozen Muslims, will join Pope John Paul II in a pilgrimage to Assisi, Italy, Jan. 24 to pray for peace and condemn violence committed in the name of religion. At the same time, in dioceses throughout the world, Catholics will be hosting ecumenical prayer services to ask God for the gift of peace and interreligious meetings to make commitments to use faith to foster peace. The pope is expected to be joined by Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, the worldwide spiritual leader of the Orthodox, in leading the pilgrimage of religious representatives to Assisi. The pilgrimage, a two-hour train journey from the Vatican, also will include other Christian leaders, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains and followers of traditional African religions, as well as the Muslims.

### Miami Catholic Charities sends supplies to Cuban hurricane victims

MIAMI (CNS) — Catholic Charities of Miami has sent 120,000 pounds of food and relief supplies to Cuba to help victims of Hurricane Michelle. The supplies were received by Caritas, the Cuban bishops' welfare agency, for direct distribution to Cubans through parishes in the areas most damaged by the hurricane, said Peter Coats, in charge of relief assistance for Catholic Charities of Miami. The supplies, with a listed value of $25,000, were sent in two cargo flights, Dec. 19 and Dec. 21, Coats said. Hurricane Michelle cut across Cuba Nov. 4, killing five people and leaving thousands homeless. Farms also were heavily damaged, with much of the harvest destroyed.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Girl studies at school in Kandahar**

**An Afghan girl concentrates on writing at a school in the southern city of Kandahar in Afghanistan Jan. 15. Afghan girls and young women are flooding back to school after being deprived of education during the Taliban rule, which crumbled in the face of U.S.-led attacks launched Oct. 7 last year.**

### Troubled world situation is opportunity for reflection, says pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Reviewing the troubled world situation, Pope John Paul II said Christians contribute to peace by offering — especially to Muslims — the values of forgiveness and humility before God and neighbor. In an annual "state of the world" address to Vatican-accredited diplomats Jan. 10, the pope also said fresh global tensions at the start of 2002 had "one advantage" of forcing people to re-examine fundamental human and spiritual truths. "It makes us squarely face our responsibilities. Everyone is forced to ask the real questions: the truth about God and the truth about man," he said. Picking up a theme from his message for World Day of Peace 2002, the pope told the diplomats he wanted to emphasize again to the international community that killing in the name of God "is an act of blasphemy and a perversion of religion."

### Former East Timor guerrillas receive job training at Salesian center

DILI, East Timor (CNS) — Cipriano Alves Amaral seems an unlikely freedom fighter. The soft-spoken, 26-year-old grew up wanting to become an electrician. Instead, he became a guerrilla, joining East Timor's armed resistance movement four years ago. For two years, he fought from the jungles surrounding the town of Same against Indonesia's 24-year occupation of East Timor. The guerrillas, known by their Portuguese acronym, Falintil, disbanded in February 2001, more than a year after the East Timorese overwhelmingly rejected Indonesian rule in a 1999 U.N.-sponsored referendum. Now more than two years after the referendum, Amaral is learning to become an electrician. He is one of 21 former Falintil guerrillas learning to become electricians, carpenters and welders in a10-month program at the Salesian-run Don Bosco Technical Training Center in the Dili suburb of Comoro.

### Northern Ireland violence reveals gap between Catholics, Protestants

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — The violence that flared following a disturbance at a Northern Irish Catholic primary girls' school illustrates the findings of a recently released survey that said the region is becoming more segregated and polarized. Violence at Holy Cross School, which was the scene of picketing by Protestants last fall, flared Jan. 9 when parents of students were pushed and spat at by Protestant residents. Hundreds of Protestant and Catholic rioters remained on the streets of North Belfast into the evening. Administrators closed the school, evacuating students from a rear exit. "We are back to square one, in fact, it's worse than that," said Father Aidan Troy, chairman of the governors of Holy Cross School. "It will be very, very hard to come back from this, but we will have to try."

### Children educate adults about organ donation

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (CNS) — What began as curiosity about organ donation by four eighth-grade girls at St. Therese School in Kansas City has turned into a community education project and a national science competition entry. Jamie Menown, Alex Ramirez, Hannah Maybier and Melissa Guevara became interested in organ donation about a year ago after one of them read about a child who received a life-saving organ transplant and discussed it with the others. They realized they knew very little about the topic. Now they can tell you that 80,000 people in the United States are on waiting lists for donated hearts, kidneys, and other organs and the number is growing by almost 10,000 a year. This school year the four girls were looking for a project to enter in a national competition for middle-school students, co-sponsored by Bayer and the National Science Foundation, that targets community problems. The girls chose to work on the availability of transplant organs for children in their area.

Gabriel Church ministry center, 3016 Providence Rd. With advanced notification, activities for the memory-impaired can be provided. For more information about the support group or the Shining Stars Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

**28** CHARLOTTE — The Light Weigh is a 12-week Catholic, spiritual growth, weight-loss program designed to help deepen one's relationship with Jesus while learning to eat desirable foods in moderation. An orientation will be offered tonight at 7 p.m. in the St. Vincent de Paul Church faith formation wing of the parish center, 6828 Old Reid Rd. For questions, call Karen Acken at (704) 543-5497

**28** NEWTON — The Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group will be meeting at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

**30** ASHEVILLE — Asheville Catholic School, 12 Culvern St., will host its annual Open House this morning from 9-11 a.m. Volunteers will answer questions and assist with tours and registration. This will be the first day of open registration for pre-K through eighth grade for the 2002-2003 school year. All are invited to visit, and registration is not required. For more information, call the school at (828) 252-7896.

**February**

**1** HAMLET — St. James Church, 1018 W. Hamlet Ave. (off of Hwy. 74 West), will be having its annual pit barbecue from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. today. Attendants may choose to eat in or take out pork or chicken cooked on site with Cole slaw, baked beans and rolls. Orders of 10 or more can be delivered. For further information, call the church office at (910) 582-0207.

**2** BOONE — In an effort to prepare catechists for the responsibility of forming faith communities, the Boone Vicariate Faith Formation will sponsor a daylong training session at St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way. There will be two CRP II as well as two CRP I workshops. All catechists and other interested people are invited to learn more about faith development. For further details about the Jan. 27 registration deadline and other information, call Peg Ruble, Central Regional Faith Formation Coordinator, at (704) 391-0445.

**2** CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will have its annual attic and bake sale today from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 523-4641.

**3** CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will be gathering today at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information please call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 545-8133.

**3** SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**4** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight and every first Monday at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Feb. 5 and every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# Jesuit priests concerned over U.S. treatment of Afghan prisoners

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While legitimately fighting terrorism, the United States must guarantee respect for human rights, even for suspected terrorists, two Jesuits told Vatican Radio.

In separate interviews, Italian Cardinal Roberto Tucci, a Jesuit and former director of the radio, and Jesuit Father Pasquale Borgomeo, the radio's current director, said one of the most worrying aspects of the continuing war on terrorism was the U.S. treatment of prisoners captured in Afghanistan.

The U.S. government defined them as "unlawful combatants" rather than as prisoners of war with specific rights under international law and began transferring them Jan. 10 to the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The fact that the men were transferred wearing shackles and hoods, that they were being held temporarily in shelters with chain-link fence walls and that they might face military tribunals raised the concern of several human rights groups.

In a Jan. 16 interview with One-O-Five Live, a Vatican Radio channel, Cardinal Tucci said that if the Guantanamo Bay prisoners were going to be tried, they had a right to legal counsel, a right Amnesty International claims is being denied.

"I wouldn't want democratic countries to forget the principles which they rightly believe to be better than those followed in other countries. This is a danger at this moment," the cardinal said.

"In addition, we see a kind of militarization of justice with this transport of Taliban prisoners to Guantanamo," he said.

While the priest praised the U.S. government for its diplomatic efforts to ease tensions between India and Pakistan, he said there is "inertia" in its reaction to the ongoing tensions between Israel and Palestine.

What is needed, Father Borgomeo said, "is a wider view, a more strategic view that would serve in the struggle to build peace."

# Prayer breakfast for life brings early morning message of life, hope, faith

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

RALEIGH — Parishioners from the Diocese of Charlotte came to the Brownstone Hotel Jan. 12 at for the third annual Prayer Breakfast for Life. They were there to strengthen and consolidate their beliefs with people from other dioceses who want to reverse Roe vs. Wade, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized most abortions.

Among those present was Constance Russo from St. Paul the Apostle in Greensboro. Russo is concerned about people like her friend whose boyfriend and a doctor forced her to have an abortion. How can it be a choice, Russo wanted to know, when, despite her protests, this woman was sedated the third time her boyfriend took her to the clinic so the abortion could be performed?

"We are on a crusade of life," said Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh. "Who would have thought that this country would have put human life at risk? We must change. Let us not abandon our youth. Now is the time to inspire them to be witnesses to life and love in this world full of hate. Confirm life as a gift from God, a gift to be protected and kept safe."

The ensemble from the St. Thomas More Contemporary Choir sang, with many of the attendees joining in.

Judith L. Hunt from Prayer Partners for Life explained how Prayer Partners was formed two years ago during the first Breakfast for Life. She said that people must be instruments of God through prayer: "Our battle cry is, 'If God is for us, who can be against?"

Nancy J.R. Wells, mistress of ceremonies, introduced the guest speaker, Camille De Blasi, director of the Center for Life Principles and of Program Development for the Human Life of Washington Education Foundation.

De Blasi said that the chief mistake most people make is that they look at pro-life as the end. Actually, she said, life, which is the first gift from God, is the means to a greater end—life is the ultimate means to love.

De Blasi explained the stages of love: simple affection; filial love; romantic love; and finally agape, the unconditional love that requires self-sacrifice and motivates people to want to love others because they are children of God. Participants in abortion, she said, are stuck in the first three stages of love, without the love of God, so they never realize that agape brings people to something more beautiful awaiting.

De Blasi described the four levels of happiness: physical pleasure; ego highs; human love, mercy and compassion; and faith with divine love, mercy and compassion. Whatever the level, true happiness is lost without love, mercy, compassion and faith. Therefore, each person must ask two questions: "How much have I contributed to life?" and "How much faith do I have?"

Regarding euthanasia, De Blasi said that those who are suffering need to know that their suffering has purpose, and that they are capable of doing what Jesus did on the cross. The key for others is to be with dying patients, to listen and empathize with them, but to never leave God out of the picture.



Photo By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY



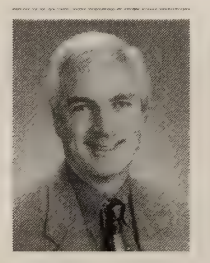

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Ralph Martin, national leader in the charismatic renewal movement of the Catholic Church

"Launch into the Deep"

Being a Catholic in the new millennium — the vision of Pope John Paul II

Fri., 1/25, 7 pm - Praise and Worship with *Hearts of Fire*, then *"Call to Holiness,"* questions and answers

Sat., 1/26, 10 am - Praise and Worship with *Hearts of Fire*, then *"Obstacles to Growth"*

11:30 am to 12:30 pm - Lunch break

12:30 pm - Praise and Worship with *Hearts of Fire*, then *"New Evangelization"*

With a degree from the University of Notre Dame and a master's in Theology from Sacred Heart School of Theology in Detroit, Ralph Martin has worked for years in the Cursillo Movement and in the development of the charismatic renewal movement. He was the founding editor of New Covenant Magazine, founding director of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office, and is currently a visiting professor at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ave Maria College, and Sacred Heart School of Theology. In addition he has authored several books.

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For info, call 704-633-0591 or evenings, 704-639-9837
( Babysitting by reservation )

# Right to Life march in Raleigh demonstrates statewide unity

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

RALEIGH — More than 300 pro-life supporters from Charlotte, Greensboro, Eden and other areas throughout the Charlotte diocese gathered Jan. 12 at the Children's Garden at the corner of Wilmington and Lane streets.

Nancy Lischwe and Betty Wickham had constructed a Christmas-tree-shaped "life tree" of gloves and booties tied with fishing line. The two women had spread the word across the United States that they wanted to erect a memorial to the 4,000 victims lost to abortion each day in America.

The response to this memorial was immediate. Gloves and booties came from church groups, youth groups and women who have had abortions and wanted their stories told. Many had included notes about their abortions and why they wanted them memorialized. All the remembrances were included on the life tree.

Bill Eastwood from St. Benedict's parish in Greensboro represented Knights of Columbus Council 939. He carried a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the preborn. The Knights' Supreme Council in New Haven, Conn., gave the picture to the North Carolina Knights so that it could be honored throughout the area.

Rev. Walter Lacy, pastor of the Praise Assembly Worship Center in New Bern gave the invocation. "We repent for our nation trying to take the place of God," he said. He asked everyone to pray that the North Carolina Legislature and the U.S. Congress will change the policy that promotes the abortion movement. Rev. Lacey stressed the importance of understanding that, "We represent God's love and peace. Therefore, as pro-life Christians, we must share that love with friendliness and smiles."

Lorretta Thompson, vice president of North Carolina Right to Life, said that in the last 29 years, the United States has lost an entire generation to the holocaust of abortion. Then she presented Rob Murphy, the founder and executive director of Goal Ministries.

Murphy showed the crowd a pine cone and asked what it they saw. For many, he said, it was something for a mower to run over, but those with vision see it as a forest. He compared the pine cone to those who see human life as something to be destroyed. They don't understand the incredible treasure that God sees within the womb as life is created.

Abortion, Murphy said, is a symptom of an even greater problem: the lack of hope. There is always hope, he said, as long as people are alive, as long as they refuse to look at what "pop culture" says.

When he was 13, Murphy learned that his father was not his biological father. He was the product of the rape of his mother, who was 18 at the time. At that point, Murphy's life didn't make sense to him. Despairing, he searched for the true meaning to life.

"Praise God," he said, "life is a gift no matter how it happened. I am created by God; therefore, I matter Life matters. It's a joy to be here."

This pro-life movement, Murphy said, is about human beings defending human beings—defending life. He compared slavery to abortion, saying that the culture of death wants to control people and families, thus enslaving the spirit. It is a battle that can only be won through kindness, compassion and love.

Led by the Knights of Columbus, the group marched around the state capitol and moved on to Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Dan Gallagher of St. Vincent de Paul in Charlotte said that, although the rally was an encouraging event for the pro-life movement, he was disappointed that it was simply a rally, rather than a protest at which the attendees' views could have been more readily brought to the legislature.

# Replenish the spirit within

By SISTER THERESE GALLIGAN, RSM
Special to the Catholic News & Herald

BELMONT—Being involved in a ministry of consolation, or bereavement ministry, is not for everyone. Like every ministry, it is a special call — in this instance, to be present to those who suffer the loss of a loved one in death and to walk with those persons left behind, as they move through the various stages of grief. Because of the emotional involvement, it is important for bereavement ministers to take time to renew themselves spiritually, mentally and physically. Yet, until Jan. 12, few opportunities for this type of renewal existed.

On that day over 90 participants representing 22 parishes, congregations, assisted living and skilled care institutions, synagogues, and other non-profit facilities, met at Curtin Hall in Mercy Administration Center for a unique day designed to pamper, to rekindle the creative spark that first brought them to bereavement ministry.

Mercy Sister Mary Rosalind Picôt, president of the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of North Carolina, welcomed the attendees and presented a brief history of the Sisters of Mercy as well as the ministries they sponsor, one of which is "From Grief to Healing, A Ministry of Bereavement."

Mercy Sister Therese Galligan, director of the ministry, facilitated the daylong program of renewal and refreshment, using several videos to allow the group to see the extraordinary in the ordinary and to renew one's vision and gifts of creativity.

Even opening prayer was creative as Gaye Dimmick, a professional mime artist, brought the story of creation to life for the group.

Using quiet time to journal as well as time to interact with one another, participants shared ideas on how to renew one's own creativity and how that impacts their ministry.

As a reminder of the importance of self-care, Helen Gassen, a Tai Chi instructor, demonstrated and involved participants in simple ways of renewing both body and spirit.

"This has been a wonderful, wonderful gift," said Rebecca Mullaney of Church of Redeemer Episcopal Church in Shelby.

"Post 9-11 it's more important than ever for us to remember to concentrate on celebrating what's right with the world," said Pat Brown of St. Matthew Catholic Church in Charlotte.

Following a lunch provided by a downtown Belmont restaurant, "Cherubs," a ministry of hospitality and food service which provides adults with mental retardation vocational training, it was time for further enrichment.

Singer, humorist, storyteller and folk-theologian, Ed Kilbourne of Rock Hill, S.C., used his special brand of wit and wisdom woven together with religious underpinnings to shore-up attendees' spiritual infrastructure.

"I'm filled with amazement at the Sisters of Mercy and their many ministries. I feel privileged to be part of this group. It's personally inspiring," said Corine Bockenek of Temple Beth El in Charlotte.

In reflecting on the day, Sister Therese said, "We rely on our faith to comfort others, our words to console, our thoughts to soothe, our deeds to reassure and our God to hea, yet, we also know that as individuals we need to help replenish ourselves if we plan to continue to be of service to those grieving."

On a day when most didn't expect it, bereavement ministers received a "belated" Christmas gift. These individuals who unselfishly give of themselves, sharing their gifts of consolation with the grieving, were suddenly on the receiving end. They were presented with gifts of joy, creativity, laughter and thought-provoking presentations — all because of an anonymous donor who cared.

Sister Therese serves as director of "From Grief to Healing: A Ministry of Bereavement." She maintains offices at St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Charlotte. Sister Therese, a registered nurse with a master's degree, is also a certified massage therapist, therapeutic touch practitioner and a certified grief facilitator. She also has extensive experience with hospice, bereavement training and bereavement support groups.

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### Food pantries reap rewards from Franciscan's harvest

DETROIT (CNS) — A Franciscan brother's dream of turning urban wastelands into gardens of plenty to feed the needy has yielded a bountiful harvest for food pantries in the Detroit area. Capuchin Franciscan Brother Rick Samyn first came up with the idea of farming three plots of land near the Capuchin Soup Kitchen several years ago but did not acquire use of the land owned by Gleaner's Food Bank until this past summer. In the two-thirds acre are rows of cabbage, kale, tomatoes, beets and beans. Another patch is an herb garden filled with basil, dill and parsley. Brother Samyn wants to work with young people in programs focusing on farming.

### Pope says Blessed Escriva preached message in way world needs to hear

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Gospel message that all the baptized are called to Christian perfection was preached by the founder of Opus Dei in a way the world needs to hear, Pope John Paul II said. "Blessed Josemaria Escriva placed at the center of his preaching the truth that all the baptized are called to the fullness of charity and that the most immediate way to reach this common goal is found in daily normality," the pope said. Pope John Paul met Jan. 12 with participants in an international congress marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Escriva de Balaguer, founder of the personal prelature Opus Dei.

### EWTN asks prayers for recovery of hospitalized Mother Angelica

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (CNS) — People interested in praying for the recovery of hospitalized Mother Angelica, founder of Eternal Word Television Network, can use the EWTN Web site to register their spiritual offerings, the network announced. The announcement also asked that people offer their rosaries, novenas, Masses, Communions, Holy Hours and individual prayers for the intercession of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, a 19th-century Redemptorist priest who worked in the United States. Mother Angelica was operated on Dec. 24 to remove a blood clot from her brain after suffering a second stroke in less than four months. The Jan. 11 announcement said the 78-year old Mother Angelica, a Poor Clare of Perpetual Adoration, was still in intensive care and that doctors listed her condition as fair.

### Pope OKs election of three Ukrainian bishops, including one from U.S.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has given his assent to the election of three new bishops for the Ukrainian Catholic Church, including a U.S.-born priest who had been working at the Vatican Embassy to Ukraine. Studite Father Hlib Lonchyn, 47, was born in Steubenville, Ohio, and educated at a Ukrainian school in Hamtramck, Mich., before moving to Rome for theology studies. Bishop-elect Lonchyn was elected an auxiliary bishop of Lviv by members of the Ukrainian bishops' synod; the pope approved the election Jan. 11.

### Brownie Girl Scout honored for saving another child from choking

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — When 3-year-old Gabriella Romo choked on some candy last October while visiting St. Matthew Catholic Church in San Antonio, 8-year-old Melanie Lozano knew just what to do. She immediately and successfully administered the Heimlich maneuver. "I learned it in the Girl Scouts," she said nonchalantly when asked about her quick actions. Following morning Mass at St. Matthew Church Dec. 21, Kathy Grantham, executive director of the Girl Scouts of the San Antonio Area, presented Melanie with the Girl Scout Medal of Honor for saving the life of little Gabriella. Melanie is a member of Brownie Girl Scout Troop 576.



CNS PHOTO FROM CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

**Pope John Paul II responds to baby at Vatican baptism**
**Pope John Paul II smiles at a baby during an annual baptism liturgy in the Sistine Chapel Jan. 13. The pontiff baptized 20 infants from Italy, France, Spain and the United States.**


# God is Bigger!

*Act of Compassion in our Backyard*



Jesse Manibusan

The call for justice and peace is all around us: in our families, our schools, our neighborhoods and our work... "in our words, in our deeds, in what we have done, and what we have failed to do...." Rather than becoming overwhelmed by the big picture, God is Bigger, let's just start right where we are. Service is simple.

Jesse Manibusan is a singer, songwriter, guitarist and teller of humorous tales. Highly energetic, interactive and engaging, Jesse will affirm the gifts of the faithful, and call upon all to go deeper and wider! His accomplishments include: Presenter for Encuentro 2000, Presenter for National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministers 1998, writings published by the Oregon Catholic Press (Music Issue, JourneySongs, Flor Y Canto, Spirit and Song).

*Audience:* **Catholic School Teachers and College Campus Ministers**
Topic: **Act of Compassion In Our Backyard (God is Bigger)**
Place: **Four Points Charlotte Uptown, 201 S. McDowell St.**
Date: **Friday, February 8, 2002**
Time: **9:15am — 3:00pm (BOX LUNCH)**

*For Information:* Sr. Maureen A. Meehan, RSM, D.Min.
Director of Religious Education, Catholic Schools Office
**Phone: (704) 370-3268 Fax: (704) 370-3291**
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# Respect Life symbols stolen from Charlotte church

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Father Mark Lamprich, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church, was walking his dog Jan. 13 as he does every morning, when he noticed something out of place. Forty-two white wooden crosses that had been planted in the ground in front of the church were missing. Two additional crosses awaiting a whitewash had not been placed in the display at the time.

The 44 crosses served as reminders of the 4,400 abortions performed every day in the U.S.; each cross represents 100 of the aborted. The sign accompanying the crosses shows those statistics along with toll-free numbers for pregnancy help and post-abortion healing, said Diane Hoefling, St. Vincent Respect Life coordinator for 15 years. Some Protestant churches also display crosses and signs.

Every January for the past seven years, the roadside display has been erected in the church's front yard as a reminder of the anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision on Jan. 22, 1973, to legalize abortion in the United States. Members of the Respect Life ministry at St. Vincent coordinate the effort each year with the help of the Knights of Columbus and other parishioners.

The printed sign remains standing in the front yard of the church, but the location of the crosses remains a mystery. They are believed to have been stolen during the night of Jan. 12 or the morning of Jan. 13.




Photo by Joann S. Keane

**A billboard-type notice with abortion statistics is all that remains after people stole 42 crosses that were part of the St. Vincent de Paul Church Respect Life's educational efforts.**

The police were called, but there are no suspects, no witnesses and no trace of the crosses.

"There was no vandalism and no apparent attempts to remove the sign," Father Lamprich said. "It is pretty surprising that the crosses were taken, and nothing was done to the sign."

He said that the area around the display is well lit, and he does not believe that this was a youthful caper. "It would have taken much effort to pull up all of the crosses because it took a lot of effort to put them in the ground. They are 3- by 4-foot wooden crosses, so it doesn't seem like a spur-of-the-moment prank. We had a vandalism incident in October 2001, but we assumed that it might have been kids."

Last fall, the Respect Life banner displaying a disabled person, an elderly person and a mother and child that hung in the front of the church was slashed. It was stolen after being taped and hanged again. Father Lamprich believes that the cross incident was more carefully planned.

"Apparently, it was someone driving by the church who doesn't want to be reminded of the issue or someone expressing his or her anger," he said. "They are trying in some way to make a statement in favor of abortion. By removing the crosses and our receiving so much coverage, they have done the exact opposite of what they intended to do. The display has touched a much wider audience. This has given the church a greater opportunity and vehicle to talk about this issue."

Hoefling speculates that the people involved may have made an abortion decision in the past: "I have feelings of sorrow for whoever would feel that desperate to steal crosses off of church property. There is a lot of anger in people who are pro-choice, and I truly believe that many of them have been involved in an abortion situation. I think that underneath it, they know that it is the truth.

"The irony of the theft is that those who argue for abortion frequently use the argument of freedom of choice, yet in taking those crosses, they took away our freedom of speech."

A parishioner has volunteered to reconstruct the crosses to replace the stolen ones. The display at St. Vincent is based on a project that originated in Washington, D.C., in front of the Washington Monument in the late 80s and early 90s entitled "Cemetery of Innocents."

*Contact Staff Writer Aloha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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Presenter Joan Rosenhauer coordinates the Task Force on Catholic Social Teaching & Education for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Presenter Mumtaz Ahmad, Ph.D. is Professor of Political Science at Hampton University, VA, with areas of scholarly focus in Islam, political theory, and socio-economic change.

***A $20 registration fee includes box lunch***

Directions to Thomas Aquinas Church: The church address is 1400 Suther Road. From I-85 take University City Blvd. (Hwy 49). The church is located directly opposite the UNCC main entrance, 1.5 blocks in on Suther Road.

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# Fair Trade brand coffee helps Third World growers in Latin America

By IRENE VOTH
Catholic News Service

ANNANDALE, Minn. (CNS) — While Clare's Well is best known for its waters of wisdom, recent guests at the Franciscan spirituality farm also have been partaking of another refreshment offered there: "Fair Trade" coffee.

"It's the only coffee that we are purchasing at the present," said Sister Jan Kilian, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls and one of the directors of Clare's Well. The facility offers space and hospitality for private retreats southwest of Annandale, in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Coffee with the Fair Trade label is purchased at a fair price from Latin American cooperatives made up of small, family-run farms. Even though coffee's world market price has fluctuated between 35 and 45 cents per pound in recent years, Fair Trade coffee growers are paid a minimum of $1.26 per pound.

The coffee is labeled Fair Trade by TransFair USA, based in Oakland, Calif. It is the only third-party certification agency for fair-trade practices in the United States.

According to TransFair USA, the profit reaped by farmers makes it possible for them to afford improved housing and health care for their families, to keep their children in school or buy a mule to carry sacks of coffee beans to market.

Fair Trade coffee is typically grown in the shade of a taller forest canopy. This preserves the native trees, which hold the soil in place while providing habitat for tropical wildlife and migratory songbirds.

While the use of pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers is discouraged in all Fair Trade cooperatives, Fair Trade coffee that is certified organic — approximately 80 percent of the total — nets the farmers an additional 15 cents per pound.

All of this results in retail prices substantially higher than familiar coffee brands such as Folgers or Maxwell House that retail at approximately $2.60 per pound.

Nevertheless, "we will continue to buy it," Sister Kilian told the St. Cloud Visitor, newspaper of the neighboring St. Cloud Diocese.

She added that a number of people have commented on how good the coffee is and have purchased some to take home with them — despite the $10 per pound price tag typical of gourmet coffees.

While caring for the environment and paying just wages are both in line with the church's teachings and Franciscan beliefs about social justice, serving Fair Trade coffee is also one way of showing support for the many years of service the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls have given to the poor in Latin America, Sister Kilian said.

Nine Latin American countries have benefited from the sisters' presence since their efforts began there in 1960.

Sister Kilian said serving Fair Trade coffee also helps out a neighbor. A mother/daughter-owned coffee shop in Annandale called In Hot Water, is the Fair Trade coffee source for Clare's Well.

Patti Van Dorp and Amy Sparks of In Hot Water serve predominately Fair Trade coffee in their shop and sell their own exclusive Fair Trade blend — also called In Hot Water — which they obtain from a coffee roaster in Minneapolis.

"We try to get as much (Fair Trade coffee) as we can," Sparks said, adding that "it feels good" to be selling coffee that has been raised in an environmentally friendly manner and purchased for a fair price.

Four of the six blends served at In Hot Water are Fair Trade, and the espresso blend — which is the basis for mochas, lattes and cappuccinos, etc. — is 100 percent organic.

"It's important to be community role models," Sparks said.


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# Crafts create friendships, donations

By DIANNE M.A. RIGGS
Correspondent



SWANNANOA — Almost everyone has a secret desire to use his or her hands to create something beautiful, useful—something that will please another. But most never carry that wish to fulfillment.

Mary Wilke, a long-time crafter, did not know many people at St. Margaret Mary Church in 1996. Were there other women who liked to crochet, knit, découpage, sew, paint and work at other crafts? Sending a feeler out in a church bulletin blurb, she was delighted and surprised when a number of women immediately signed on. Thus, Heart and Hand Crafters was born.

The group arranged to have its first business meeting in the church social hall in February 1997, but when members arrived, they found maintenance work going on in the hall. So, Jacqueline Gunn chaired the meeting in a car in the church parking lot. Heart and Hand members borrowed $50 from the St. Margaret Mary Women's Group and began making Advent calendars to sell at a fair the following fall.

They have used the proceeds of their craft fairs to benefit not only their own congregation, but also the Asheville Catholic School scholarship fund and Catholic Social Services. They have completed other helpful projects, as well, including knitting caps for hospitalized premature babies. One of their current projects is making "fidget aprons" for Alzheimer patients. The crafters attach small objects, such as dolls and zippers, to the aprons, which the patients wear. They can play with the items but can't put them in their mouths.

None of the members questioned remembers how the group's name came about. But, Terrie Blaser said, "We work with our hands and from the heart. We love to do it and love to do it for the church and others." Yolanda Smith said she especially enjoys seeing someone buy what she has made that could provide enjoyment.

Over the years they have created an enormous number of different craft items for their October fairs: small decorative sleds, quillows (lap quilts that stuff into their own pillows), Christmas tree ornaments, découpaged medallions bearing the church's picture, hand-painted mailboxes, preserves, notepaper holders, sweaters, ponchos, drummer boy decorations, and so forth. At their last fair, they made more than $3,500 for special church projects.

Where do they get all of these ideas? "Craft magazines, people's relatives, other craft shows," Smith said, adding that they are always on the lookout for hard to find things that will sell.

"To me, it's wonderful what we have achieved (in terms of raising money), but it's the fellowship that is most important," Mildred Vaillancourt said. The others concur. "Now we are like sisters," Connie Blalock said.

*The group is open to anyone interested in crafts, Christian fellowship and service. For more information or to learn about starting a group, call Gunn at 828-669-0274.*

# In brief...

## Ecumenical choir to perform for public

CHARLOTTE — The New Vibrations, an ecumenical choir with youth from area churches including St. Matthew, St. Luke and St. Vincent de Paul churches, will begin its concert season Feb. 3 at Idlewild Presbyterian Church, 7619 Idlewild Rd., with concerts at 5 and 7:30 p.m. All are invited to listen and experience the musical celebration. For further information, call Donna Shenoha at (704) 339-2118.

## Monthly charismatic Mass to be held in Triad

CLEMMONS — Father Adrian Porras will be celebrating a charismatic Mass at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., on Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on Mar. 4. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

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**Book Review**

# Book series addresses physical, spiritual, personal concerns

REVIEWED BY SISTER MONA CASTELAZO, CSJ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The "God Knows" series offers books to be read slowly, pondered, perhaps kept at a bedside table. The series addresses the fact that we cannot control what happens to us in life, but that we can become conscious of our attitudes and discover life-giving ways to respond to stress, physicality and loss.

***GOD KNOWS YOU'D LIKE A NEW BODY: 12 WAYS TO BEFRIEND THE ONE YOU'VE GOT,*** **by Carl Koch and Joyce Heil. Sorin Books, Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Ind., 2001). 158 pp., $11.95.**
***GOD KNOWS YOU'RE STRESSED: SIMPLE WAYS TO RESTORE YOUR BALANCE,*** **by Anne Bryan Smollin. Sorin Books, Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Ind., 2001). 158 pp., $11.95.**
***GOD KNOWS YOU'RE GRIEVING: THINGS TO DO TO HELP YOU THROUGH,*** **by Joan Guntzelman. Sorin Books, Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Ind., 2001). 156 pp., $11.95.**

In "God Knows You're Stressed: Simple Ways to Restore Your Balance," Anne Bryan Smollin begins with the bad news about the physical effects of stress. But the good news is that, although we cannot eliminate stress in our fast-paced world, we can choose our reactions — the true causes of personal stress.

Both an educator and a therapist, Smollin gives us original suggestions: "Decide to be imperfect," "Have fun," "Just say no," "Avoid crazymakers." Smollin insists that we need healthy boundaries in order to realize our deepest desires and dreams. A helpful question to ask is: "Why am I doing this?"

Connecting with kindred spirits, surrounding ourselves with positive people, and befriending our bodies with nourishing exercise, rest and relaxation all help us to deal with tension and worry. Smollin discourages negative self-talk and the carrying of "negative baggages" from our past, practices by which we sabotage ourselves.

"God Knows You'd Like a New Body," by Carl Koch and Joyce Heil, suggests that we be reintroduced to our own bodies. They write, "It seems as if many of us either become obsessed with our inadequacy so that our body becomes an enemy, or we become like distant relatives who seldom visit with our body."

We do not choose our individual physical characteristics, but need to learn to accept them. One way of acceptance is to pay attention to how we feel and what our body tells us; another is to take time daily to catch our breath. As Thich Nhat Hanh, who saw a connection between breathing and consciousness, writes: "Whenever your mind becomes scattered, use your breath as the means to take hold of your mind again."

The authors state that discontent with our body image comes from "megabytes of data" from events, relationships, advertising, movies and fads. The book suggests that we fully accept our bodies, truly valuing the gift of bodily life.

Interestingly enough, Koch and Heil point out that learning develops new connections in the brain and creativity improves our general health. "Our body might slow down, but a vital brain makes life vital. Vital people, no matter how short and stout or tall and thin, radiate that vitality to all around them."

Joan Guntzelman, in "God Knows You're Grieving," shows how loss either brings us diminishment or new life, depending on how wholeheartedly we undergo the grieving experience. As individuals we must each find what helps us to move through grief to healing and integration. This book offers hope through proposing realistic ways to grow spiritually through the process of "leaving and arriving."

Guntzelman presents stories of loss that include not only the death of a loved one, but changes in jobs, living arrangements, illness, and accidents. She suggests that everyday choices lead to either stagnation or growth and provide us with the opportunity to develop positive attitudes which will help us in time of crisis.

Sister Mona has taught English and literature for many years in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, most recently at Mt. St. Mary's College. She is also a certified spiritual director.

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings: Jan. 20, 2002*

**Cycle A Readings:**
**January 20, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**
1) Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
Psalm 40:2, 4ab, 7-10
2) 1 Corinthians 1:1-3
3) Gospel: John 1:29-34

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I had been waiting for the guy I was to interview for about 25 minutes in the offices of the college newspaper on the University of North Texas campus. I was a student reporter, and he was late. Not just a little bit late, but very late. But I needed the interview so I could write about him.

His name was Ron Chafetz, and he referred to himself as a "completed Jew." He was, in fact, a strong Christian who had formerly been a Jew, but clung to the cultural roots of his faith, making him, again, by his own description, a "Messianic Jew."

When he finally arrived, there was a special glow about him — not literally, of course. But wherever he went in the newspaper offices, somehow other people would begin talking about their faith or lack thereof. I've never seen anything like it before or since. And he was late to the interview for the same reason: People kept offering him opportunities to witness to his faith in Jesus Christ, come in the flesh to demonstrate the Father's love.

Ron was a young man afire with divine love, and everyone he ran into could see it.

Today's Gospel talks about the visible mark of God's approval on Jesus as he came up from the waters of baptism: a dove descending on him. John the Baptizer knew from this that he was God's chosen one. It was dramatic.

From seeing God's favor on my friend Ron, for so he became after just a brief encounter, I can have some vague idea of the great drawing power, the great sense of an anointing giving special favor, that Jesus must have possessed as he began his ministry proclaiming the good news that God's kingdom had come to earth.

Don't we all wish that others could see the Father's favor and love in us in that way? Perhaps if we love and pray with the fervor of people like Ron — and hunger to show God's love to others — they will.

**QUESTION:**
*Since we become more like those we spend time with, have you considered spending more time with God in prayer and reading Scripture?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Jan. 20 - Jan. 26**

**Sunday (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Isaiah 49:3, 5-6, 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, John 1:29-34; **Monday (St. Agnes),** 1 Samuel 15:16-23, Mark 2:18-22; **Tuesday (St. Vincent),** 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Mark 2:23-28; **Wednesday,** 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51, Mark 3:1-6; **Thursday (St. Francis de Sales),** 1 Samuel 18:6-8, 19:1-7, Mark 3:7-12; **Friday (The Conversion of Paul),** Acts 22:3-16, Mark 16:15-18; **Saturday (Timothy and Titus),** Titus 1:1-5, Mark 3:20-21

**Scripture for the week of Jan. 27 - Feb. 2**

**Sunday (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Isaiah 8:23—9:3, 1 Corinthians 1:1-13, 17, Matthew 4:12-23; **Monday (St. Thomas Aquinas),** 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10, Mark 3:22-30; **Tuesday,** 2 Samuel 6:12-15, 17-19, Mark 3:31-35; **Wednesday,** 2 Samuel 7:4-17, Mark 4:1-20; **Thursday (St. John Bosco),** 2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29, Mark 4:21-25; **Friday,** 2 Samuel 11:1-4, 5-10, 13-17, Mark 4:26-43; **Saturday (Presentation of the Lord),** Malachai 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40

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**Media Notebook**

# Picking the 10 best movies of 2001

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — It's been an interesting year for the movie industry. Back in May and June when the writers' and actors' guilds were threatening to strike, studios were scrambling to fix a schedule that wouldn't leave them without films to release if the strikes went through. Then after Sept. 11, Hollywood once again reshuffled release dates as industry executives attempted to put their fingers on the pulse of America to figure out what audiences wanted to see during a national crisis. However, in terms of quality, it was an underwhelming year.

A few standouts made it onto the Office for Film and Broadcasting's list of the top 10 movies of 2001.

The exquisite documentary, "The Face: Jesus in Art," explores artistic representations of Christ through the ages and around the world, detailing how art attempts to comprehend and touch the divine by depicting the human Jesus. Visually stunning and further enhanced by remarkable special effects, a glorious music track and insightful narration, director Craig MacGowan's superb film allows the viewer to experience both great art and spiritual uplift.

In the absorbing biography "A Beautiful Mind," director Ron Howard presents a very human story of brilliance, insanity and marital love. Russell Crowe stars as John Forbes Nash Jr., a highly eccentric and gifted mathematician whose mind was overtaken by schizophrenia, but with the help of his devoted wife, played by Jennifer Connelly, he conquered the disease and came back to win the Nobel Prize. Crowe's honest performance elevates the film from a mere character study to a tale about a singular man — heart, mind and soul.

Two foreign films — the delightful Australian comedy "The Dish" and the disturbing Swedish drama "Faithless" — couldn't be less alike. With humor and awe, "The Dish" relates the story of a small team of engineers, led by a fatherly Sam Neill, in charge of a local satellite dish whose efforts were key in transmitting the now-familiar pictures and sounds from the historic 1969 Apollo 11 mission to the moon.

In "Faithless," Liv Ullmann directs from Ingmar Bergman's semi-autobiographical screenplay about a happily married woman who impetuously enters into an affair with her husband's friend, irreparably damaging not only her marriage, but her 9-year-old daughter as well. Though difficult to watch, the film's remorseful tone exposes the destructive effects of thoughtless sexual misbehavior and the results of living a selfish life void of morality.

A lighter cup of tea is the splendid murder mystery "Gosford Park." The airy yet biting study of the English class system is a classy ensemble production, set in 1930s England during a weekend hunting party. It employs director Robert Altman's roving, inquisitive style with acumen and flair.

Exploring death and love in an altogether different way is the touching Chinese film "The Road Home," in which a modern-day businessman returns to his remote village for his father's funeral and recalls the tender story of his parents' courtship. The lovely drama juxtaposes brilliant hues representing the freshness of youth and love from the past with black-and-white for the monochromatic, sorrowful present.

Visually alluring with magnificent effects and location shots, "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" hurls J.R.R. Tolkien's epic struggle of good versus evil onto the screen with fantastic results. Director Peter Jackson's adventure tale set in the mythical realm of Middle-earth allows the Gospel values written by the devoutly Catholic Tolkien to come through. The main character's heroic struggle to resist the temptation to succumb to the ring's evil powers is akin to the carrying of the cross, the supreme act of selflessness.

"Monsters, Inc." is a delightful animated comedy about a furry, spotted beast and his green, one-eyed friend who gather the screams of young children to power their monster world and accidentally transport a little girl back to their realm. The animation is superb and the story is imaginative.

In "Shrek," a cynical ogre and his smart-alecky donkey agree to save the princess bride of a nasty lord in exchange for the return of the ogre's swamp home. The sweet story of self-acceptance reaches new levels of excellence in its animation, and a fine cast of voices (including Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy and John Lithgow) further bolsters the film's appeal. And audiences seem to have agreed on the excellence of both films as each garnered more than $200 million at the box office.

Last to be mentioned but certainly not least is "Spy Kids," a terrific fantasy-action flick in which two children become spies to save their former-spy parents and the world from a mad genius. Not only does the film synthesize a winning adventure story and cool special effects, it touts loving family ties as worthwhile and necessary for a happy life.

In 2002, it is likely that moviegoers will see more flag-waving films that stir a renewed patriotic fervor. But let's hope there will also be more thoughtful and faith-minded movies of high quality which consider the important spiritual aspects of life





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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Daily prayer, desire for God as necessary as breathing, pope says

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II called daily prayer as necessary as breathing and said it should be fueled by an unquenchable desire for God.

Illustrating his message at his weekly general audience Jan. 16, the pope drew on the Psalms' famous image of a deer longing for running water.

"The thirsty deer is, in fact, the symbol of the praying (person) who inclines with whole body and spirit toward the Lord, perceived as far away and at the same time necessary," he said.

"The search for God on the part of man is an undertaking that is never finished because new progresses are always possible and necessary," he said.

The pope called the Bible text, Psalm 42, a "true jewel of faith and poetry." The reflection continued a series of talks on the Liturgy of the Hours, daily prayers based on the Psalms.

Desire for God lies at the heart of all prayer, the pope said.

"It is not for nothing that there is a long tradition that describes prayer as 'breathing': It is basic, necessary (and) fundamental like the life breath," he said.

He said Origen, a third-century theologian, compared the life of prayer to a journey in the desert.

"Each day," the pope said, "we must strike our tents in order to move on toward new horizons in our efforts to know God and to live in his presence."

### Pope says he's looking forward to World Youth Day in Toronto

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said he was looking forward to World Youth Day in July and said he hoped the celebrations in Toronto would match the enthusiasm of the last youth encounter in Rome. The pope made his remarks at a Sunday blessing at the Vatican Jan. 13, as he sent greetings to a planning session of bishops and lay leaders meeting in Canada. "I hope the world youth event in Canada renews the magnificent experience in Rome during the year 2000," he said. "I am eager to meet you once again in great numbers," he said. The pontiff urged young people to prepare for this year's encounter through formation programs being offered by local dioceses around the world. In this way they can take an active role in the church and help spread the Gospel, he said.

# Coming Of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist



### The story of a girl and an abortion that wasn't

A long time ago there was a girl — around your age if you're a young reader of this column, maybe a few years older, maybe a bit younger. How she thought and what she did is the issue here, and in those respects she probably wasn't much different from you, no matter what stage of young adulthood you're swimming in right how.

She was confused about some things and sure about others. Both were equally dangerous positions, because way too often her certainty was completely off-base, and she'd have been a lot better off if she'd just admitted the stuff she was confused about to people who could set her straight.

But she didn't, and on the way to a college degree and eventual real adulthood, something happened: That girl got pregnant.

What's more, she was pregnant by a person whom she gradually was starting to admit she really didn't care for, and had been involved with for all of the wrong reasons and none of the right ones.

Her plan had been to break it off. But then carelessness and weakness kicked in, and there she was pregnant.

These were the days before home-pregnancy tests, and furthermore these were the days in which, if you didn't want to go to a doctor, or couldn't, the only places that offered cheap or even free pregnancy tests were places called "women's clinics." Better known as "abortion clinics."

It was in one of those places that she got the news. She was confused when the warm, kindly sounding male counselor told her that her test had been "positive," because at that point, of course, a positive result would have been one telling her she wasn't Catholic, unmarried and pregnant.

But, as we all know, that's not what the kindly sounding counselor meant.

She was aghast, ashamed and most of all petrified at the prospect of telling her parents.

For about a week, this girl, who had marched in a pro-life protest in front of that very clinic when she was in high school a few years earlier, contemplated the prospect of abortion.

It's not unusual, you know. Any worker at a crisis pregnancy center can tell you as much. We can vocalize pro-life sentiments all we want, but when it hits us at home there is a terrible temptation to step back, wash our hands and declare: "Well, yes, I believe abortion is wrong. But I can't live by it right now. Later I will, I promise. For the rest of my life. But not now."

It was a week until she realized that the reality of a helpless human being, who hadn't asked to be conceived, being killed at her request, paid for with cold, hard cash from her hand to their bloody ones, would echo in her conscience until the day she died.

Finally, mercifully, on an unexpectedly long bus ride, grace intervened and gave her the strength to do what she didn't think she could: tell her parents, be embraced by them, finish school and give birth.

I was that girl, and my son is 19 now. Maybe a little older than you. Maybe a bit younger. But he lives and breathes, laughs, works and loves life.

Pray for the pregnant girls out there. Support them. Don't judge them. Embrace them in acceptance and love.

You never know. You might just save a life. Or maybe even two.



# Looking Around

FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ
CNS Columnist

### What a leader is

One way to stop a business leader or any other kind of leader in his or her tracks, say consultants Robert Goffee and Gareth Jones, is to ask, "Why should anyone be led by you?" That question is the title of an article these observers wrote for the Harvard Business Review last fall.

"Without fail," say the authors, "the response is a sudden, stunned hush. All you can hear are knees knocking."

The question is a good one to put to anyone in a leadership position. How would a high school principal answer, or an elected official, a military officer, a cardinal, bishop or pastor? How about the "head of a household," a teacher, a coach? The reply has to be something more substantial than, "I've been assigned," or "I won the election," or "I own the business."

Leadership implies voluntary "followership." If you're the leader, why should I follow?

Goffee and Jones give a backward glance through history and acknowledge that there have been widely accepted leadership traits and styles. But the traits and styles change over time. Today, they argue, the times call for leadership that displays the following four qualities:

Leaders should let their weaknesses be known. By exposing a measure of vulnerability, they make themselves approachable and show themselves to be human.

Inspirational leaders trust their intuitive ability to set the course and decide when the timing is right.

They display "tough empathy," meaning that they empathize realistically with people and also care "intensely" about the work employees do.

They capitalize on what sets them apart, on what is unique about themselves.

These leadership qualities are right for our times because leadership today, say these authors, has to adapt to "endless contingencies" while making decisions suited to a particular situation. Leaders have to be "good situation sensors [able to] collect and interpret soft data."

I was impressed about 20 years ago when I heard Dennis Goulet of the University of Notre Dame remark that to be effective, a leader had to be "available, accountable and vulnerable." I thought then and continue to believe these three qualities are completely Christian in orientation and uncommonly valuable for anyone courageous enough to adopt them as personal leadership characteristics. Don't bet, however, that they will appear in the next "Jesus as CEO" book.

Decades ago Dwight D. Eisenhower explained that, "the president does not lead by hitting people over the head. Any damn fool can do that.... Leadership is by persuasion, education and patience. It is long, slow, tough work."

Eisenhower also defined leadership as "the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it." If Ike possessed the "sensor" that Goffee and Jones say belongs in today's leadership tool kit, he would make that "he or 'she' wants to do it." But aside from that, not much else in leadership literature seems all that new.

Why should knees knock when a leader is asked, "Why should anyone be led by you?" If the so-called leader has specialized in unavailability, unaccountability and presumed invulnerability, the question could be quite discomfiting. And any leader who doesn't see leadership as "long, slow, tough work" will surely be stopped or stunned by the question.

Those in leadership positions should be wise enough to ask themselves why they are there. And those who constitute the followership can exercise their own quiet leadership by raising that question ever so gently whenever the opportunity occurs.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Owning up to errors

Old-timers in the newspaper business will recall a more colorful era in news-gathering, when the competition was dog-eat-dog and deadlines seemed to be a little more important than the facts. "Never let the truth interfere with a good story" was the way one wag put it, and even if no one would admit to following that directive to the letter, editors didn't appear to mind too much if a young reporter fudged the facts — as long as a bright and compelling story emerged from the mix.

We kid about those times today, to be sure; journalists tend to be much more serious about their craft. But beyond the kidding lies a basic truth: in telling a story, nothing is more important than getting the facts straight. That's true whether the storyteller is a reporter working for a major publication or broadcast outlet, or one neighbor telling another something about the fellow across the street. Messing up the facts, even inadvertently, can sometimes have disastrous results.

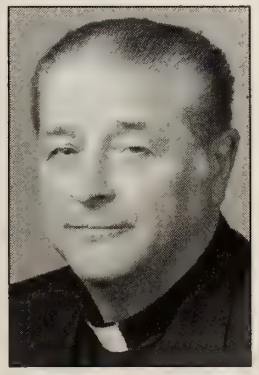
Early in December, federal agents conducted a well-publicized raid on offices of what was described as the "Holy Land Foundation," on the grounds that the organization was really a front for Hamas, the extremist Palestinian group. The Texas-based "Holy Land Foundation" promptly denied the accusation. I'm putting "Holy Land Foundation" in quotation marks for a reason. The full name of the organization that federal authorities raided on Dec. 4 and 5 is the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, with headquarters in Richardson, Texas. But there is another Holy Land Foundation. It is a Catholic-operated charity, headed by a Franciscan priest, with offices in Washington, D.C., and Jerusalem. It is entirely unrelated to the organization that was the target of U.S. government agents. But you can just imagine what confusion resulted from the announcement of the raid, and what chaos has come into the life of the Church-related Holy Land Foundation as a result. Of course it was an unintentional mistake; that's obvious. But it's just as obvious that the Holy Land Foundation is hurting.

As the Holy Land Foundation will tell you, the ones hurting most of all are the people in need who benefit from the funds the organization raises. The foundation, instituted in 1995 with the goal of reversing the exodus of Christians from the Holy Land, has provided housing, jobs, medical services and scholarships to the dwindling Christian population. Its founder and president is Franciscan Father Peter F. Vasko, a native New Yorker who has lived in Jerusalem since 1981.

"We've had a barrage of people calling" about the government's raid, Father Vasko told Catholic News Service in mid-December. "If they get us mixed up, that doesn't do any good for the Palestinian Christians." Damage control is going forward, full speed ahead. Some news organizations, alerted to the potential for danger caused by the inadvertent mix-up, have been extremely cooperative in trying to right the wrong. After all, a clarification statement noting that the object of the government's attention was not the Holy Land Foundation but the "Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development" shouldn't be too much to ask. But some still hadn't been heard from as of this writing — no retraction, no correction, no effort to clear the air.

I don't know if the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development is guilty as charged. I do know that the other organization, the Holy Land Foundation, has done a lot of good in six short years. That accomplishment seems now to be in danger. The lesson is obvious. Make every effort to get the facts straight to begin with. And if something goes wrong, even if it was unintentional, own up to it. It's the right thing to do.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### The consecration of the communion bread and wine

*Q. In my parish I never notice hosts being consecrated at Mass. They are always brought from the tabernacle or they are in containers that remain at the edge of the altar until Communion time.*

*Also, when we have Communion under both species, part of the wine is poured into the chalice at the Offertory; the rest is left in the glass container until Communion time.*

*Has the wine left in the glass bottle actually been consecrated? (Massachusetts)*

A. Apart from the question about the tabernacle, lots of Catholics have the same concern as you about which hosts and wine are consecrated at Mass. Some people, including some deacons and priests, if one is to judge by their actions, seem to be under the impression that all bread and wine to be consecrated must be on, or at least touch, the corporal (the small square cloth on the altar during Mass).

That is not precisely true. The determining factor is not where the elements are, but the intention of the priest presider about which wine or bread to consecrate.

For example, at liturgies attended by hundreds or thousands of people, it is not appropriate that the altar be cluttered with dozens of ciboria containing the hosts. These containers may be placed on tables away from the altar.

Regardless of where they are, on or off the altar, they are consecrated if the presiding priest intends to consecrate them.

The same is true for the wine. Some should be in the chalice used by the priest. The rest may be anywhere on the altar or nearby, as long as the priest intends to consecrate them at that Mass.

When consecrated bread, the eucharistic body of Christ, is left over at Mass, what remains is placed in the tabernacle for distribution to the sick or for people receiving Communion at a later Mass. That is what you have seen when hosts are brought from the tabernacle for Communion.

It is liturgically appropriate, whenever possible, for people to receive Communion with hosts consecrated at that particular Mass. When that is not feasible, hosts consecrated at a previous Mass are brought from the tabernacle and distributed.

### Children and ecumenial marriages

*Q. In a recent column about preparations for a mixed marriage, the questioner claimed the Catholic party had to promise to raise the children Catholic. You responded that this is not true. The non-Catholic promises nothing in this regard, you said, while the Catholic promises "to do all in my power to share my faith with our children by having them baptized and raised as Catholics."*

*I don't see the difference. Those two promises look the same to me. (New York)*

A. In practice, there may not be much difference. In either case, the Catholic in fact promises to do the best he or she can to assure for their children the benefits of Catholic spiritual life and sacraments.

Formerly, the Catholic promise was explicitly to raise the children Catholic. The wording the church uses today, which I quoted and you repeat, recognizes more honestly the fact that in some marriages the best efforts of Catholic spouses simply fail, through no fault of their own. Circumstances beyond their control make raising their children Catholic impossible.

On the principle that it is not psychologically or spiritually wise to demand promises that may be impossible to keep, the church today says in effect: Do all you can to help your children share your Catholic faith. If that doesn't work, you and they will be missing something, but you have not failed your promise.

# Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

### Viewing marriage as a vocation

What do think of the idea of marriage as a vocation? Perhaps it's easier to think of the priesthood and religious life as vocations. But, what about marriage? Is it a holy way of life with God or just a private relationship between two people?

The word vocation is from the Latin vocatio, which means summons, from vocare, which means to call, and from vox which means voice. The Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary defines vocation as "a: a summons or strong inclination to a particular state or course of action; especially: a divine call to the religious life; b: an entry into the priesthood or a religious order."

Though we may think of marriage as response to a private love between a woman and man, it is a divine call to a holy life. Just as in consecrated life in the Church, discerning marriage is a lifelong process of listen for God's summons, responding to God's call, and hearing God's voice.

That call begins with a whisper from the heart-a falling in love that captures a couple's attention. Though it feels like a welling up within, it is calling outside themselves to be a gift to another person. The calling is particular and clear.

As the couple continues to discern their vocation through the years, the call becomes broader. It is heard in family life with children. The couple's purpose and the depth of their love multiply, and their call amplifies.

Concurrently, the couple's life in the community that recognizes their goodness broadens the call even more. Their marriage is part of a public institution that serves society and orders it's basic cell-the family.

What began as whisper from two hearts grows into rallying cry from a multitude. And in the din of diapers, mortgages, tuition payments, mid-life, empty nests, grandparenting, retirement, and death, we hear God's voice calling us, directing us and leading us home to God. This happens when the couple recognizes God's voice in their ordinary setting of married life.

Working against this understanding of marriage as a vocation is the contemporary notion of marriage as a private relationship between two people. Instead of hearing God's voice in the whisper from the heart, the couple hears the voice of their own infatuation and desire. The wedding is the apex of their experience instead of a threshold to a sacramental life with God.

Instead of hearing God's voice in the din of ordinary family life, the couple gets lost in disillusionment and chaos. No wonder so many marriages fail. Perhaps the best thing we can do for modern marriages is to help them recognize that their marriage is more than the two of them. It is a calling from God and a holy way of life-a vocation.

**Questions for Reflection**

- *How have you experienced marriage as more than just two people?*
- *How do you hear God's call to marriage in family live? in community?*
- *If you were to end your marriage, who would be affected?*
- *How do you experience marriage as holy?*

## Dominican cardinal proposes Catholic TV network for the Americas

MIAMI (CNS) — The cardinal-archbishop of Santo Domingo has a dream: to create a Catholic television network that will span all of America, from Alaska to Argentina. It already exists in the Dominican Republic, "and I think conditions are right for the international project to start taking shape," Cardinal Nicolas de Jesus Lopez Rodriguez told The Florida Catholic, Miami archdiocesan newspaper, in an interview. Cardinal Lopez Rodriguez was in Miami attending the fourth annual meeting of the New Evangelization of America, a group which he chairs. In a wide-ranging conversation, he spoke of the Latin American church's struggle with fundamentalist sects, of the relationship between North and South America, and of the need for greater cooperation among Catholic media organizations in the entire American continent.

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## North Carolina Catholics pray for a church after being moved from a bowling alley to a local gym

ROBBINS, N.C.— Blessed Juan Diego Parish, in Moore County in the Diocese of Raleigh, N.C., is struggling to find a home in one of the most impoverished counties in North Carolina.

More than 65 hardworking but very poor families, mostly Hispanic, call Blessed Juan Diego Parish home. Home — once in a dilapidated building, then the basement of a bowling alley — now rests in the gym of the local elementary school. It's the only Hispanic Catholic presence for many miles. This stable community of more than 240 Mass-goers depends on work in the fields, in a chicken processing plant, for a local landscaper, and in a furniture factory. They are not migrant workers, but not one is paid above minimum wage.

The mission parish of Blessed Juan Diego began 10 years ago in the town of Robbins with only 15 families attending. Now, with the dedication of area religious, the parish is booming. But no facilities outside of those obtained by the Sunday gymnasium rental means no on-site CCD classes, RCIA preparation, confessions, daily Masses or counseling.

Parishioners have outgrown the gym, and a warehouse rental is less than attractive. They are praying for a church of their own with the dream of constructing an all-purpose, multi-function building that will serve as a church, parish hall, kitchen, and education center — and they want to be in by Easter.

They've already purchased land for the church and have raised $100,000 through sponsoring fundraisers in the community. The parishioners have also contributed extra money to a special building fund, and the financial pool is astounding when considering the minimum wages of parishioners.

"I'd like to offer them a special gift of $100,000 to help build their church," says Bishop William Houck, president of Catholic Extension, the largest supporter of Catholic missionary work in America. "If we don't help them, they may never have enough money to build a proper house of worship.

It could be decades before they have their own church — years with no place to hold CCD classes, weddings, funerals and baptisms."

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# Death penalty activists applaud reprieve

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

RALEIGH — On Jan 12, Gov. Mike Easley commuted the death sentence of a convicted murder.

"We hoped, acted and prayed for clemency for Charlie Mason Alston Jr., and today he is alive," said Stephen Dear, executive director of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty. "North Carolinians are growing increasingly concerned about the practice of the death penalty in their names."

"After long and careful consideration of all the facts and circumstances of this case in its entirety, I conclude that the appropriate sentence for the defendant is life in prison without parole," Easley said.

It was the second time a reprieve has been granted by the Catholic governor. And while death penalty opponents applaud the action, they point to the five executions carried out under Easley during 2001, his first year as governor of the state of North Carolina.

North Carolina, one of 38 states with the death penalty, is high on the list of those states in number of executions. Last year, 18 executions were carried out in Oklahoma; 17 in Texas; seven in Missouri; five in North Carolina.

"This case shows that our death penalty system is broken and why we need a moratorium on executions," said Marshall Dayan, president of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty. "The North Carolina Supreme Court has lost its moral and legal compass. We respect the governor for his understanding of his constitutional authority to exercise clemency."

Clemency is rare in this country, Dear said. According to the Death Penalty Information Center, only 49 people in the United States have been granted clemency since 1977. During that time, 751 people have been executed, and 3,709 remain on death row.

On Oct. 2, 2001, Easley first commuted a death sentence. At that time he said, "I am satisfied that the prosecutors and judges acted fairly and professionally in this case. However, as governor, my review of this matter in its totality causes me to conclude that the appropriate sentence for the defendant is life without parole."

The governor's decision made Robert Bacon one of only three North Carolina death row inmates in the past 25 years to have his sentence reduced to life in prison.

*People of Faith Against the Death Penalty is an interfaith group dedicated to the abolition of the death penalty through the mobilization and education of the religious community of North Carolina. People of Faith Against the Death Penalty is a special project of the North Carolina Council of Churches. For more information, call 919-933-7567 or visit the website: pfadp.org.*

# InBrief...

### Teens use innovative approach to explain the rosary

MADISON, N.J. (CNS) — In short, action-packed workshop sessions, a Catholic teen group called "The Holy Bandits" explains the rosary to religious education students in the Paterson Diocese. The group, from Bayley-Ellard Catholic High School in Madison, use skits, songs, prayers, activities and videos in their rosary education outreach. They tell stories that reveal the power of the rosary and urge students to daily pray a decade of the rosary to promote peace. "It's older teens talking to younger teens, which seems more meaningful to the younger kids," said Sister Anne McKeon, a member of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart and pastoral associate at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Whippany.

### U.S. priest calls for new sainthood process to identify true holiness

ROME (CNS) — Father Richard P. McBrien, author of a recent book on saints, called for a moratorium on canonizations until a process could be devised to identify models of holiness more relevant to the lives of most Catholics. "Put a halt on canonizations except for those who have universal appeal," the University of Notre Dame theology professor told reporters in Rome Jan. 11. The priest criticized plans to canonize the founder of Opus Dei, Blessed Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer; Italian Capuchin Blessed Padre Pio, a noted confessor whose body was marked with the signs of the crucifixion; and Blessed Juan Diego, the Mexican Indian who saw Our Lady of Guadalupe. The popularity of each within one country or one Catholic movement is not enough of a reason to canonize them, he said.


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# Deacon begins new life, defines spirituality after immigrating to U.S.

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — With the dust stirring around his feet while following his mother, Rafael Torres and six of his siblings walked a couple of miles to their local Catholic church on Sunday mornings. His mother was the religious head of her brood of 12, and the Torres children were heavily involved in church activities.

"She was the role model for all of us, and she would show her Christianity to us and to the neighborhood," said Rev. Mr. Torres, who served as an altar boy and was the president of his church club as a teen. "My mother was always helping people."



Rev. Mr. Rafael Torres

The family lived in the midst of poverty. However, with a father who worked two jobs and a mother who always cared for them, his childhood in his native Puerto Rico is filled with many happy memories. "I played a lot, and I didn't work when I was younger. There were no places to work like there are in the States."

Traveling by bus over 50 miles to attend classes at a vocational high school occupied much of his teen years. When he was 15, his life changed. After a prolonged illness, his mother, his largest influence, died. "It was sad because I loved my mom, and I missed her," he said. "My sisters took over, and one of them quit college to take care of us. We overcame any obstacles because of our family support; we were always a united family."

After graduating in 1963, he began working in printing and distribution for a Catholic and a secular newspaper. With seven of his eight brothers in the service, it was inevitable for Torres to join the Army in 1964. He says that it was a means to an end of one phase of his life.

"When I was growing up, there were few big changes in my life. I wanted to travel to the United States for a better life, and I wanted to see the world," Rev. Mr. Torres said. "I wanted to learn different perspectives and wanted a change."

He was shipped to Fort Jackson, S.C., for basic training and then to Georgia and Virginia. He stepped into a world that was comparable to his island home in many ways. "Puerto Rico is very similar to the States. We had everything that other cities had — JC Penney, Sears and other stores. They taught English in school, but I didn't know much of the language. I primarily spoke Spanish and practiced English when I went to the service."

Greenland was his next stop, and the young man who had grown up in a tropical climate had his first exposure to extremely cold temperatures.

"It was ugly," he joked. "I remember that the Beach Boys were popular, and James Brown was singing, 'I feel good,' but I didn't. There were three straight months of daylight with 12-hour shifts, and it was freezing."

After returning back to Virginia, he received his orders to go to Vietnam in 1965. He unloaded supplies from the ships in the tense environment, but he was following in his brothers' footsteps — three of them had been shipped to Vietnam and returned safely. Like his brothers, he also returned from war unharmed and went back to Puerto Rico after being discharged in 1966. He was excited to see his family and wife-to-be, Gladys.

He and Gladys had met in church when they were teens. They lived in the same neighborhood, and Torres would flirt with her. She shunned his advances until she began developing feelings for her persistent suitor. Under the watchful eye of the Torres clan, she had waited for him to return home from war.

Torres began working as an operator in a petroleum refinery company and later worked his way up to a supervisory position. "I didn't see the need for further study in school. I was making good money in the refinery, but I didn't know then that I would need more education later on," said Rev. Mr. Torres wistfully.

He and Gladys wed in 1968 and settled in a new home in a nearby town. "She took care of the kids and the house, and she was proud of that. I regret not allowing her to attend college because she is much smarter than I am."

The life that they had built for themselves unraveled when he was laid off in 1982. "Without hesitation, we moved to the States," Rev. Mr. Torres said. "I wanted to come back to the States because I saw that I could raise my family here, and I had other siblings in the U.S."

He came alone to a country he had not inhabited in almost 20 years. During this scouting expedition, he lived with his brothers in Texas. Unable to find work, he moved to Charlotte with his brother who was working for the FBI. After securing a position with Duke Power, he returned to Puerto Rico to bring his family to the country. Unfortunately, the company had begun massive layoffs, and there was no job waiting for him when he returned.

Through an acquaintance from Cursillo, his brother was able to secure Torres a position as a control operator in the processing department at an oil refinery. Torres' prayers had been answered.

Prayer had become the Torres family focus. They had been attending Mass at St. John Neumann Church when they heard about the Spanish Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral. That was when he met Sister Pilar Dalmau, the former diocesan director of Hispanic Ministry. She told him about the Hispanic Center, but it would be several years before Torres would become heavily involved with the center.

By 1990, he had become a fixture around the Hispanic Center, serving in various ministries. This was also the year that his life changed. He made his Cursillo, and his world opened up: "I had a personal encounter with Jesus. Everything started there with Cursillo, and that was the spark that led me to see that we can live better lives when we live with Jesus."

Torres and several others started working toward lay ministry certification, and Sister Pilar told Torres about the permanent diaconate. Even though he knew nothing about the ordained ministry, he felt the need to become a permanent deacon.

"When I made Cursillo, I knew more people needed to know Jesus in order to change. There were so many people to be helped, and the only way to be more involved was the diaconate," said Rev. Mr. Torres, ordained in 1995.

Since then, the deacon, who serves at the Hispanic Center, has enjoyed building relationships with the Hispanic community. The grandfather of four baptizes nearly 20 children every week and performs several wakes, weddings and blessings. "I do as much as I can in the community," he said, "because I am ordained to serve."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*


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# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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As Catholics, we are not to focus only on ourselves but are called by our baptism to reach out and share our time, talent and treasure with our brothers and sisters.




FEBRUARY 2 – MARCH 17

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### Jesuit priest to fill in at EWTN for ailing Mother Angelica

DALLAS (CNS) — Father Mitch Pacwa, a Jesuit who taught at the University of Dallas, will take a permanent role at the Eternal Word Television Network, including as the fill-in for the ailing Mother Angelica. Mother Angelica, 78, remained in fair condition at a Birmingham, Ala., hospital after suffering her second stroke on Dec. 24. Father Pacwa, 52, recently received approval from his Chicago provincial, Jesuit Father Richard Bauman, as well as the southern provincial, Jesuit Father James Bradley, and Bishop David Foley of Birmingham, in whose diocese the network is headquartered. Father Pacwa told the Texas Catholic, newspaper of the Dallas Diocese, that he will take over as host of Mother Angelica's two live programs at the beginning of February.

### Women religious share insights of months spent in prison

PEKIN, Ill. (CNS) — After spending six months in identical garb and sharing the same living quarters, meals and other daily activities, Sisters Miriam Spencer, Betty Anne McKenzie and Gwen Hennessey reflected on the common vocation they shared — in prison. "I think being arrested is a vocation, which not everyone is called to, nor am I called to (it) every time," Sister Spencer said. She is one of three nuns who recently completed sentences at the women's federal prison camp in Pekin for trespassing at Fort Benning, Ga., home of the former School of the Americas. "There are other ways to protest, but sometimes this is the only way to be heard," she added. On Jan. 14, Sister McKenzie, a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet from St. Paul, Minn., and Sister Hennessey, a Franciscan from Dubuque, Iowa, were released from prison after completing six-month sentences, as were four other women protesters. Sister Spencer, a Sister of St. Joseph of Peace from Bellevue, Wash., began her sentence later than the others and was to be released Feb. 7.

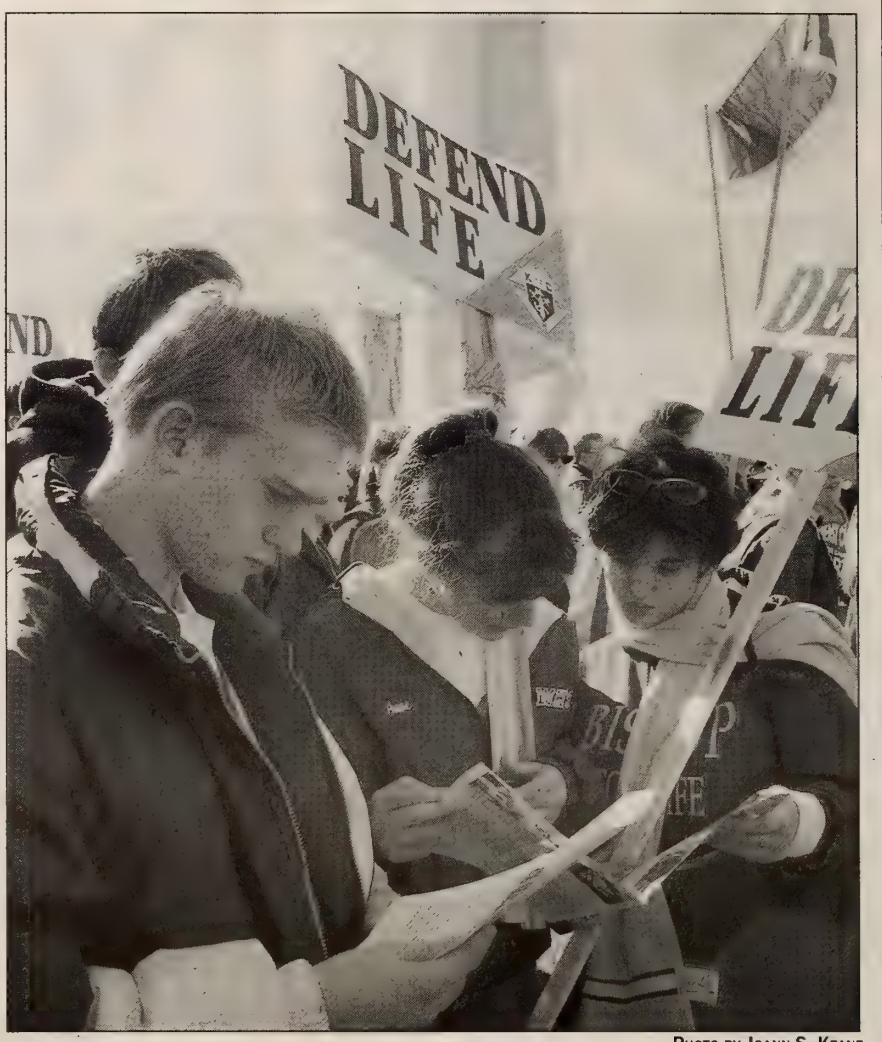



PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

**BMHS students collect pro-life literature**

**Students from Bishop McGuinness High School in Winston-Salem, read pro-life pamphlets as they begin their first-time participation in Washington's annual March for Life Jan. 22. See the next edition of The Catholic News & Herald for full diocesan coverage from the March for Life.**

### Daily prayer, desire for God as necessary as breathing, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II called daily prayer as necessary as breathing and said it should be fueled by an unquenchable desire for God. Illustrating his message at his weekly general audience Jan. 16, the pope drew on the Psalms' famous image of a deer longing for running water. "The thirsty deer is, in fact, the symbol of the praying (person) who inclines with whole body and spirit toward the Lord, perceived as far away and at the same time necessary," he said. "The search for God on the part of man is an undertaking that is never finished because new progresses are always possible and necessary," he said.

### Jesuit priests concerned over U.S. treatment of Afghan prisoners

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While legitimately fighting terrorism, the United States must guarantee respect for human rights, even for suspected terrorists, two Jesuits told Vatican Radio. In separate interviews, Italian Cardinal Roberto Tucci, a Jesuit and former director of the radio, and Jesuit Father Pasquale Borgomeo, the radio's current director, said one of the most worrying aspects of the continuing war on terrorism was the U.S. treatment of prisoners captured in Afghanistan. The U.S. government defined them as "unlawful combatants" rather than as prisoners of war with specific rights under international law and began transferring them Jan. 10 to the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The fact that the men were transferred wearing shackles and hoods, that they were being held temporarily in shelters with chain-link fence walls and that they might face military tribunals raised the concern of several human rights groups.

### 'Seismic shift' changing U.S. into nation of minorities, priest says

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — The U.S. is in the midst of a "seismic demographic shift" that will lead to it becoming a nation of minorities, many of whom remain fearful of other ethnic and racial groups and uncomfortable with their differences, a keynote speaker told an audience at the Johannes Hofinger Conference in New Orleans. Father Bryan Massingale, associate professor of moral theology at St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, told religious educators and catechists from across the country that, despite growing ethnic and religious diversity in the United States, people tend to stick together in their own cultural, ethnic and religious groups, or "tribes," instead of embracing and celebrating each other's differences and building "solidarity" between all of God's people. The priest, who spoke Jan. 4 on "Gifts We Want vs. Gifts We Need," said the latest U.S. census shows that Americans are more ethnically, culturally and religiously diverse today than at any other time in history.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**February 10 — Noon**
New Year's Celebration
St. Joseph Vietnamese Church, Charlotte

**February 11 — 2:30 p.m.**
Concelebrant at bishops' ordination
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington D.C.

**February 15 — 10 a.m.**
Finance council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

**February 17 — 2 p.m.**
Rite of election
Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro

**February 19-20**
Guest speaker at Newman University
Wichita, Kan.

## Diocesan planner

**February**

**1** HAMLET — St. James Church, 1018 W. Hamlet Ave. (off of Hwy. 74 West), will be having its annual pit barbecue from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. today. Attendants may choose to eat in or take out pork or chicken cooked on site with Cole slaw, baked beans and rolls. Orders of 10 or more can be delivered. For further information, call the church office at (910) 582-0207.

**2** BOONE — In an effort to prepare catechists for the responsibility of forming faith communities, the Boone Vicariate Faith Formation will sponsor a daylong training session at St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way. There will be two CRP II as well as two CRP I workshops. All catechists and other interested people are invited to learn more about faith development. For further details about the Jan. 27 registration deadline and other information, call Peg Ruble, Central Regional Faith Formation Coordinator, at (704) 391-0445.

**2** CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will have its annual attic and bake sale today from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 523-4641.

**3** CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will be gathering today at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information please call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 545-8133.

**3** CHARLOTTE — The New Vibrations, an ecumenical choir with youth from area churches including St. Matthew, St. Luke and St. Vincent de Paul churches, will begin its concert season tonight at Idlewild Presbyterian Church, 7619 Idlewild Rd., with concerts at 5 and 7:30 p.m. All are invited to listen and experience the musical celebration. For further information, call Donna Shenoha at (704) 339-2118.

### Conference, report looks at how faith traditions address racism

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The National Conference for Community and Justice hosted a round-table discussion Jan. 14 called "2002 Voice of Conscience: The Seventh Annual Conversation on Race, Ethnicity and Culture" to coincide with its release of a report examining the beliefs and practices of various religious traditions and how they address racism. The report, titled "Denouncing Racism," devotes a section to each of 21 faith traditions — everything from Baha'i' to Zoroastrianism. The conversation is held annually in January to commemorate the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Past conversations focused on themes such as mutual respect, the impact of education and diversity in the workplace, race and economic opportunities, and emerging leadership.

### Pope says Palestinians, Israelis locked in 'dead end' of violence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In yet another appeal for peace in the Holy Land, Pope John Paul II warned that Palestinians and Israelis were locked in a "dead end" of reciprocal violence. He called on the international community to make new efforts to get an effective peace process moving again. The pope made his appeal during a noon blessing at the Vatican Jan. 20. The same day, Israeli tanks raided another West Bank town in reprisal for an attack by a Palestinian militant that left six Israelis dead in a banquet hall. Meanwhile, hundreds of Palestinian cultural leaders marched in protest to a Palestinian broadcasting center destroyed by Israeli rockets Jan. 19.

### ACLU report on conscience clauses draws strong Catholic reaction

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic leaders strongly objected to a new report which claims women's lives are put at risk by conscience clauses that permit Catholic hospitals to refuse to perform certain medical procedures on religious grounds. The report by the American Civil Liberties Union's Reproductive Freedom Project was released Jan. 22, the 29th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion. Titled "Religious Refusals and Reproductive Rights," the report said, "As more hospitals are managed by religious entities and more states adopt broad refusal clauses allowing health care providers to deny treatment on the basis of religious or moral objections, more women are harmed and more physicians find themselves thwarted in their efforts to care for their patients."




PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

**Orthodox Jews protest abortion**

**A group of Orthodox Jews display anti-abortion placards at the annual March for Life in Washington Jan. 22. Clergy of many denominations addressed marchers who came to protest the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions to legalize abortion in 1973.**

### Annual prayer day for African-American family set for Feb. 3

NEW YORK (CNS) — The 13th annual National Day of Prayer for the African-American Family has been set for Feb. 3. This year's theme is "Jesus Our Rock," taken from Psalm 71. Families are asked to worship and prayer together at Mass; celebrate a meal together and share family stories; make a family resolution no matter how big or small; unite as a family to uphold the sacredness of life; and develop ways of ending all forms of violence in the family and the community. Catholic sponsors of the prayer day include the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for African-American Catholics, the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, the National Black Sisters' Conference, the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators and the National Black Catholic Congress.

### Pope: Internet has potential, but can't replace church communities

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Internet presents "magnificent opportunities" for evangelization, but it never can replace the deeper religious experience offered by living church communities, Pope John Paul II said in a message for World Communications Day. The pope urged the church to strike a balance in using the Internet, exploiting its communications possibilities but recognizing that it tends to deliver information, not values. It was the first papal message dedicated entirely to the Internet and its potential for the church's evangelizing work. The text was made public Jan. 22. World Communications Day will be celebrated by most dioceses this year on May 12, the Sunday before Pentecost.

### Bishops' liturgy director urges Lenten fast from violence, apathy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — This Lent, Catholics should fast not only from food but from violence, apathy and sin, said Father James P. Moroney, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Liturgy. In a reflection on Ash Wednesday he said the cross of ashes Catholics receive on their forehead this Feb. 13 may remind them of the "ashes before our eyes too often these past six months" from the grim destruction at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. While ashes "conjure up death and darkness and the end of things," he said, Catholics are marked with ashes at the start of Lent "so that each of us might turn from all that is earthly, dark and sinful and return to the Gospel of life."

### Florida bishops ask Gov. Bush for death penalty commutation

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (CNS) — Florida's Catholic bishops have asked Gov. Jeb Bush to commute the death sentence of convicted murderer Amos King to life imprisonment without parole. King was scheduled to be executed Jan. 24 for the 1976 rape and murder of 68-year-old Natalie Brady after his escape from a work-release center. Brady lived alone in a one-story house near the center. King, then 22, was serving time for a parole violation and had a work-release job washing dishes at a nearby restaurant. He was sentenced to death after his 1977 conviction, but the sentence was vacated, and reimposed in a new penalty phase of his trial. On Jan. 15, he lost a bid for a stay of execution in a Florida court. The bishops said in their Jan. 17 statement issued in Tallahassee by the Florida Catholic Conference, said, that killing Amos King for this crime "cannot right the wrong that was done."

**3** SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**4** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight and every first Monday at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Feb. 5 and every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**4** CLEMMONS — Father Adrian Porras will be celebrating a charismatic Mass at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., tonight at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on Mar. 4. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

**6** CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will be having a meeting with a luncheon and program with Linda Vaughan from Visiting Angels at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information about the group or the Knights of Columbus Council 770-sponsored bingo held every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. also at the church, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**6** CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church will conduct a session on grief and AIDS tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. in the ministry center. Bob Robinson, facilitator, will help people deal with the emotions and grief that AIDS patients and their families feel during their illness and after death. If interested in RAIN ministry or grief education, call the church office at (704) 362-5047.

**7** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Ladies' Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

**9** DENVER — The Knights of Columbus Council 10389 will hold its annual Italian Night Dinner at Holy Spirit Church parish hall, 537 Hwy. 16 North, tonight at 7 p.m. Chefs Pat and Marie Lisi will be cooking a feast of Italian foods including soups, pasta and dessert. The dinner is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. For tickets or information, call the church office at (704) 483-6448 or Pat Lisi at (704) 896-7735.

**9** MAGGIE VALLEY — Couples are invited to spend the weekend together in faith, love and marriage. The Overnight Retreat for Sweethearts is being held Feb. 9-10 beginning at 5 p.m. with a sweetheart dinner at Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane. There will also be a Lenten conference, faith sharing, breakfast and a renewal of marriage vows. For further details, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

### Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — All married couples are invited to participate in the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter the weekend of Mar. 1-3 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel. Marriage Encounter is a 44-hour period when couples can take time off from families, work and other responsibilities to focus on each other to grow spiritually and emotionally as one. For more information or reservations, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (704) 274-4424.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# Learning takes top honors at St. Francis

"Planting Seeds of Hope"

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

FRANKLIN — Learning has a high priority at St. Francis of Assisi Church. They're doing "good and innovative things," said Mary Herr, regional faith formation consultant for the Smoky Mountain Vicariate. Those things include family activities and litergy-based faith fomation.

Herr's 20-hour-a-week position is funded through the Diocesan Support Appeal. One of her focuses is teaching the St. Francis catechists.

"The Office of Faith Formation currently has two phases of catechist training, in what is called the Catechist Recognition Process, that I teach to the catechists in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate," Herr said. "Phase I has five modules covering skills and theory, Scripture, sacraments, creed, and morality, each requiring about two hours of training. Phase I was offered in all the parishes and missions in 2000-2001; 28 people in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate completed that. I am still doing training on Phase I for those who have not completed it.

"Phase II is more extensive. The two-hour sessions cover promoting knowledge of the faith, liturgical education, moral formation, teaching to pray, education for community life, and missionary initiation. All of the Phase II sessions are approximately two hours long. We have until 2005 to complete all 14 sessions in Phase II. To date, two sessions of promoting knowledge of the faith have been offered in most parishes and missions. On Jan. 21 in Franklin, I taught Session two: 'At the Heart of Catechesis: Jesus Christ.' "

"She's such a great resource," said Sharon Edwards, who, along with Ron Brahmer, is one of the parish's catechist coordinators. "She goes deeper into our relationship with Jesus, giving us the opportunity to grow in our relationship with Jesus and ways to share that with the kids. She's a tremendous link to other parishes and with diocesan information through e-mail. We're so remote that we wouldn't have those links otherwise."

The parish sponsors family-oriented activities that give everyone a chance to learn and is working on a series of family nights. "We've been trying to organize a family night where we have a potluck supper, with games for the kids," Edwards said. "The parents go to another room to hear a talk on subjects like family life and spirituality in the home."

At the faith formation classes held after Mass on Sunday, the catechists help the children connect their lives to the Gospel readings they hear at Mass.

Edwards teaches when one of the Pre-K through six coordinators is not available and is on hand every week to oversee the program and answer parents' questions. The catechists are Sarah Brown, preschool and kindergarten; Joan Hatch, first and second grade; Teresa Knippel and Kelly Long, third and fourth; and Donna Kimsey, fifth and sixth. Debbie Crunkleton teaches music during the last half-hour of the weekly faith formation class, preparing them to sing monthly at Sunday Mass. Jacque Brown and Roxanne Zemmin teach the first communicants, while Edwards and Brahmer work with their parents.

Some 50-60 Pre-K-through-six children attend the faith formation classes and learn through talking about the weekly Gospel readings, music and role-playing.

"I guess the most satisfying thing is sharing Jesus with them and creating an atmosphere for them to experience God," Edwards said.

That atmosphere, for all the students—Pre-K through 12—is steeped in nurturing reassurance from the catechists and from youth ministers Carl and Patty Stickney.

"I do believe that the kids want to come, that they feel safe," Brahmer said.

Seventh-grader Kathryn Swany certainly does: "When you're in school, you might have a teacher you like a lot, but when you're here with people like Ron and Bill (Matthews) and Mr. Carl and Miss Patty, you love them a lot because of the things they do for you. They're always encouraging me. I do a lot of things at the church. I'm an usher and a lector; I'm in the choir, and I used to be an altar server. Even one day when I messed up on the reading, they gave me so much encouragement."

Brahmer is the catechist coordinator for middle and high school classes, which have 20-25 students. Matthews teaches seventh and eighth grade; Brahmer teaches ninth through 12th. When he became catechist coordinator about 11 years ago, Brahmer also began teaching and "fell in love with the kids."

"I like their honesty," he said. "They say what's on their minds."

Although, he liked the instructional program the church was using, he found that the kids didn't relate to it. He and Edwards switched to a liturgy-based approach. Pre-K through six use "Seasons of Faith"; seven through 12 use "Living the Good News."

"It's lectionary-based, but relates to where the kids are at," Brahmer said. "It talks about things like 'Why do I go to church? What do I do when I'm having a problem with a friend?' We talk a lot about Scripture, and we take that and apply it to their everyday lives. [For instance] the Scripture reading about Zacchaeus: Nobody [in the story] likes him."

For that one, Brahmer said, he asks questions like, "Is there somebody in your life who isn't accepted? OK. How do you change that? We always have one or two who say, 'That's wrong.' We like to let them solve the problem."

"Everybody gets along; it's real close," said Adam Woleslagle, an 11th grader. "It's (what he's learning) common sense, what you're supposed to do. For me, it gives me an incentive. Ron has a way of making everything right and gives you an incentive to be good. If anyone has a problem, everyone helps, and you know it stays in the class."

Relationships and what Jesus would do are important parts of how to solve problems.

"We teach about Jesus an awful lot," Brahmer said. "We teach about church and what it means to belong to God's family. We teach what the Gospel teaches."

They talk about everything, including the importance of human sexuality. "We do have a parent meeting to tell the parents what we're going to talk about," Brahmer said.

Brahmer wants the students to develop their own faith: "I tell them, 'I'm not here to tell you about my faith. I want to help you develop yours. What do you believe on your own?' Faith is about relationship with God."

The students are not the only learners, Brahmer said: "They are great teachers, magnificent teachers. They teach how to look at things very innocently and not to make things so complicated. They teach us not to take ourselves so seriously. They look at things a lot more simply. I guess it's like what Jesus said, that 'Unless you become like a child, you cannot enter the kingdom.' They're so close to that."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*


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God is Bigger!
*Act of Compassion in our Backyard*

Jesse Manibusan
The call for justice and peace is all around us: in our families, our schools, our neighborhoods and our work... "in our words, in our deeds, in what we have done, and what we have failed to do...." Rather than becoming overwhelmed by the big picture, God is Bigger, let's just start right where we are. Service is simple.
Jesse Manibusan is a singer, songwriter, guitarist and teller of humorous tales. Highly energetic, interactive and engaging, Jesse will affirm the gifts of the faithful, and call upon all to go deeper and wider! His accomplishments include: Presenter for Encuentro 2000, Presenter for National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministers 1998, writings published by the Oregon Catholic Press (Music Issue, JourneySongs, Flor Y Canto, Spirit and Song).
*Audience:* **Catholic School Teachers and College Campus Ministers**
Topic: **Act of Compassion In Our Backyard (God is Bigger)**
Place: **Four Points Charlotte Uptown, 201 S. McDowell St.**
Date: **Friday, February 8, 2002**
Time: **9:15am — 3:00pm (BOX LUNCH)**
*For Information:* Sr. Maureen A. Meehan, RSM, D.Min.
Director of Religious Education, Catholic Schools Office
**Phone: (704) 370-3268 Fax: (704) 370-3291**
Email: mameehan@charlottediocese.org
Registration by phone: M. J. Dawson (704) 542-0386

# Another Eagle soars in diocese



**Kevin Burke Walker**

BLOWING ROCK — Kevin Burke Walker was awarded the Eagle Scout rank by the Boy Scouts of America at a Court of Honor held on Nov. 13, 2001, in Blowing Rock, N.C. Walker started his scouting journey with the Cub Scout Troop at St. Patrick Cathedral in 1990.

Walker grew up in Lake Wylie, S.C., and Blowing Rock, N.C. He attended Catholic school in the diocese and is a 2001 graduate of Watauga High School in Boone, N.C. Walker is currently a freshman at Lees-McRae College. He attends church at St. Elizabeth in Boone and St. Patrick in Charlotte. He is the son of Everett and Linda Walker of Lake Wylie and Blowing Rock. His father is the president of the Diocese of Charlotte Board of Education.

Walker's Eagle Scout project was the construction of three walkways in front of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce. He had the support (location, equipment, materials) of Howard Gray of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce, Terry Lentz of Terry Lentz Construction Company Inc., Johnny Lentz of the town of Blowing Rock and Susan Craig of First Citizens Bank.

DSA 2002 —

# How does the garden grow?

"Planting Seeds of Hope"

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Seeds are planted each year as funds from the Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) are scattered throughout the diocese in the hope that they will blossom into programs and ministries to serve those in need. Many dedicated people tend the rate of growth and water the seeds to produce the fruit of people's labor.

This year's DSA will provide funding for four main areas of ministry: Catholic Social Services (CSS), Multicultural Ministries, Educational Ministries and the Vocations program. Thirty-five agencies and ministries benefit from money collected from the DSA.

According to William Weldon, diocesan chief financial officer, CSS generates three-fourths of its total funding from sources other than DSA. "We have tried hard to limit cost increases while expanding program services. We have been successful by focusing on other sources of financial support for DSA programs."

For instance, said Weldon, "we anticipate $786,000 in outside funding to support DSA ministries and services (other than CSS)." Weldon said that the program directors work diligently to develop other fund sources and use each dollar to its maximum limit.

This year, CSS will benefit from an increase in DSA funding of approximately $80,000. The diocesan permanent diaconate program will receive approximately $55,000 in increased funding for 15 new candidates, said Weldon.

This year's target amount is $3,550,000 — a 6.5 percent increase, or $217,000, from last year. The DSA goal is calculated through account-by-account budgets for each of the agencies and ministries. By factoring in cost increases and program changes, department directors create their budgets. Monthly financial reports keep track of all DSA funds and each agency's activities, said Weldon.

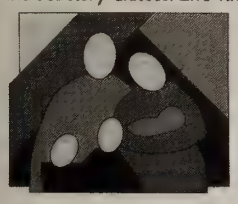
This year's goal is less than the overall increase in the diocesan-wide offertory of 10.4 percent and less than the increase of 9.6 percent in the Catholic population in the diocese.

"As the people of the Church entrust us with their gifts, we are then accountable to them for the prudent use of these resources," said Weldon, who stated that the fiscal report of the previous year's DSA is presented in The Catholic News & Herald every fall. "We are very conscious of the sacrifices people make, and we appreciate those sacrifices made to support the DSA, parishes and schools. It is not something we take for granted, and we have a strong sense of responsibility to use the funds as prudently as possible to achieve the goals of the various ministries and agencies."

Over 85,000 people benefited from programs funded in part by last year's DSA. Upcoming materials mailed to homes and parishes and a supplemental video will illustrate the need for continued support of the DSA for the benefit of people across the diocese.

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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# Rocky road to diaconate, paved by faith

"Planting Seeds of Hope"

By CONSTANCE HOLLOWAY
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — Men who aspire to be deacons in the Diocese of Charlotte share many things, but perhaps none is more important than patience. In this diocese, the men must go though approximately six-and-a-half years of diaconate training.

"The church is always open to those that feel that the Lord has given them a calling to ordained life," said Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning, an administrator in the diocese who oversees the diaconate program. "The process needs to start with their pastor. It should start with them discerning the call."

This year, 15 men are embarking on the first phase of "aspirancy," the initial step in the diaconate process. But these men — who applied for training last January and were notified of their acceptance in November — already know how lengthy the diaconate journey will be.

"That (application) process was a lengthy one involving interviewing, collection of data, credentials, recommendations. They're very, very thorough," said Rick Hanners, one of the aspirants.

For about the next six months, Hanners and his fellow aspirants will prayerfully reflect on their call to the ministry. The academic phase of the training begins in September for those who are selected to continue.

Minimum requirements for aspirants include being a Catholic for at least five years, "over (age) 35 and under 60," and, Wenning added with a laugh, "tolerance for lots of study."

Once ordained, permanent deacons may perform most of the sacramental ministries of the church except consecration of the Eucharist, anointing of the sick and hearing confessions. Even though the deacon is the only ordained man allowed to be married, if a deacon's wife passes away, he is not allowed to remarry. If a man is single, he is not allowed to marry after ordination. Of the 13,000 deacons in the United States, over 85 percent are married and have families.

One may find these servants of the church performing baptisms, marriages, assisting on the altar at Mass, serving as RCIA and marriage preparation teachers, serving on parish councils and in various other parish and diocesan duties. The Charlotte diocese has 73 permanent deacons; they are not paid for their work.

Aspirant Rick Hanners has immersed himself in the Catholic faith since his conversion six years ago. The former Presbyterian, who's mother was Catholic, is now an active member of St. Gabriel Church. Among other things, he is chair of the parish's lectors and was involved in the RCIA. He wants everyone to know "how much the people of St Gabriel have meant to me in the last six years."

Born in Hogansville, Ga., Hanners contracted polio at age two but was free of the disease in five years. He earned a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in counseling from West Georgia College. He also earned a doctorate in psychology from the University of Georgia and an Ed.D in counseling psychology. Hanners worked 30 years as a psychotherapist and school psychologist, retiring from private practice 10 years ago and from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in June.

Six years ago, the polio returned.

"I was skiing down Aspen Mountain," Hanners recalled, "and my legs gave out."

But in the years between his exposure to polio and that day on the slopes, Hanners enjoyed everything from ski trips to karate (he earned a black belt). God, he said, gave him "40 years to run and play."

Now 58, Hanners uses a wheelchair to get around. An affable father of two grown sons and a grandfather, Hanners' days have been filled with ministry work and his pursuit of another master's degree, this one in pastoral studies, through the Loyola Institute of Ministry Extension Program.

Wenning, head chaplain at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport, has known Hanners for five years (Hanners is also a chaplain at the airport). Wenning, a fellow parishioner at St. Gabriel, said Hanners offers many strengths to the diaconate program.

"He brings in a very well-developed, rounded experience that probably will benefit both him, his formation and the diaconate because of his exposure to the many facets of other people's lives that he has touched."

Hanners also brings an understanding of the Native American culture. A self-described "half-breed," he is the child of a Scotch-Irish mother and a Cherokee Indian father.

"There's a definite effort on our part to look at (men from many) cultures," Wenning noted.

As for those with disabilities, said Wenning, "We are open to all men that would meet the qualifications. We don't look at limitations; we look at qualifications."

Hanners is thrilled at the prospect of pursuing his calling.

"I'm so excited. It's very hard to believe. I really felt that I was called to do something of this nature. ... It's on my mind when I get up and when I go to bed because it's becoming the focus of my life."

*The permanent diaconate is one of 35 programs and ministries that receives funds from the Annual Diocesan Support Appeal.*


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# Seniors' input guides diocesan Elder Ministry

"Planting Seeds of Hope"

By DIANNE M.A. RIGGS
CORRESPONDENT

MORGANTON — "I don't drive and can't get to doctors' appointments. Can the church help me?" "Many of our elderly are not getting the proper foods." "How can our elderly stay healthier, longer?" "Is there a faith-based place where we can live after retirement? Our children all live far away."

If you and your fellow parishioners have asked these and similar questions, you may want to know more about the Diocesan Elder Ministry. This branch of Catholic Social Services is the direct result of a Task Force on Aging that took place in the diocese in 1998 according to Elder Ministry director, Sandra Breakfield. Consisting of a broad spectrum of persons working with elderly as well as many seniors, they determined the need for a formalized Elder Ministry office with a Charlotte based director.

The Elder Ministry office is not a direct service agency. Rather, it provides support, assistance, education and referral for parishes ministering to seniors. Most of this work is done on a vicariate level, she said.

In the church at large, "(Seniors) are the ones who have trained us, taught us, set direction, set example," said Breakfield. "As they continue their ministry, we can be an avenue of resource with them."

Key in Breakfield's thinking is the belief that seniors themselves possess a wealth of insight through their previous experiences and through what they are presently accomplishing within their parishes. "This isn't about 'reinventing the wheel,'" she said. Seniors have been key contributors to the program from its inception. She also believes that it is "Not what I dream up here...but what they want and what works."

New Elder Ministry Regional Coordinator, Jenny Robinson, of Hickory, said Elder Ministry is responsible for five broad areas of ministry to the diocese: transportation, general and psychological well-being, housing, pastoral care and health care/direct services. She cited examples for these areas: parish awareness programs on religious, psychosocial and educational and physical needs of elderly; on-site support groups for widows; increasing awareness of spiritual gifts/needs of elders; caregiver support groups. She noted that Mecklenburg County has begun a task force looking into Catholic-oriented retirement housing.

Thus far, Robinson has focused on transportation, health care and health fairs, creating a database documenting various effective models used in U.S. parishes (including those here in North Carolina), with an eye towards their possible application within the Charlotte Diocese.

In a nutshell, Elder Ministry is about enhancing the lives of seniors who in turn enhance the lives of others, according to Breakfield.

Upcoming events include: a pastoral training event in February at St. Aloysius in Hickory for those working with elders; one workshop/presentation during the year for each vicariate by Richard von Stamwitz, a certified gerontological counselor; "Spring Flings" (fun activities) in April, at St. Mark, Huntersville and St. Aloysius, Hickory.

*Elder Ministry is one of 35 programs and ministries that receives funds from the Annual Diocesan Support Appeal.*


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### A translation of faith

# Priest dedicated to a ministry of Hispanic outreach

"Planting Seeds of Hope"

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE—Congregation of the Mission, Father Joseph Elzi, who is also known in the states as a Vincentian priest, spent forty-five years of his life as a missionary in Panama before his assignment to the Hispanic Catholic Center in Charlotte.

For twelve of his years in Panama, he worked with small groups in twenty-five outlaying villages traveling by horseback and eventually Jeep to minister to the village people. "These were some of the happiest years of my life," said Father Elzi. "Once I was accustomed to the culture, language and food, I was able to relate well with the people. A lot of youth were working with me as lay people and played important roles in the church. These years helped me understand the Latin mentality, which today helps me relate with the people and situations at the Hispanic Catholic Center. When someone tells me about an experience, often I have seen that situation and understand the dilemma. My experiences help me understand why Hispanics do and say things an ordinary American wouldn't understand."

A native of Jackson, Mich., Father Elzi joined the Vincentians when he was 20 years old. Forty-five years later, with the number of priests growing in Panama and the increased need for Spanish-speaking clergy in the states, Father Elzi returned to the states asking to work with Hispanics. His first assignment was in Long Island, N.Y., followed by a year at St. Mary Churh in Greensboro where he worked with Hispanics in the Greensboro vicariate. In 1998, he was assigned to the Hispanic Catholic Center, which is located on Shenandoah Ave. off Pecan St. near Central Ave.

Over three thousand Hispanics, who are predominately from Mexico but also represent Columbia, Salvador, Equator, Cuba, Guatemala, Puerto Rico and Honduras, gather at the Hispanic Catholic Center on weekends for one of six Spanish Masses and the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

The ministries offered at the Hispanic Catholic Center are vast, ranging from counseling, youth programs, faith formation classes, retreats, and a Hispanic radio station which broadcasts several hours each day from a studio in the Hispanic Catholic Center office. Airtime is from 7 to 7:45 a.m. in the winter with additional airtimes of 6 to 8 p.m. in the summer.

Father Elzi, who is the priest in charge of Hispanic Ministry in the Charlotte area, is the guiding light at the Hispanic Catholic Center — the shepherd leading the flock. Although he has an agenda, no day is typical as phone calls with special requests alter his schedule. Several days a week he visits the sick at Carolinas Medical Center and visits other local hospitals as requested. Every Tuesday evening he gathers with families for a home Mass. Another evening may find him blessing a home. Many hours are devoted to counseling: marriage, divorce, youth, as well as all sorts of problems, such as abuse and alcohol. If a youth group is meeting, you may find Father Elzi mingling with them. In November and December, he averaged 20 baptisms a week.

On Wednesday evenings from 8 to 9:30 p.m., Father Elzi can be found at the Charlotte - Mecklenburg Jail, holding Bible Study for the Hispanics.

"Nearly 40 Spanish speaking jailers gather to sing songs, share prayers and learn about the Bible," said Father Elzi. "We form a circle praying for jailers' requests which range from family members to those who are sick to the request for a fair trial. Often, two men from the Hispanic Catholic Center assist me with this ministry, reading scripture and conversing with those present. I read the previous Sunday's Gospel, give a short homily, and we discuss it. Emphasizing that we are all sinners, my goal is to elevate

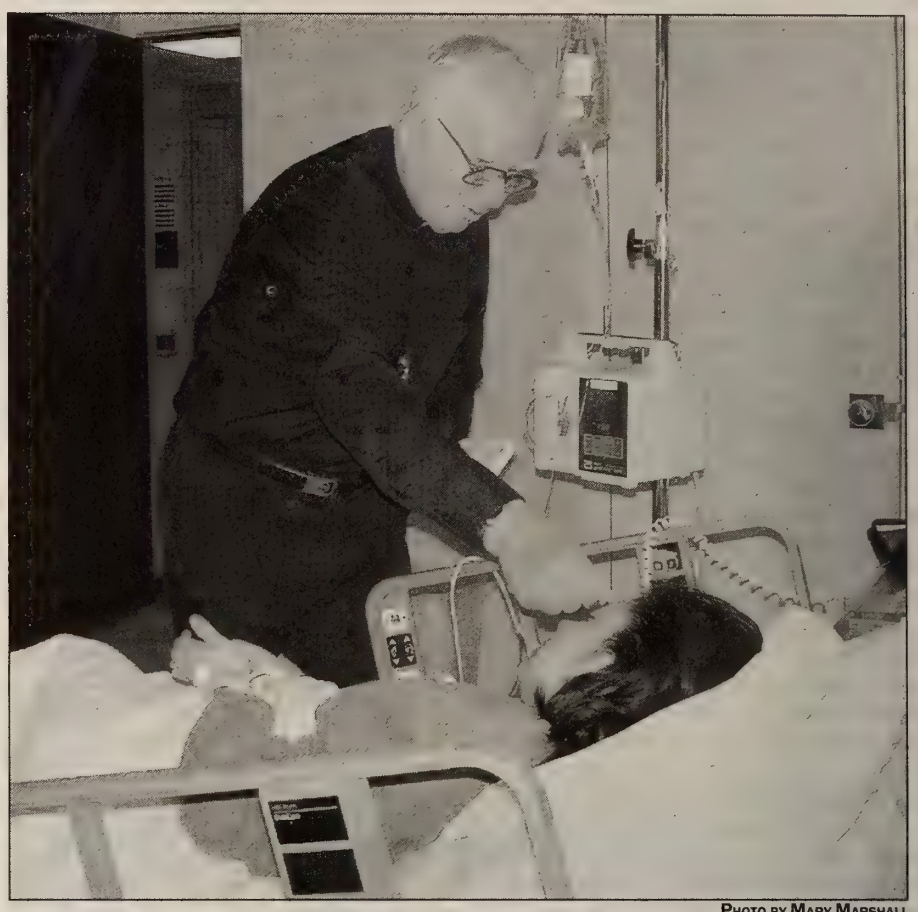


Photo by Mary Marshall

Continued next page





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## from PREVIOUS page

their self-esteem, bestowing upon them a sense of dignity. Those in jail are very respectful and touched that I come. I'm hoping to be able to have a Mass for them and hear confessions."

It's Thursday, and Father Elzi is visiting Hispanics who are at Carolinas Medical Center. First stop is the chaplain's office where he picks up a list of Hispanic patients. He quickly sorts them according to floors and heads for the elevator. Spotting a Hispanic person, he greets him, briefly converses with him and questions whom he is visiting.

Following Father Elzi on visits, one senses a gentle, kind, friendliness interspersed with a soft, peaceful tone of voice that is so receptive to those he meets. Often, he recognizes a patient from the Hispanic Catholic Center. He converses with patients offering Catholics the opportunity to receive the sacraments of reconciliation, Holy Communion, as well as the sacrament of the sick. For non-Catholic patients, he offers a prayer. But it is his ability to converse with them in Spanish that brings a welcomed familiarity to the patient.

"Often, my hospital visit is people's first opportunity for a one-on-one Spanish conversation with a priest since leaving their country," said Father Elzi. "People may be new to the country or may have been here for months but are lonely, feel cooped up, and don't know anyone. They open up; they tell me what is on their mind. If they want to talk about something, I am ready to listen. It is a casual encounter. They are pleased to see me. Many are unaware of The Hispanic Catholic Center. I explain to them what we have to offer, encouraging them to join us."

In one instance, a woman had just been admitted and was praying that a priest would visit her. She was elated when Father Elzi walked in; his presence created a peaceful, calming effect.

Visiting a widow, he learns that she was baptized many years ago but never received the sacrament of Holy Communion. Father Elzi relates how easy it is to make the sacrament and encourages her to come to the Hispanic Catholic Center.

A smile crosses his face as he learns that a child with leukemia has gone home. "This is good news," said Father Elzi. "The child is very ill. He is very receptive to Christ. We've talked about the next life."

As Father Elzi prepares to celebrate his 50th year as a priest, he continues to reach out to the Hispanic community with open arms and a loving heart. "I feel very fulfilled working here," said Father Elzi. "In Panama, as the years went by, I grew to love my work more and more. Here in the states, as I serve the same culture with the same kinds of problems, I am able to continue my ministry begun in Panama.

*Hispanic Ministry is one of 35 programs and ministries that receives funds from the Annual Diocesan Support Appeal.*

## In brief ...

### Rhode Island priest killed during vacation in Colombia

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (CNS) — Father Guillermo L. Corrales Bedoya, a Colombia-born Providence priest, was found stabbed to death Jan. 14 in Medellin, Colombia, where he was vacationing. He was 41 years old. El Mundo, a Medellin newspaper, reported Jan. 16 that the priest had suffered 25 knife wounds. It said police had not established a motive for the killing. Associates and relatives in Rhode Island suspect he was assassinated by Colombian guerrillas. They are believed to have targeted him since 2000, when he spent part of his vacation working with the poor in remote Colombian villages. Providence Bishop Robert E. Mulvee asked people to pray for Father Corrales "and for an end to such senseless violence."

### Directing drama at hospital is payback time for former patient

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Nick Olszewski couldn't resist an invitation to direct a special performance of "The Three Little Pigs, A Rock Musical" in the basement auditorium of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. It was payback time. A senior and drama major at Milwaukee's Jesuit-run Marquette University, Olszewski directed the play — a fairy tale with a contemporary twist — for patients at the same hospital where he has undergone more than 45 surgeries in his 22 years. The operations started immediately after he was born — four weeks prematurely — with multiple birth defects so serious neither his family nor his doctor expected him to live.

### Hers is a dual vocation — as woman religious and physician

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — Sister Mary Felice gets up every morning and dons the navy blue habit of her religious order, the Daughters of Charity. Then she puts on a white lab coat for her work as a doctor. "If patients ask me, I tell them to call me 'Sister Mary,'" she said, smiling. "But I became a doctor before I became a sister." The soft-spoken, 38-year-old sister recently joined the staff of Seton Health's Family Health Center in Cohoes. A specialist in internal medicine, she spent the past five years at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport, Conn., after earning her medical degree from Syracuse University and completing her residency at the University of Rochester. She took her final vows as a Daughter of Charity last April.

### Pope to make July trip to Mexico to canonize Marian visionary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will travel to Mexico in late July to canonize Blessed Juan Diego, the 16th-century peasant who saw Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Vatican said. The pope's trip, his fifth to predominantly Catholic Mexico, probably will follow his appearance at World Youth Day festivities in Toronto July 25-28, the Vatican press office said Jan. 17. Sources said tentative plans called for the pontiff to celebrate the canonization Mass for Blessed Juan Diego on July 30. Vatican sources had no comment on reports that the pope also would stop to visit ground zero in New York, site of the destroyed World Trade Center, during his North American stay.

### Polish cardinal says he hid Solidarity members during martial law

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Polish cardinal has described how he helped hide Solidarity union leaders after the 1981 imposition of martial law and illegally stored large sums of money for the movement. "Martial law didn't only affect believers — we gave help and protection to everyone threatened with loss of freedom," said Cardinal Henryk Gulbinowicz of Wroclaw. "Various Solidarity activists took refuge in my residence, and none were caught — thank God. Either the police didn't want to catch them, or we were able to keep it secret," he told Poland's Rzeczpospolita daily newspaper in a January interview. Cardinal Gulbinowicz, 73, said he voiced immediate opposition to martial law when it was declared Dec. 13, 1981, and he looked for ways to help Solidarity members.




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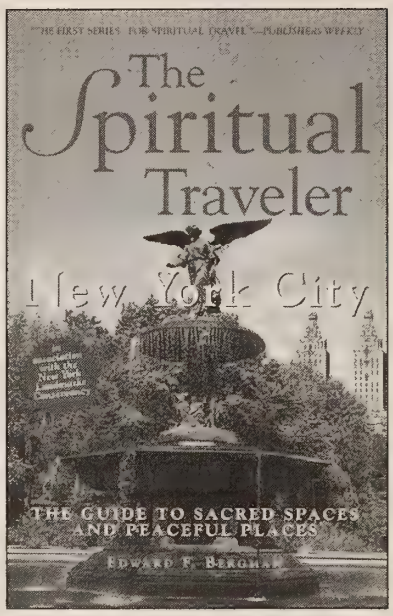
**Book Review**

# Finding tranquility and peace in hustle and bustle of city life

Reviewed by MELODY D'AMBROSIO
Catholic News Service

As a native New Yorker who has lived away for 20 years, I read this unusual travel guide as a way to reconnect with my hometown.

"The Spiritual Traveler: New York City" describes hundreds of sacred spaces. Each entry includes the address, the history and architectural description of the site and the religious denomination, if applicable. It is a useful guide for travelers interested in the city's history, religion and ethnicity. Author Edward F. Bergman is chairman of geographic studies at Lehman College of the City University of New York and a guest lecturer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.




**"The Spiritual Traveler: New York City"**

The book begins with a map of Manhattan and then one of all five boroughs of the city. This is an organizing feature for the reader since all entries are presented by neighborhoods.

In the first chapter Bergman lists Native American sacred sites on Manhattan and discusses the early relations between Native Americans and the Dutch. This chapter details the growth of religious life and how different faiths prospered. This chapter includes a list of 41 sociological, theological or technological breakthroughs — places or events that are first or oldest in America — or even the world.

The second chapter focuses on architecture of houses of worship — Catholic and Christian churches, synagogues, mosques and Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist temples. It describes architectural elements that distinguish architectural styles such as Gothic, Romanesque, Wren-Gibbs, Georgian and Greek Revival, just to name a few. Stained glass and particular furnishings within a house of worship also are explained.

Chapters three through eight explain all the spiritual places by way of a neighborhood-guided tour in Manhattan. It begins with lower Manhattan and the roots of New York City, or New Amsterdam, as it first was named. The guide continues uptown to Harlem and Washington Heights. Chapter 9 is devoted to the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island. The end of the book includes a glossary of terms, extensive bibliography and a list of Web sites for further research.

Being raised Catholic in New York City, I approached the book with a specific plan — first to learn more about the places that were in my personal background, next to learn about my immediate neighborhood, and last to learn about places that I have never visited. I was happy to find them all in this book.

This book is an excellent guide to places of many different faiths. It is organized, historically sound and thorough — a fine research tool for days of exploration.

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings: Jan. 27, 2002*
**Cycle A Readings: January 27, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**
1) Isaiah 8:23-9:3
Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14
2) 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
3) Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

By DAN LUBY
Catholic News Service

I imagine the scene as played by The Three Stooges perhaps, or Lucille Ball or Jim Carey. The comedians sit in a beached sailboat, trying to imitate the seasoned fishermen nearby folding up their giant fishing nets but succeeding only in getting more and more tangled up in the complex webbing. The scene's punch line comes when the captain of the fleet strides up and orders everyone to follow him. As the experienced fishermen march off in unison, my imagined comedians take one hilarious pratfall after another trying to get untangled from the net they've unknowingly woven around their own feet. The audience in my mental movie howls with laughter.

It's funny in slapstick, but in real life such screamingly funny disasters end up in broken bones and broken hearts.

These images come to mind on hearing the story of Peter and Andrew, James and John working with their nets when Jesus invites them to follow him. They drop their nets, and — "immediately" the Scripture says — follow him.

Most of us don't work with nets, but many of us often find ourselves tangled up with the interlocking paraphernalia of daily life. The complex weave of work and family, of car pools and shopping and yard work and social obligations, of trying to be all things to all people, of keeping everybody happy: They wrap us up, tie our hands, tangle our steps so that when an opportunity for greater service arises, a call to deeper discipleship sounds, we stumble in our response.

Blessedly, Lent is near, with its emphasis on repentance and renewal. Let us prepare ourselves now to partake of its blessings by simplifying our lives, sifting our commitments to distinguish the important from the peripheral, the deep from the shallow, the life-giving from the deadly.

**QUESTIONS:**

*What is one way I could make my life less tangled during the upcoming season of Lent? Of all the elements which add stress to my life, what is one I could let go of?*

**SCRIPTURE TO ILLUSTRATE:**

"They immediately abandoned their nets and became his followers" (Matthew 4:20)

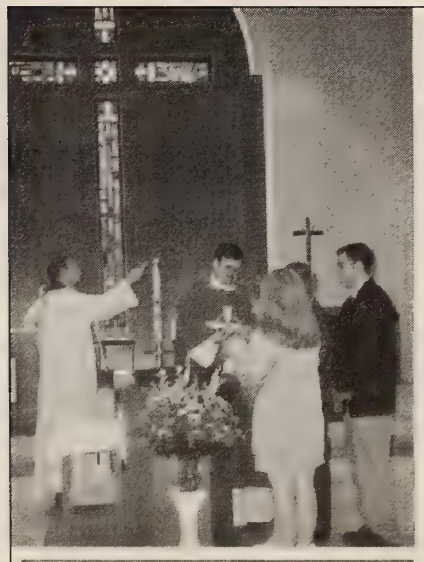
## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Jan. 27 - Feb. 2**

**Sunday (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Isaiah 8:23—9:3, 1 Corinthians 1:1-13, 17, Matthew 4:12-23; **Monday (St. Thomas Aquinas),** 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10, Mark 3:22-30; **Tuesday,** 2 Samuel 6:12-15, 17-19, Mark 3:31-35; **Wednesday,** 2 Samuel 7:4-17, Mark 4:1-20; **Thursday (St. John Bosco),** 2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29, Mark 4:21-25; **Friday,** 2 Samuel 11:1-4, 5-10, 13-17, Mark 4:26-43; **Saturday (Presentation of the Lord),** Malachai 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40

**Scripture for the week of Feb. 3 - Feb. 9**

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Matthew 5:1-12; **Monday,** 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13, Mark 5:1-20; **Tuesday (St. Agatha),** 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14, 24-25, 30—19:3, Mark 5:21-43; **Wednesday (St. Paul Miki & Companions),** 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17, Mark 6:1-6; **Thursday,** 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12, Mark 6:7-13; **Friday (St. Jerome Emiliani),** Sirach 47:2-11, Mark 6:14-29; **Saturday,** 1 Kings 3:4-13, Mark 6:30-34



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# Video reviews

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

**"American Pie 2" (2001)**

Coarse comedy sequel in which a group of college guys (including Jason Biggs, Chris Klein and Seann William Scott) reunite on summer vacation intent on increasing their sexual prowess by scheming and partying. Director J.B. Rogers' plodding, pathetic effort recycles plot points from the first film while again presenting sex as raunchy sport devoid of responsibility or consequences. Positive spin on premarital sex, several sexual situations including masturbation and same-sex kissing, some nudity, objectification of women and much rough language, crass expressions and underage drinking. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Universal)

**"Babe" (1995)**

Live-action barnyard charmer in which a kindly Australian farmer (James Cromwell) enters his unusual piglet (voice of Christine Cavanaugh) in a sheepdog competition, unaware that his farm animals can talk to one another as they pull together to make the little pig's dream of herding sheep come true. Director Chris Noonan's enchanting comic fable is filmed entirely from the animals' point of view, with delightful visuals and an endearing message of learning to live and work in harmony. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. (Universal)

**"Babe: Pig in the City" (1998)**

Darker sequel to the 1995 hit in which the farmer's wife (Magda Szubanski) takes the plucky title porker (voice of E.G. Daily) to the city, but, when she's wrongly arrested, Babe and a gaggle of homeless animals he befriends have to fend for themselves against starvation and the machinations of nasty humans. Directed by George Miller, the less-endearing sequel retains the polite pig's innocence and generosity, but some of the perilous situations may be a bit intense for very young children. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. (Universal)

**"Child Star: The Shirley Temple Story" (2001)**

Lackluster biopic covers the juvenile years of Twentieth Century Fox's biggest star in the 1930s who was beloved by Depression audiences for her natural talent and unrestrained zest for life. Blandly upbeat and flatly directed by Nadia Tass, young Ashley Rose Orr is reduced to slavishly imitating the unique child star in a formulaic restaging of scenes from her films that fails to capture the era or the ups and downs of Shirley's young life. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Disney)

**"The Fast and the Furious" (2001)**

High-octane, low-interest action drama about an undercover cop (Paul Walker) out to nail a gang (led by Vin Diesel) of streetcar racers turned hijackers, but whose ideals are compromised when he begins an affair with the gang leader's sister (Jordana Brewster). Director Rob Cohen's formula race and chase scenes alternate with constant macho posturing for a dull but noisy tale of justice ignored. Some brutal violence, much mindless mayhem, justification of felony crime, implied affairs, occasional profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Universal)

**"Glitter" (2001)**

Pathetic musical drama set in the 1980s New York City club scene that tracks the rise of a young singer (Mariah Carey) from a childhood spent in foster homes to her discovery by a disc jockey (Max Beesley) and on to ultimate fame. Along with indistinguishable original songs, a pitiful narrative and contrived camera work, director Vondie Curtis Hall's leading lady has no charisma to pull off the vanity vehicle. An implied sexual encounter, brief violence and some crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Fox Home Video)



CNS PHOTO FROM DISNEY

**Scene from movie 'Snow Dogs'**

**Cuba Gooding Jr. stars in a scene from the film "Snow Dogs." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

**"Jeepers Creepers" (2001)**

Foolish horror flick in which a brother and sister (Justin Long and Gina Philips) on their way home from college make a bloodcurdling discovery in an abandoned church and then are pursued relentlessly by an indestructible creature who wants them dead. The gaping holes in writer-director Victor Salva's muddled plot are scarier than this preposterous monster movie which abruptly stops without wrapping up its many loose strands. Intermittent violence with much gore, shots of mutilated nude corpses and sporadic rough language and profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (MGM)

**"Sound and Fury" (2000)**

Documentary examines the controversy over cochlear implant surgery for the deaf as the two related families of an infant and a 5-year-old girl debate whether the restoration of hearing will mean alienation from the close-knit deaf community and its expressive sign language. Filmmaker Josh Aronson's two-year study of the families' clashing feelings puts a compelling human face on a crucial decision with life-altering consequences. A serious theme and several intense disagreements. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Docudrama)

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## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Pope says he hopes Assisi peace day sparks steps toward justice

By JOHN NORTON

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said he hoped an interreligious day of prayer for world peace would result in concrete and courageous steps toward justice and forgiveness.

Speaking to pilgrims at the weekly general audience Jan. 23, he called the prayer gathering to take place the next day in Assisi, Italy, "a pilgrimage of hope in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi, prophet and witness of peace."

More than 200 religious leaders from 12 major religions were to travel by train with the pope Jan. 24 to pray for peace and condemn the use of violence in the name of religion.

"I trust that this initiative, in addition to the spiritual effects that arise from the human actions, will contribute to orienting hearts and decisions toward sincere and courageous intentions of justice and forgiveness," the pope said.

"If it does, we will have contributed to strengthening the foundations of an authentic and lasting peace," he said.

The pope asked Catholics around the world to unite their prayers with those of the religious leaders in Assisi and to nurture "warm feelings for the followers of other religions gathered in St. Francis' city to pray for peace."

In his main audience talk, the pope used an ancient Hebrew hymn to illustrate the importance of maintaining hope in God even in times of suffering.

The text, a prayer from the Book of Sirach, was written in the third century B.C. while the Jews were living under occupation. Though included in the Catholic Bible, Sirach is not recognized as a scriptural text by Jews or Protestants.

The pope called the hymn a "model of prayer to use in times of persecution and oppression," underscoring that God is never indifferent to evil or the suffering of his people.

"Even if his ways are not our ways," the pope said, "(God) takes the side of victims and presents himself as a severe judge of those who do violence, those who oppress and those who conquer without mercy."

Believers should maintain an unshakeable confidence in God even in times of great trial, he said.

"In the Bible, the lamentation of those who suffer never ends in despair, but is always open to hope. There is an underlying certainty that the Lord never abandons his children, never lets fall through his hands that which he molded," the pope said.

## Planting Seeds of Hope



THE MOST REV. WILLIAM G. CURLIN
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

The image of a farmer planting seeds is certainly appropriate for the 2002 Diocesan Support Appeal. The farmer recognizes that the work done at planting time combined with the care taken during the growing season will result in a bountiful crop at harvest time. The seeds are planted with a vision of a hope-filled future. Like the hopeful farmer, the ministries and agencies funded by the DSA are planting seeds of hope.

Jesus spoke in a language the people would understand, likening the Kingdom of God to the farmer sowing seed, the mustard seed, and the vineyard. Jesus knew that the work of spreading the Good News of Salvation and building the Kingdom would require many hands. He said, "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few." He called others to join him in the work of his Father. He formed them and sent them out in his service. As your bishop, I have been entrusted with the same mission of spreading the Good News and building the Kingdom here in Western North Carolina. And, like Jesus, I am inviting the faithful of this diocese to join me in serving others in the vineyard of the Lord.

The DSA is an opportunity to participate in the very heart of God's work. It is a way of helping our children grow in their faith through quality faith formation programs. Our Youth Ministry programs bring our middle and high school youth into a closer relationship with the Body of Christ. Our diocesan Lay Ministry program is one of the finest in the country. Graduates of the program help fill our parishes with knowledgeable catechists, liturgical ministers, council and commission members, and lay leaders. When I consider the rapid growth of this diocese and the tremendous task of providing for the increasing needs of the people, I am ever so grateful for those who are eager to go forth and serve in the name of the Lord. I depend on the loving service of holy and dedicated priests to serve the people of God in our 90 parishes and missions. I thank God for the 21 seminarians who have answered the call to serve others through the priesthood. Another vocational ministry planting many seeds of hope is the Permanent Diaconate. With parishes growing in both numbers of people and ministries to serve those people, the permanent deacons will bring many gifts to the life of the parish. Your contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal help provide education and formation for our future priests and deacons as well as our parish lay leaders. Each year countless immigrants come to this country and to our diocese seeking the hope of a new life. The offices of Catholic Social Services provide help and encouragement to people of all nationalities trying to adjust to life in a new country. These co-workers in the Lord are especially invaluable in responding to the ever-increasing needs of our ethnically diverse population. I am deeply gratified by the thousands of people who help me on a daily basis meet the needs of the growing number of Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte.

I see the DSA as a way that every parishioner can participate in the ministries so vital to the life of our diocese. The DSA provides an opportunity for others to join with me in reaching out to make Christ present in a world where His presence is so sorely needed. Each person who gives to the Diocesan Support Appeal can proudly say they, too, are "planting seeds of hope."



## The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

### A favorite octogenarian of mine

Wonderful friendships often begin in coincidental ways.

I first came upon Alma Giordan's byline and enjoyable articles some 40 years ago in reading Catholic magazines.

Then, 20 years ago, I accepted a position as executive editor of a new newspaper in Connecticut, The Litchfield County Times. Waiting for me that first week was a stack of articles for possible publication from free-lance writers. Surprising me, I saw a familiar name, Alma Giordan. It didn't take long for me to call her.

It turned out that Giordan had lived in Watertown, Conn., all her life, still a member of St. John's parish, as her grandfather and parents had been. She had been happily married to Bob Giordan, an artist, since 1939 and never had stopped writing for magazines, secular ones like Good Housekeeping, the Saturday Evening Post and McCalls, and religious ones like St. Anthony Messenger, Liguorian and Catholic Digest.

I accepted much of her work, often illustrated by her husband until his death, finding that she had a special gift. She could take the ordinary, small things we encounter every day in life and make these vibrate with life with her observations and words. She painted the mundane elements of this world that we all encounter in a way that highlighted how truly profound these are — be they a chipmunk, a crocus, a shoe, a dogwood tree stump. She had the gift of seeing, as a poet expressed it, "the God of things," and she could express this wonder beautifully, yet asking: "Are words really necessary at the instant of a scarlet poppy's miraculous unfolding? Is not my involuntary gasp of delight perhaps a more genuine prayer?"

Without hesitation, I pronounced Giordan my garden columnist and had the joy of publishing many of her fine pieces, all subtly spiritual, for the 13 years I was editor of that paper.

Just a few weeks ago I called her to say, with a smile, that I'd seen her name in America magazine. This great Jesuit publication warmly calls her their favorite "octogenarian." A youthful 84 and a great-grandmother who is still a lector at her church, Giordan more than ever maintains her gift of acute observation about life, writing still with wisdom and wit.

She had good news with this phone call. She said she had collected some of her good published work, several being columns she first had written for my newspaper, and produced a book. I immediately got a copy and read it all in one sitting, enjoying her gift of seeing wonder and beauty that most of us need to be prodded to see.

She calls the book "What This Old Hand Knows," the title of a truly notable piece she wrote for America magazine, an ode to the remarkable gift that is the human hand, "our telltale lifeline." The book is humorously illustrated with her husband's legacy of sketches, many of which I remember well.

I think because we are both writers, Alma Giordan and I have shared an unusual, understanding friendship. And that's a special gift that transcends words.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Time on your hands

So, how are you spending all that leisure time you've got on your hands?

If your mouth just fell open or if the thought flitted through your head that this column must be meant for somebody else, give me a minute. I know that you're busy. You have your job — you know, the one that lets you afford a place to live, put food on the table, and all the rest — work around the house, shopping and other errands. Don't forget getting the children to school and, of course, their other activities, your obligations to parents, church, and the additional commitments you've taken on. Add in efforts at "quality time" with family and friends. And who would begrudge you an occasional night on the town - or on your couch? No doubt, you can come up with an even longer list of things you have to do.

No argument from me that you are busy. But I would like to point out that the English word leisure comes from the Latin for "to be permitted." I want to encourage you to give yourself permission to spend your time as carefully — yet generously — as you do your money.

OK, I'm making some assumptions here. But most people are very concerned, if not actually worried, about finances these days. Layoffs, cutbacks, recession are some of the troubling factors on everybody's minds as they stretch dollars and budgets. The amazing thing is that there has never been a time when people have been as determined to help others in need. And folks are in need. Every town and every country has men, women and children lacking the most basic necessities. And, at the same time, every neighborhood still tries to meet social, educational and cultural demands that make life a little more human, a little more meaningful. Here are a couple of people who have decided to take time to do good:

• Jean Zecha has grandchildren to care for, but makes time to volunteer at a soup kitchen once a month. She says, "I don't feel that I'm especially talented or outgoing, but I can give of myself - and that is what faith is all about, sharing of one's time and self."

• James O'Neill attends town meetings, writes letters and makes phone calls to let politicians know his views. "Why?" he asks. "I believe it is a part of living out my faith and showing concern for the poor and voiceless."

"I want to do something" has become a common expression of the desire to reach out to others, to give of one's self. I won't pretend that carving time out of your schedule for what is, essentially, service to others will be easy, but I guarantee it will be worth it. Listen to the words of two people who are celebrated for their service to humanity:

The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.

— Albert Schweitzer

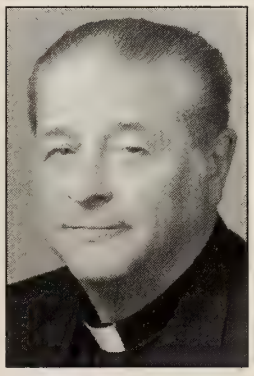
Not everybody could be famous but everybody can be great because greatness is determined by service.

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

Both happy and great — what more could anyone ask? Offer your self, your compassion, your time and you will gain as immeasurably as you give.

*For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR, write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org*

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Crucifixes or crosses?

*Q. A Protestant friend asked why the Catholic Church uses the crucifix, with the figure of Jesus, while Protestants use a cross without the image of Jesus. I hope you can give us the information. (Mississippi)*

A. The difference between the two types of crosses is related to different ways Christians have honored the humanity of Jesus. It predates by centuries the differences between Catholic and Protestant customs.

During roughly the first 800 years of Christianity, the passion and death of Christ were viewed, in both theology and art, not so much as experiences of horror and pain as expressions of the triumph of God, in Jesus Christ, over suffering and death.

For example, the fathers of the church, recognized as among the greatest early bishops and theologians, saw the five wounds of Christ (hands, feet and side) as sources of grace, giving birth to his body, the church. This understanding of our Lord's death explains why, during those centuries, Christian crosses rarely bore the image of the suffering Christ. The conviction that the death of Christ was part of the entire paschal, or Easter, mystery expressed itself by predominant emphasis on the resurrection, even in the events on Calvary.

For the same reason, crosses frequently were adorned with precious jewels. Even when the physical body of Christ began to appear on crosses, it was often the risen living Lord that was shown, rather than the anguished, dying Christ that became common later.

Interestingly, the more mystical, otherworldly vision of Christ triumphant and ruling over all creation, prevalent in early Christianity, largely continues to this day in the theology and iconology of the Eastern Catholic churches.

The more graphic realism, showing Jesus with the crown of thorns and disfigured with blood, began around the 10th century. With today's renewed emphasis on the resurrection and its central role in the history of salvation, something like jeweled crosses and crucifixes with the body of the risen Christ are again not uncommon in Catholic churches.

No one to my knowledge has explained satisfactorily why Protestant churches customarily use crosses without the body of the Lord. Perhaps it was another way some Reformation leaders distanced themselves from Roman Catholic practice which, as I explained, by that time generally portrayed on its crosses a suffering and humiliated Christ.

### Diocesan support appeal debate

*Q. Our bishop recently changed the annual diocesan appeal into an automatic assessment. If the people do not contribute the assessed amount, the parish must make up the difference from its weekly offerings. What gives a bishop the authority to impose such a tax? (Texas)*

A. Each diocese, certainly every diocese of which I am aware, has some form of parish taxation. Unless the local church has the advantage of enormous savings funds, this is one method which enables a bishop to fulfill his obligation to oversee the church in a financially responsible manner.

Each diocese is obliged, insofar as necessary, to establish a common fund enabling the bishop to satisfy responsibilities toward clergy and other persons who serve the church, and meet other needs — social service programs, diocesan tribunals, seminary education, etc.

A significant section of canon law, beginning with Canon 1274, provides detailed instructions on how the local bishop is to carry out this responsibility.

# DSA 2002



BARBARA GADDY,
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Tending the garden entrusted to me

I have a little garden in my back yard. It's not very big or exceedingly beautiful. It would probably never win the "Garden of the Week" award, but it does have a special beauty and charm of its own. Most of the plants growing in my garden were either given to me by friends, transplants from somewhere else in my yard, or rescued from certain death from the grocery floral department. But they all have one thing in common — they are gifts from God entrusted to my care. I have to make sure that I plant a sun-loving Gerber daisy in a location where the warm rays of the sun will reach it. Likewise, impatiens planted in direct , all-day sunlight will wither during the hot summer days. When the August drought arrives, I need to water the tender plants. I spend much of my summer weekend time weeding and pruning, mulching and watering. And every Fall I work to put the garden to bed for the winter months. I try to be a good steward of the garden God has entrusted to me.

My life as a steward of God's gifts has certainly taken me beyond the monkey-grass borders of my garden. I have been called to venture out and nurture my other God-given gifts. My children, while now adults, required special care during their formative years. In addition to meeting their physical and emotional needs, spiritual seeds were planted that took root and are still growing into faith-filled young adults. Some of the tools helpful in their spiritual growth were the parish faith formation, sacramental preparation and youth ministry programs.

I know that one day I will be held accountable for my stewardship of God's gifts. How did I nurture them and use them in service to others? I can see how DSA-funded ministries made a big impact on my life. I was certainly nourished by RCIA, Liturgy and Worship, Faith Formation, Justice and Peace, and Evangelization programs-all offered by DSA-funded ministries and agencies. Then I used my newfound knowledge in parish and diocesan programs, thus continuing to plant seeds of hope in others. As a gardener I have special tools to prepare the soil for planting. So, too, the many ministries funded by the DSA are tools for preparing the soil of our lives and planting seeds of hope

I have learned a great deal from my garden. If it's green, then it is alive. I learned that where there is life, there is hope. A beautiful garden doesn't just happen. It takes planning, work and sometimes even a little sacrifice. Stewardship of my life takes those same things. If I neglect my garden, the weeds will take over. Likewise, the weeds of my life will take over, if I neglect my commitment to stewardship of God's gifts.

Yes, I can see many similarities between my backyard garden and the garden of my life. When my garden is in bloom and I can sit on my garden swing and meditate on the many gifts of our God of creation, I am blessed with a sense of peace and fulfillment. Likewise, when I see a young person who has blossomed as a result of a DSA ministry, I can be assured that my gift to the DSA — my seed of hope — has sprouted into a beautiful plant. That, too, gives my a sense of joy, peace and fulfillment.

# Thinking about the priesthood?

*please contact:*

Father John Allen
Office of Vocations
Diocese of Charlotte

704-957-3769

Presently 21 men are in seminary preparing for the exciting challenge of priestly service in the Diocese of Charlotte. Many others are praying seriously about their calling to the priesthood. How about you?

# Superintendent of Catholic Schools

**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE**
**Charlotte, North Carolina**

The Diocese of Charlotte is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Superintendent of Catholic Schools. The Diocese encompasses the western part of the state with 17 schools (regional, diocesan, and parish), employing 530 educators, and serving 7300 students.

**Qualifications:**

- Practicing Roman Catholic with demonstrated strong belief in and adherence to the philosophy, doctrine, and teaching mission of the Church.
- Combined five years' successful experience in Catholic Education at the administrative level.
- Master's in educational administration or related field e.g., school administration, leadership, management; doctorate strongly preferred.
- Proven commitment to racial and cultural diversity; bilingual skills in English and Spanish a strong positive.

**The deadline for receipt of applications is February 28, 2002.**

*Please send letter of application, resume, and salary requirement to:*
**Reverend Mr. Curtiss P. Todd**
Vice Chancellor and Director of Human Resources
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28203

**DSA SUPPORTED AGENCIES AND MINISTRIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Social Services Ministries | 704-370-3262 |
| Diocesan Ministries | 704-370-3228 |
| Disability Ministry | 704-370-3250 |
| Disaster Relief | 704-370-3228 |
| Elder Ministries | 704-370-3220 |
| Family Life- | 704-370-3250 |
| Marriage Preparation | 704-370-3228 |
| Natural Family Planning | 704-370-3230 |
| Prison Ministry | (beeper)704-581-7693 |
| Respect Life | 704-370-3229 |
| Office of Justice and Peace | 704-370-3225 |
| Campaign for Human Development | 704-370-3234 |
| Catholic Relief Services | 704-370-3231 |
| Education - Issue Response | 704-370-3225 |
| Social Services / Western Regional Office | 704-255-0146 |
| Hispanic Social Services - Adoption - Counseling | |
| Crisis Intervention -Foster Care - Pregnancy Support | |
| Social Services / Charlotte Regional Office | 704-370-3232 |
| Adoption - Counseling - Crisis Intervention | |
| Foster Care - Pregnancy Support - Programa Esperanza | |
| Social Services / Piedmont-Triad Regional Office | 336-727-0705 |
| Casa Guadalupe - Adoption - Counseling | |
| Crisis Intervention - Foster Care - Pregnancy Support | |
| Office of Economic Opportunity | 828-835-3535 |
| Hispanic Center-High Point | 336-884-5858 |
| Multicultural Ministries | |
| African American Ministry | 704-370-3399 |
| Hispanic Ministry | 704-335-1281 |
| Hmong / Lahu Ministry | 704-327-2341 |
| Educational Ministries | |
| Vicar for Education | 704-370-3210 |
| Campus Ministry | 704-370-3212 |
| Catholic Schools Administration | 704-370-3270 |
| Faith Formation | 704-370-3246 |
| Lay Ministry Training | 704-370-3213 |
| Media Resources | 704-370-3241 |
| RCIA | 704-370-3246 |
| Young Adult Ministry | 704-370-3212 |
| Youth Ministry | 704-370-3211 |
| Vocations | |
| Permanent Diaconate | 704-370-3344 |
| Seminarian Education | 704-370-3353 |

# Classifieds

**Classified ads bring results! Over 116,000 readers! Over 47,500 homes!**
**Rates:** $.50/word per issue ($10 minimum per issue)
**Deadline:** 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
**How to order:** Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org, faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
**Payment:** Ads will billed. For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Bilingual (Spanish/English) Counselor:** Full or part-time. Counseling Hispanic children and adults at Centro para Familias Hispanas in Raleigh, NC. Master's required in counseling/mental health field. Send resume to CSM, 226 Hillsborough St., Raleigh, NC 27603. EOE.

**Caregiver:** Seeking dependable caregiver to assist elderly with non-medical care in their homes. Part-time and full-time. Top hourly fees. VISITING ANGELS. (704) 442-8881

**Coordinator of Youth Ministry:** Large vibrant parish seeks energetic, creative Coordinator of Youth Ministry. Successful candidate will plan and implement spiritual growth, catechetical development and social involvement of grades 6-12, will show enthusiastic dedication to meeting the needs of young Christians and will exhibit honest delight in their presence. Ideal candidate will have a demonstrated commitment to liturgical formation of youth. Candidate must be Catholic in good standing with church, with education (minimum, bachelor's degree) and several years experience appropriate for youth ministry. Supportive staff. Full-time position, starting July 2002. Send resume by March 1 to Search Committee, St. Bridget's Parish, 6006 Three Chopt Rd., Richmond, VA 23226, or email sellers@stbridgets.org.

**Music Director:** Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro is seeking a full-time director to be responsible for all music activity in a church with over 2,300 families. Applicants must be fully competent in both organ and piano, and experienced in directing both adult and children's choirs. If you meet these requirements, please send your resume and salary requirements to: Music Ministry, Our Lady of Grace Church, 201 S. Chapman Street, Greensboro, NC 27403.

**Principal:** Experienced principal for St. Anthony's Catholic School in Southern Pines, NC, to open Fall 2002. K-3. Minimum MA/MS. Expected to build curriculum faithful to the magisterium of Catholic Church. Salary based on experience. Please send resume to: St. Anthony Catholic School Principal Search, P.O. Box 602, Carthage, NC 28327.

**Teachers:** Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, located in Fairburn, Georgia, is seeking teachers in all disciplines for the 2002-2003 school year. Mercy offers an excellent teaching environment and well as competitive salary and benefits. Interested individuals should send resume and cover letter to: John Cobis, Our Lady of Mercy High School, 861 Highway 279, Fairburn, GA 30213.

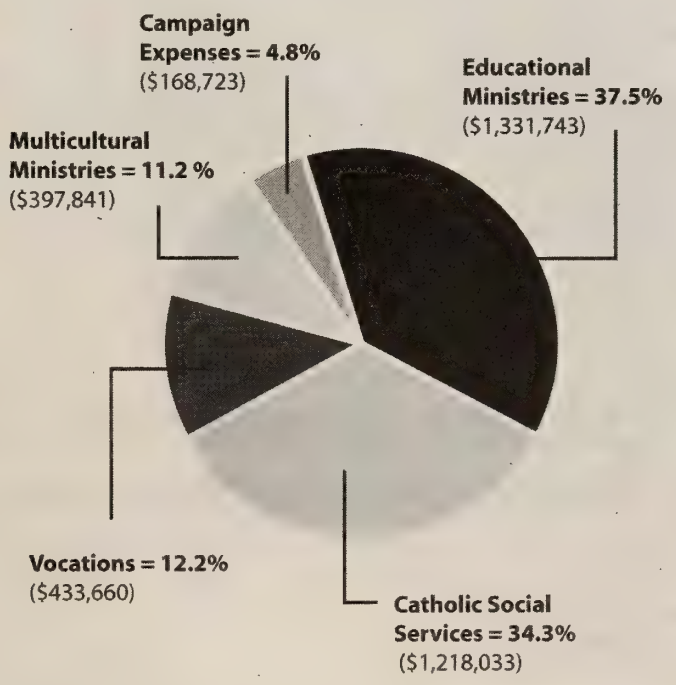
**Work from Home:** Growing business needs help! Mail-order/E-commerce. $522+ per week part-time. $1,000-$4,000 per week full-time. www.changeyourfuture4ever.com (888) 207-9771

| CHURCH | | 2002 GOAL | CITY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Our Lady of the Annunciation | Parish | $20,638.00 | Albemarle |
| Prince of Peace | Mission | $2,328.00 | Andrews |
| Holy Redeemer | Parish | $3,644.00 | Andrews |
| St. Barnabas | Parish | $49,021.00 | Arden |
| St. Joseph | Parish | $27,747.00 | Asheboro |
| Basilica of St. Lawrence | Parish | $45,575.00 | Asheville |
| St. Joan of Arc | Parish | $24,662.00 | Asheville |
| St. Eugene | Parish | $75,804.00 | Asheville |
| Queen of the Apostles | Parish | $33,971.00 | Belmont |
| Our Lady of the Americas | Parish | $9,352.00 | Biscoe |
| St. Elizabeth | Parish | $40,074.00 | Boone |
| Sacred Heart | Parish | $42,610.00 | Brevard |
| St. Joseph | Parish | $6,015.00 | Bryson City |
| Our Lady of Guadalupe | Mission | $2,663.00 | Bryson City |
| St. Matthew | Parish | $281,663.00 | Charlotte |
| St. Joseph Vietnamese | Parish | $4,373.00 | Charlotte |
| St. John Neumann | Parish | $86,704.00 | Charlotte |
| St. Helen | Mission | $2,483.00 | Charlotte |
| Our Lady of Consolation | Parish | $39,202.00 | Charlotte |
| St. Luke | Parish | $58,552.00 | Charlotte |
| St. Vincent de Paul | Parish | $105,955.00 | Charlotte |
| St. John Lee Korean | Parish | $3,693.00 | Charlotte |
| St. Thomas Aquinas | Parish | $107,805.00 | Charlotte |
| St. Ann | Parish | $58,523.00 | Charlotte |
| St. Gabriel | Parish | $297,146.00 | Charlotte |
| St. Patrick Cathedral | Parish | $83,046.00 | Charlotte |
| St. Peter | Parish | $71,579.00 | Charlotte |
| Our Lady of the Assumption | Parish | $40,727.00 | Charlotte |
| Centro Catolico Hispano | Parish | $5,383.00 | Charlotte |
| Holy Family | Parish | $92,032.00 | Clemmons |
| St. James | Parish | $61,086.00 | Concord |
| Holy Spirit | Parish | $18,131.00 | Denver |
| St. Joseph of the Hills | Parish | $10,074.00 | Eden |
| Immaculate Conception | Parish | $10,592.00 | Forest City |
| St. Francis of Assisi | Parish | $19,539.00 | Franklin |
| St. Michael | Parish | $73,002.00 | Gastonia |
| St. Pius Tenth | Parish | $80,287.00 | Greensboro |
| St. Paul the Apostle | Parish | $129,210.00 | Greensboro |
| St. Mary | Parish | $22,325.00 | Greensboro |
| St. Benedict | Parish | $19,827.00 | Greensboro |
| Our Lady of Grace | Parish | $122,577.00 | Greensboro |
| Sacred Heart | Mission | $2,883.00 | Hamlet |
| St. James | Parish | $10,719.00 | Hamlet |
| Immaculate Conception | Parish | $95,727.00 | Hendersonville |
| St. Aloysius | Parish | $79,495.00 | Hickory |
| Immaculate Heart of Mary | Parish | $73,806.00 | High Point |
| Christ the King | Parish | $15,832.00 | High Point |
| Our Lady of the Mountains | Parish | $12,404.00 | Highlands |
| St. Jude | Mission | $11,646.00 | Highlands |
| St. Mark | Parish | $104,776.00 | Huntersville |
| St. Francis of Assisi | Parish | $8,537.00 | Jefferson |
| St. Joseph | Mission | $12,063.00 | Kannapolis |
| Holy Cross | Parish | $43,267.00 | Kernersville |
| St. Francis of Assisi | Parish | $18,292.00 | Lenoir |
| Our Lady of the Rosary | Parish | $14,411.00 | Lexington |
| St. Dorothy | Parish | $21,098.00 | Lincolnton |
| St. Margaret | Parish | $16,548.00 | Maggie Valley |
| St. Andrew the Apostle | Parish | $6,246.00 | Mars Hill |
| Sacred Heart | Mission | $3,529.00 | Mars Hill |
| St. Francis of Assisi | Parish | $9,558.00 | Mocksville |
| Our Lady of Lourdes | Parish | $25,585.00 | Monroe |
| St. Therese | Parish | $74,882.00 | Mooresville |
| St. Charles Borromeo | Parish | $32,431.00 | Morganton |
| Our Lady of the Angels | Mission | $6,556.00 | Morganton |
| Holy Angels | Parish | $12,696.00 | Mount Airy |
| St. William | Parish | $14,581.00 | Murphy |
| Immaculate Heart of Mary | Mission | $11,687.00 | Murphy |
| St. Joseph | Parish | $19,471.00 | Newton |
| St. Stephen | Mission | $6,612.00 | North Wilkesboro |
| St. John Baptist de La Salle | Parish | $13,288.00 | North Wilkesboro |
| Holy Infant | Parish | $14,515.00 | Reidsville |
| Sacred Heart | Parish | $57,341.00 | Salisbury |
| St. Mary | Parish | $24,224.00 | Shelby |
| Christ the King | Mission | $4,769.00 | Shelby |
| St. Frances of Rome | Mission | $5,772.00 | Sparta |
| St. Bernadette | Mission | $13,030.00 | Spruce Pine |
| St. Lucien | Parish | $5,769.00 | Spruce Pine |
| St. Philip the Apostle | Parish | $40,861.00 | Statesville |
| St. Margaret Mary | Parish | $25,085.00 | Swannanoa |
| St. Mary | Parish | $11,009.00 | Sylva |
| Holy Trinity | Parish | $7,260.00 | Taylorsville |
| Our Lady of the Highways | Parish | $10,725.00 | Thomasville |
| St. John the Baptist | Parish | $31,456.00 | Tryon |
| St. John the Evangelist | Parish | $16,713.00 | Waynesville |
| Immaculate Conception | Mission | $3,208.00 | Waynesville |
| Our Lady of Mercy | Parish | $51,151.00 | Winston-Salem |
| St. Benedict the Moor | Parish | $11,573.00 | Winston-Salem |
| St. Leo | Parish | $119,653.00 | Winston-Salem |
| Good Shepherd | Mission | $9,144.00 | Winston-Salem |
| Our Lady of Fatima | Parish | $18,492.00 | Winston-Salem |

## 2002 DSA MINISTRIES BUDGET

| | |
|---|---|
| Catholic Social Services<br>Diocesan Ministries | |
| Special Ministries<br>Natural Family Planning - Respect Life - Prison Ministry<br>Elder Pastoral Services (CRISM) - Elder Social Services -<br>Widowed/Separated/Divorced - Family Life - Marriage Preparation | $211,345 |
| Office of Justice and Peace<br>Campaign for Human Development - Catholic Relief Services<br>Parish Social Ministry - Voices for Justice - Legislative Network | $160,437 |
| Refugee Resettlement Program | $25,978 |
| Catholic Social Service Administration | $99,588 |
| Regional Services | |
| Western Regional Office - Asheville<br>Hispanic Services - Adoption - Counseling - Crisis Intervention<br>Foster Care - Pregnancy Support | $185,272 |
| Charlotte Regional Office<br>Adoption, Counseling, Crisis<br>Intervention, Foster Care,<br>Pregnancy Support, Programa Esperanza | $274,184 |
| Piedmont Triad Office - Winston-Salem<br>Casa Guadalupe, Adoption,<br>Counseling, Crisis Intervention<br>Foster Care, Pregnancy Support | $261,229 |
| Multicultural Ministries | |
| African American | $22,050 |
| Hispanic Ministry | $323,440 |
| Hmong Ministry | $52,351 |
| Educational Ministries | |
| Faith Formation | $367,592 |
| Catholic Schools | $211,974 |
| Campus Ministry | $435,749 |
| Evangelization | $25,000 |
| Lay Ministry Training | $49,919 |
| Media Resources | $71,125 |
| Vicar's Office | $42,664 |
| Youth Ministry | $127,720 |
| Vocations | |
| Permanent Diaconate | $128,406 |
| Seminarian Education | $305,254 |
| Campaign Expenses | $168,723 |
| Total | $3,550,000 |

## ALLOCATION OF FUNDS



# Long history with Catholicism leads to permanent diaconate

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — John Hubbarth became a man at 15. As the oldest of the seven Hubbarth children, he became the head of the household after his father died of cancer in 1963. He and his father had been close, and it was a tough time for the teen. However, he assumed his new role and helped to take care of his family.

"My father was a major influence on my life, and it felt as if his passing was almost taking my youth," said Rev. Mr. Hubbarth. "He was a very loving man, and family was everything to him. His death was a tough time for all of us."

His father had been a daily communicant, and Hubbarth began accompanying his mother to church. "I felt it was my duty to go to church with her, and I fell into becoming a daily communicant. That is how I became familiar with the church."



Rev. Mr. and Mrs. John Hubbarth

Hubbarth's Catholic influence was multisided. His maternal aunt and great-aunt were women religious, and the family would visit them, staying at convents during their trips. He attended Catholic grade school, was an altar boy and would help wherever needed at his family's church in Detroit, Mich.

He attended one year at a high school staffed by Augustinian friars and spent the next three years of high school at an Augustinian seminary, graduating in 1965. Hubbarth set out on a course toward the priesthood — one he felt had been charted during childhood.

"I had always had the calling and wanted to be a priest. I saw that priests were kind and gentle and that working with people was the center of their ministry," he said of his year of the novitiate at St. Monica's Seminary in Wisconsin and his three years of simple vows. "I had much influence from priests, which showed me that it (the priesthood) was what I should have been doing."

During his junior year at Tolentine College in Illinois, however, he began to wonder if the priesthood was the path for him. He planned to take final vows in his senior year, but he was unsure of his decision: "I could not isolate what I wanted to do strictly to priesthood. I wanted to pursue other areas and wanted to leave. It was a very lonely and difficult decision, but I was at peace with it."

He transferred to Lewis University to finish his degree in social studies education and political science in 1970. Hubbarth returned home for the summer, and at the same time, Jane, off for summer break from college, was visiting her parents who had recently moved to Detroit.

He had come home covered in grease and tar from his summer job at Uniroyal when he spied his next-door neighbor cutting grass. Despite their outward appearances, they spotted one another and fell in love. "We saw each other at our worst and at our best," Rev. Mr. Hubbarth said.

Their whirlwind courtship was surrounded by the gusts of the Vietnam War and the draft. Hubbarth enlisted in the Air Force for the next five years in active and reserve duty.

They married in Dec. 1970 in Detroit in the midst of snow showers at the end of basic training. Five days after their wedding, they drove to Wyoming where Hubbarth had been stationed. After serving his last years in the Air Force in Dayton, Ohio, he decided to undertake another challenge — working as an insurance agent. "I was very shy in college," he said "and I was deciding what would help me to break my shyness. I had a difficult time with it, but I ended up breaking the habit."

In 1976, the Hubbarths moved back to Detroit, where he became a furniture manager for Ethan Allen. From assistant buyer to buyer, and from department manager to store manager, he found his calling — working with people. He enjoyed constant contact with the public and the daily, personal interaction with the customers.

While living in Ohio and Michigan during these years of professional growth, Hubbarth's spirituality somewhat lagged. However, he was about to make another transition. A newspaper article nudged him toward the permanent diaconate. "I think that part of my becoming a deacon concerned my wanting to know more about the church," he said. "I was intrigued with it (the article), but I put it away twice."

Reading the article a third time led to his initial inquiry into the diaconate. After moving back to Detroit, he applied and was accepted into the program. At first, his wife was not sure that it was best for them, but she was supportive of her husband.

"We went through the process," Mrs. Hubbarth said, "and I met other wives and realized how much we were included. I saw how it (the diaconate) respected family life, with faith topping the list of family, work and the diaconate as far as our lives were concerned. It was really beneficial to me to learn more, having converted to Catholicism several years before."

The diaconate in Michigan also benefited from the Hubbarths' new ministerial focus. While they lived in Kalamazoo, they worked to start the diaconate program there.

Wading through relocation and feelings of uncertainty, Hubbarth was ordained in 1983. His first baptism was the youngest of his three children, and it solidified his dedication to his role as a deacon: "There wasn't a dry eye in the church that day. I held her up and said 'This is our Christian and our daughter.'"

Human resources became his professional focus as he began 24 years in the finance industry. He learned about the inner workings of a bank and its employees and was promoted from assistant human resources manager to manager within five months at his first place of employment. He worked at three banks over the next 20 years before joining Wachovia. The Hubbarths were relocated to Winston-Salem more than four years ago, but Rev. Mr. Hubbarth was laid off in May 2001 after Wachovia merged with First Union.

Rev. Mr. Hubbarth brought his experience with people in professional and spiritual settings to North Carolina and to Our Lady of Mercy Church, where his ministries include RCIA, hospital work, adult education and spiritual direction.

He says that his wife, a second-grade teacher at St. Leo School in Winston-Salem, has supported his ministry for the duration and has influenced him in positive ways including helping with homily preparation. The grandfather of four is focused on being available for people in any capacity possible.

"(Being a) permanent deacon (involves) the ability to present Christ in a very silent mode and to allow the Holy Spirit to be present. Taking someone on a spiritual journey is beyond words, and the Holy Spirit has allowed me to be present in people's lives."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*




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## Feast of the Ascension moves to Sunday

THE MOST REV. WILLIAM G. CURLIN
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

In the Province of Atlanta (which includes the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Dioceses of Charlotte, Raleigh, Charleston, and Savannah) the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord will be observed on the seventh Sunday of Easter, May 12, 2002 rather than on the Thursday after the sixth Sunday of Easter.

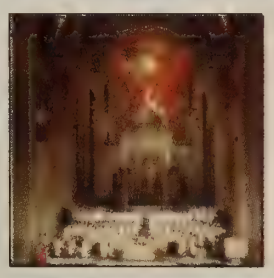
For some time and in many places around the world (including Rome, Italy), bishops have been concerned that the Thursday celebration of the feast has kept many of the faithful from observance of this holy day of obligation, which involves both a mandatory attendance at Mass and the contemplative removal from the world of work and other routine obligations. The Feast of the Ascension is important to Catholics as an integral part of the redemptive work of Christ — beginning with his betrayal, suffering and death; followed by the Easter celebration of his resurrection and concluding with the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

In order that it may be celebrated on Sunday, "the foremost holy day of obligation in the Universal Church," (Canon 1246), the Holy See has allowed the feast to be moved to the following Sunday. In the United States, approval to transfer the feast was obtained in 1999. By decree of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, authority to implement the change was granted to the ecclesiastical provinces. Many provinces, including most of those in the western part of the country, have already moved this feast. The change has also already been made in many counties around the world.

## Charlotte Diocese: March For Life




PHOTOS BY CHRIS KEANE



**Students from Charlotte Catholic High School make up the front line of the national March for Life Jan. 22 in Washington. The annual march solemnly marked the 29th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision that legalized abortion in America.**

**During the vigil Mass on Jan. 22, Philadelphia Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua told an overflow congregation that "neutrality is not an option" for Christians in the life-issues debate. Cardinal Bevilacqua is chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.**

# St. Gabriel parish scores high on evaluation project

BY MARY MARSHALL
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — For 18 days in January, Jesuit Father Thomas Sweetser, founder and director of Parish Evaluation Project (PEP), and Franciscan Sister Peg Bishop delved into every aspect of St. Gabriel's ministries and administrative functions as the parish sought new ways to come together and reach more parishioners in a more effective manner.

"Our goal is to see how the parish structures itself," Father Sweetser said. "Does it provide a framework for all it can be and reflect its basic values and missions? Six weeks prior to visiting a parish, we gather preliminary information. A random parish survey requests parishioners' input about the parish, its ministries, and activities. Then we spend 18 days within the parish, meeting with ministry leaders and parishioners and interviewing staff leaders. We work within five ministry areas: worship, formation, administration, family life, and outreach, assessing the strengths and needs of the parish through direct observation, personal interviews, and analysis of parish liturgies, programs and ministries."

"St. Gabriel's parish has many ministries," said Father Richard Bellow, pastor. "This evaluation gives us an opportunity to look at all our ministries and see how we can function in a more collaborative way to better serve our parish community as well as the larger community.

"PEP has been a great showing of energy, ideas, and a recommitment to continue the process of truly building the parish and all its goals and objectives. All parish activities have been reviewed. Staff leaders have been interviewed. A town meeting was held with 165 parishioners coming together to voice their hopes and dreams of what the parish can be. So much good is being done here."

Father Sweetser said that PEP is conducted at five parishes per year—St. Gabriel is their 16th parish. They will evaluate parishes in Los Angeles, Boston, Milwaukee, and Houston throughout this year.

"We raise the level of ownership as many people see there is a place for them in the parish," Father Sweetser said. "We try

SEE ST. GABRIEL, PAGE 4

# Assisi pilgrimage shows different religions have common commitment

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — The main emphasis at Pope John Paul II's Jan. 24 interreligious day of prayer for peace in Assisi was to show that followers of different religions shared a common commitment.

But differences among the groups were also on display, even in something as basic to the event as what "prayer" involves.

The various non-Christian groups were assigned nine separate rooms in a Franciscan convent for an hour of prayer between the event's morning and afternoon sessions, while the Christians gathered in the Lower Basilica of St. Francis.

Zoroastrians asked for a room with a window, since they start their prayers by lighting a fire, which they consider to be divine. For the sake of space, the one Jain and one Confucian representative joined them.

Black-cloaked Muslims alternated standing, kneeling and prostrating themselves on prayer rugs in the direction of Mecca, the Islamic holy city in Saudi Arabia.

Saffron-robed Buddhists sunk into meditation.

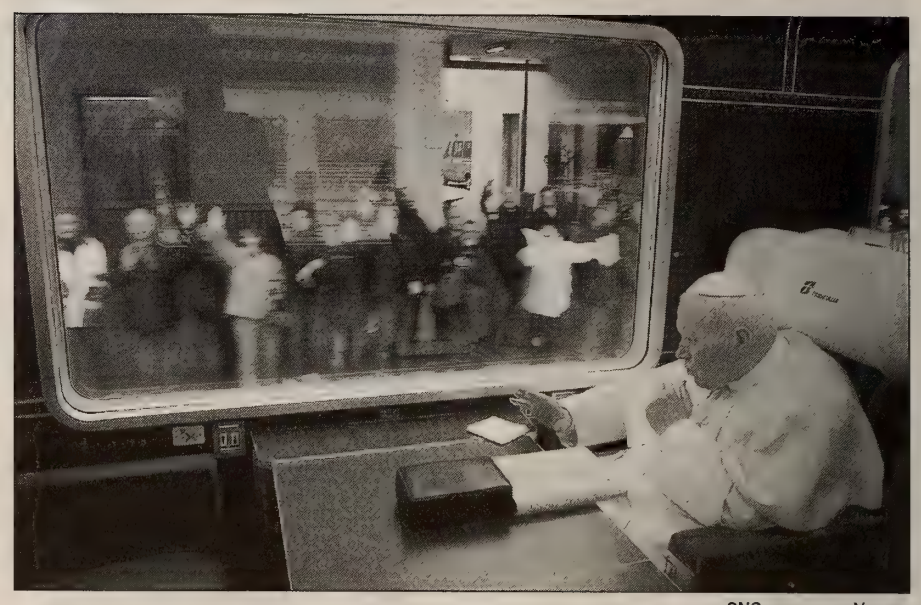
Followers of Tenrikyoism closed their eyes and slowly waved fans in a motion that symbolized sweeping away the "dust" of selfishness and arrogance.

African animists recited chants to ward off evil spirits and invoke the protection of good spirits.

Vatican interreligious officials have said the differences in prayer reflect differences in belief, explaining why Christians cannot "pray together" with non-Christians.

But Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, said before the January event that even praying in different rooms at the same time witnessed what the religions shared in common.

The cardinal said those values were "respect for God and the divine and the desire for God or the divine; respect for life; and the desire for peace with God or the divine, for peace among peoples and peace in the cosmos."



CNS PHOTO FROM VATICAN

**Pope travels by train to Assisi Peace Meeting**
**Well-wishers wave to Pope John Paul II as he heads to Assisi by train Jan. 24. He gathered with representatives of the world's religions at a spiritual summit in the home of St. Francis.**

### Assisi train balances pilgrimage-style travel and Italian hospitality

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Pope John Paul II asked Italy's railway to transport him and other religious leaders to Assisi, Italy, he specified that the train should be simple and as "normal as possible." Though delighted, railway officials were left facing a tricky balancing act: accommodating the pontiff's request for a pilgrimage-style voyage while still showing their illustrious passengers maximum Italian hospitality. The end result was a mostly harmonious blend of no-frills travel with subtle touches of elegance.

As the pope and more than 200 religious leaders boarded the train Jan. 24 at the Vatican's tiny railway station, they were "issued" specially minted silver tickets, pre-punched for the round-trip journey.

### Pope, in Assisi, says religious leaders want to help end terrorism

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — Saying religious leaders wanted to do their part to fend off "the dark clouds of terrorism, hatred (and) armed conflict," Pope John Paul II led an interreligious pilgrimage to Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis. The winter sky above Assisi was leaden with thick clouds Jan. 24, but the pope and more than 200 religious leaders were protected from the cold wind and the afternoon rain by a huge tarp and plastic sheeting that turned lower St. Francis Square into a tent. "Violence never again," the pope said at the end of the afternoon meeting. "War never again. Terrorism never again," he said. "In the name of God, may every religion bring upon the earth justice and peace, forgiveness and life, love," the 81-year-old pope said before his guests set lighted glass and terracotta oil lamps on a large table as a sign of hope.

### Vatican official says Catholics can't ignore existence of other faiths

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — The fact that the world's people have a wide variety of religious faiths cannot be ignored,

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**February 10 — Noon**
New Year's Celebration
St. Joseph Vietnamese Church, Charlotte

**February 11 — 2:30 p.m.**
Concelebrant at bishops' ordination
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington D.C.

**February 15 — 10 a.m.**
Finance council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

**February 17 — 2 p.m.**
Rite of election
Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro

**February 19-20**
Guest speaker at Newman University
Wichita, Kan.

## Diocesan planner

**February**

**3** BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., will be having an anniversary celebration after 11 a.m. Mass in the parish hall. This is the seventh year of the gathering. All are invited to attend. For details about the celebration, call the church office at (704) 825-5277.

**6** BOONE — In honor of the silver anniversary of St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way, and the signing of the covenant agreement between the church and St. Luke Episcopal Church, an ecumenical celebration will take place at St. Luke, 170 Councill St., tonight at 7 p.m. Also, on Feb. 9, a musical production, "Sermon on the Plain," will be presented at St. Elizabeth at 7:30 p.m. The play, written and directed by Rita Pisano, is based on the sixth chapter of Luke's Gospel. For further information, call Tom Bracken at (828) 264-1445.

**6** CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will be having a meeting with a luncheon and program with Linda Vaughan from Visiting Angels at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information about the group or the Knights of Columbus Council 770-sponsored bingo held every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. also at the church, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**6** CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church will conduct a session on grief and AIDS tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. in the ministry center. Bob Robinson, facilitator, will help people deal with the emotions and grief that AIDS patients and their families feel during their illness and after death. If interested in RAIN ministry or grief education, call the church office at (704) 362-5047.

**7** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Ladies' Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. in Greens-



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

**Assisi Peace Summit members place lighted lamps**
**Members of the Assisi peace meeting called by Pope John Paul II leave lighted oil lamps as a sign of solidarity and hope for peace Jan. 24. Fifteen Christian denominations and 11 other religions were represented at the spiritual summit in Italy.**

especially when one is promoting faith-based initiatives for peace, said Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger. Pope John Paul II, the cardinal and other Vatican leaders emphasized that Christians and non-Christians would not pray together when they gathered in Assisi, since they do not share the same faith. But the fact that they cannot pray together does not mean that they should not gather in support of peace, the cardinal said. "It is a simple fact that other religions exist, and we must take that into account," he said. Cardinal Ratzinger, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, was a late addition to the passenger list for the Jan. 24 train that brought Pope John Paul and some 200 religious leaders to Assisi to pray separately and to witness together to the need for peace. The cardinal said the pope's initiative was "a strong signal for peace."

### Assisi tourism, recovered from earthquake, hit by post-Sept. 11 fears

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — Assisi's tourism industry, which was back on its feet two years after a 1997 earthquake, was shaken again in September. But some Franciscans hoped the Jan. 24 interreligious gathering led by Pope John Paul II would help restore tourist confidence. Hotels and guesthouses catering to North American pilgrims were hit hardest by the tourist drought that followed the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. The Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, who run a small guesthouse popular among English-speaking visitors, said they hoped the Assisi gathering with the pope would restore people's sense of hope and would help them discover the "spirit of Assisi."

### CD-ROMs left at tomb of St. Francis express desire for peace

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — Three CD-ROMs set before the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi contain prayers, prose and drawings expressing the desires for peace of hundreds of people from around the world. The three compact discs contain the first 300 contributions sent to the Conventual Franciscans at Assisi through their new Web site, www.sanfrancesco.org, said Father Enzo Fortunato, spokesman for the Assisi Franciscan community. The Franciscans began accepting the contributions in connection with Pope John Paul II's Jan. 24 interreligious meeting for peace in Assisi, but the priest said Jan. 23 that they would continue indefinitely.

### Orthodox absence at Assisi due to members' uneasiness, says bishop

ROME (CNS) — The Greek Orthodox Church's absence at the interfaith prayer meeting in Assisi Jan. 24 did not reflect ecumenical misgivings among church leaders but uneasiness among its faithful, a Greek Orthodox bishop said. "The archbishops and metropolitans want to cooperate with the Catholic Church, but they also have a responsibility to their faithful, many of whom are not yet prepared for dialogue," Bishop Athanasios of Achaia told the Italian newspaper Avvenire in an interview. Many Greek Orthodox believers were opposed to the Assisi encounter not only because other Christian churches were involved, but because of the presence of non-Christian religions, Bishop Athanasios said. "We need time to make our communities understand that, for example, praying with animists does not mean falling into the practice of syncretism" or the indiscriminate mixing of religious beliefs, he said. The Greek Orthodox Church was the most notable no-show at the Asisi meeting, which brought together more than 200 representatives from 12 major religions to pray for peace in the world.

### Vatican seems tired of same old Russian Orthodox accusations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A decade of difficult relations has not kept the Vatican and the Russian Orthodox Church from speaking to each other, but Vatican officials increasingly are showing signs that they are tired of hearing the same old accusations. The high-level participation of the Russian Orthodox Church in Pope John Paul II's Jan. 24 interreligious meeting for peace in Assisi was welcomed as a sign of hope at the Vatican. Of the more than 200 participating leaders, Metropolitan Pitirim, Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei II's vicar for Moscow, was the only non-patriarch to have a private meeting with Pope John Paul. In addition, Vatican sources confirmed that Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, would travel to Moscow in February for meetings with Patriarch Alexei and top officials of the Russian church.

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**9** CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo community will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight and every second Saturday of the month for a school of leaders at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For further information, call Ky Do at (704) 532-9094.

**9** DENVER — The Knights of Columbus Council 10389 will hold its annual Italian Night Dinner at Holy Spirit Church parish hall, 537 Hwy. 16 North, tonight at 7 p.m. Chefs Pat and Marie Lisi will be cooking a feast of Italian foods including soups, pasta and dessert. The dinner is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. For tickets or information, call the church office at (704) 483-6448 or Pat Lisi at (704) 896-7735.

**9** MAGGIE VALLEY — Couples are invited to spend the weekend together in faith, love and marriage. The Overnight Retreat for Sweethearts is being held Feb. 9-10 beginning at 5 p.m. with a sweetheart dinner at Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane. There will also be a Lenten conference, faith sharing, breakfast and a renewal of marriage vows. For further details, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

**10** MORGANTON — The 6th Annual Valentine Tea for Chocolate Lovers to benefit church renovations will be held this afternoon from 2-4 p.m. in Murray Hall at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 728 West Union St. The menu features: Cupid's chocolate delight, snow-drenched chocolate cheesecake, brownie decadence, divine mocha mousse, chocolate-kissed strawberries, champagne, tea, coffee and hot chocolate. For questions, call Anne Bourg at (828) 437-3996.

**10** CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

**10** CHARLOTTE — Members of Catholic Singles of Charlotte will be having their Newcomers' Week beginning today. Those interested will hear more about the group of singles ages 21 and up and their activities. The week will end with a Valentine's Day party on Feb. 16. For more information, contact Frances Wiggins at (704) 367-0464 or e-mail cathsinglesclt@aol.com.

**11** CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

**12** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Arthritis Support and Education Group will meet this morning from 10-11 a.m. in Room D of the parish ministry center located at 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**12** HICKORY — Pastoral care training, a branch of diocesan volunteer ministry, is designed to train parish volunteers to provide pastoral care to the elderly in retirement facilities, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, memory-impaired facilities and the homebound. All training sessions will be held at St. Aloysius Church, 921 2nd St. NE, tonight and Feb. 19 from 7-9 p.m. For registration and information, call Jenny Robinson at (828) 438-0774 or Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220.

### Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — All married couples are invited to participate in the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter the weekend of Mar. 1-3 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel. Marriage Encounter is a 44-hour period when couples can take time off from families, work and other responsibilities to focus on each other to grow spiritually and emotionally as one. For more information or reservations, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life celebrated, remembered

**FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS**

CHARLOTTE — Around the country each year, the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is honored with tributes, parades and forums honoring the life and work of slain civil rights leader. Assassinated in April 1968 in Memphis, Tenn., at the age of 39, King preached about socioeconomics, politics and race relations surrounded by spirituality and acceptance of all people as God's children.

"The ultimate goal is to literally change the way this holiday is celebrated, for our children's sake and for our country's sake," said Ron Landfair, director of Black Catholic Ministry in the Lansing Diocese, to The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Diocese of Metuchen, N.J.

"I think the church struggles with Dr. King because he's not Catholic," Landfair said. "We see the luncheons and rallies that take place in his name, but how do we acknowledge his denominational relationship and still come up with a way to honor him? When you talk about martyrdom and self-sacrifice, what greater gift, beyond money, can we offer but blood, which is life for the good of the community?"

While every King holiday has been a national "teach-in" of sorts on the values of nonviolence, "education without compassion is a dangerous tool," said Stephanie Ansaldo, founder and president of the Echo Foundation in Charlotte. Ansaldo spoke Jan. 21 at the seventh annual Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast, co-sponsored by Benedictine University in Lisle, Ill. "The more you work for justice, the more you see the injustice," said Ansaldo, who was raised in the pre-civil rights South.

In the Charlotte diocese this year, the Annual Memorial Celebration for Martin Luther King, Jr. will take a new direction. In response to the nationwide call to all dioceses from the National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC), the diocesan ministry will conduct a day of reflection combining the annual King celebration and Black History Month in February. Scheduled Feb. 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, the 2002 King Celebration will consist of presentations and discussions from AAAM board members and is a continuation of NBCC President Dr. Hilbert Stanley's presentation at the 2001 King celebration.

"The NBCC asked dioceses to schedule a diocesan-wide day of reflection to present the NBCC Declaration of Principles and Pastoral Plan of Action and the development of three action plans by attendees. The new direction of the Congress and the two documents are designed to provide guidance for black Catholics as well as people of the wider church in the United States, so as to contribute to the evangelization efforts and the leadership direction in the apostolate serving people of African descent," said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor and vicar for African-American Affairs in an interview with The Catholic News & Herald.

Nationwide, dioceses commemorated King's life and celebrated his work at several Catholic events held in connection with his birthday observance Jan. 15 and the Jan. 21 federal holiday.

Rev. King's life and "efforts for fairness as evidenced by the marches and protests he and others led are like a continuing symphony, a strong plea for equal rights and human dignity for all citizens of our country, and, in fact, for peoples of the entire world," said Auxiliary Bishop Leonard J. Olivier of Washington in a homily at a Jan. 15 Mass at the headquarters building of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The King holiday "has, to a significant degree, made all peoples aware of the preeminent need for peace and justice," Bishop Olivier added. "And we, ourselves, as disciples and ambassadors of Jesus Christ, because of that awareness, are more courageous, forward, and vocal in living the Gospel of peace and justice that Jesus preaches."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

*Catholic News Service contributed to this story.*

# St. Gabriel, from page 1

to be completely open with the concerns of the parish, using the potential that is there. We talk to each section of the staff, uncovering what they can do. At the conclusion of the two weeks, the PEP team presents its report of observations and recommendations to the parish leadership."

"Each of the five areas evaluates and coordinates what is going on in their area. Each commission has a staff person as a resource for guidance of church doctrine and policy," said Sister Peg.

The pastoral council—the pastor and two people from the five areas—prepared a parish covenant book. This book defines structure, goals, purpose, and actions, as well as how decisions and procedures are made.

For the next six months, they will begin to implement what has been discussed. At the end of this period, Father Sweetser and Sister Peg will return to facilitate these leaders in their accomplishments. They will ask what is working and what is not and make the necessary adaptations. At St. Gabriel, the five ministries chose their theme, "Welcoming celebrations that encourage active participation in such a manner as to create a hunger to return."

At the Sunday Masses Jan. 26 and 27, Father Sweetser and Sister Peg spoke to all parishioners about the new directions and goals. "What does the Lord want of us?" Sister Peg asked. "Through our ministries, we follow Christ by prayer, interconnecting, growing, caring, and giving."


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# Doctor duo treat medical, spiritual, social needs in the foothills

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

LENOIR — Dr. Vicente Diaz-Gonzalez, and his wife, Dr. Grissell Gonzalez, make their way downstairs with almost everyone else who has just attended the Mass in Spanish at St. Francis of Assisi Sunday morning. They are headed for the parish hall, where volunteers have prepared a midmorning meal of soft tacos for anyone who wants to stay and talk.

It takes a while for them to get downstairs. They greet many people on their way and are stopped by many others who want to talk with them.

When Diaz-Gonzalez emerges from the stairwell, he is holding a tiny, brown-eyed baby girl wearing a teal-blue dress with white lace and lots of ruffles. "This is my new goddaughter," he says with a smile.

Although the couple has only been in Lenoir for six months, they are well known in the church. "They've just been a real blessing to the community, not just because of their medical expertise but because they're so bilingual," says Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, interim diocesan director of Hispanic Ministry.

Diaz-Gonzalez and his wife met while studying medicine at LaSalle University in Mexico City. "We were friends for many years, and then she decided she wanted to go out with me," he says. They have been married for four years.

Since leaving medical school, Diaz-Gonzalez has completed a research fellowship in infectious diseases at the University of Texas in Houston and residencies at Brookdale Hospital in Brooklyn, N.Y., and at Morristown Memorial Hospital in Morristown, N.J. He specializes in pediatrics and internal medicine at Collettsville Medical Center and Happy Valley Medical Center and has privileges at Caldwell Memorial Hospital.





Photos by Ellen Neerincx Sigmon

**Pictured left, Dr. Vincente Diaz-Gonzalez and his wife, Grissell Gonzalez, stand in front of the St. Francis of Assisi Church hall in Lenoir, where they conduct many of their services for the Hispanic community. Pictured right, seated from left to right, Esther Borja, Dr. Diaz-Gonzalez's mother; Dr. Vincente Diaz-Gonzalez; Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott; and Grissell Gonzalez gather in the parish hall.**

Gonzalez has not done her residency yet but plans to specialize in working with developmentally challenged children or in speech therapy and audiology.

Lenoir is a big change for the couple after living in New York City. "I like it, but it's tiny," Diaz-Gonzalez said. "The most important thing is that I'm helping a lot of people. There are a lot of medically underserved areas here in this state. They need a Hispanic medical resource that understands them."

North Carolina is very different from New York in that respect, Diaz-Gonzalez said, because New York is used to dealing with a large population of immigrants.

"The state is not prepared because they don't know the magnitude of the problem," he said. "They have been laying off people by the hundreds here. You can't make jobs out of nothing, but they are staying. Most of them bring their whole family. There are no monies allocated. They are not counted in the census, but they're here. All of these people need medical assistance. All of these people need spiritual assistance."

The couple has been helping with the spiritual aspect as well. Gonzalez serves on the parish council and interprets for the other Hispanic members on the council. She is also helping to tutor Father Matthew Leonard, parish administrator, who is taking Spanish classes. Diaz-Gonzalez serves on the Latino Committee for Hispanic Activities at the church and interprets Father Leonard's homilies during Spanish Masses.

"He's the fast translator," Father Leonard joked.

Gonzalez hints that her husband does not always do a direct translation. Diaz-Gonzalez defends himself: "He gives me five sentences at a time. Sometimes I arrange things so people can make sense of him. It's very difficult for me to translate verbatim because he puts a lot of feeling into it. He brings in a lot of people. They like him."

Looking around the room, Gonzalez points out the women serving food at one end of the parish hall and a large group of people around several tables at the other end. "As the parish has grown, we have a lot more people to help now," she said. "We collect money for the food and give it to the church."

The large group at the other end of the hall is learning about other ways they can volunteer at the church, she said. Diaz-Gonzalez said that the number of people who come to the parish hall after the Mass in Spanish has doubled in the last few months. Gonzalez begins talking to a woman with a baby and is giving her directions to one of the medical centers where her husband works.

"They (the Hispanic immigrants) come here to find out what they can do in this country," Diaz-Gonzalez said, "but the country is not prepared."

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### NRLC leaders say human cloning most immediate issue for lawmakers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The legislative director of the National Right to Life Committee said Jan. 22 that human cloning is the biggest pro-life issue currently confronting federal lawmakers. "The most significant pro-life issue to face Congress during the immediate future is whether human embryo farms will be permitted to start up in the United States," Douglas Johnson said at a Washington press conference held on the 29th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision. Johnson and several other top NRLC executives gave an overview of their organization's recent activities and its focus for the upcoming year.

### HUD secretary hopes for more church-federal joint projects

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In an agency that has for years successfully collaborated with religious institutions, HUD Secretary Mel Martinez sees room to expand those relationships. Martinez, head of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, told members of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Policy Jan. 23 that he would like to see further participation by church-based groups in housing programs, and at a more local level than has been common so far. For instance, Bishop Curtis J. Guillory of Beaumont, Texas, told Martinez he thinks many poor people are not aware of the types of assistance they could get to improve their housing situations. Martinez said he would like to see individual parishes providing help in such areas, by offering homeowner education classes, or assistance in applying for housing programs.

### The script's the thing, says 'Monte Cristo' star

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Script quality is what drew Catholic actor Jim Caviezel to the new film "The Count of Monte Cristo," which opened nationwide Jan. 25. "I look for good scripts" with "some redeemable factor" in the story, Caviezel said in a telephone interview from Hollywood with Catholic News Service. "It does not mean I have to be the redeemable character." In "The Count of Monte Cristo," however, Caviezel's character is the redeemable one. In post-Napoleonic France, he plays Edmond Dantes, who is unjustly sent to a prison island for treason, and, after his unlikely escape, he plots his revenge on those whom he believes betrayed him. "Edmond Dantes represents innocence. His faith is tested by injustice, and he becomes vengeful," but after 13 years in prison he finds God again, Caviezel told CNS.



PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

**"We are here to tell America the truth about abortion," said Nellie Gray, founder of the annual March for Life. Bishop William G. Curlin once served as pastor and spiritual director to Gray.**


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# Fighting the good fight

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE—Before thousands of Carolinians answered the call to March for Life in Washington, many called on their parishes and diocesan schools as they set out to map their journeys.

Chances are good these diocesan entities talked with Maggi Fitzpatrick Nadol as group plans for the annual March for Life shaped into organized pilgrimages supporting the sanctity of life.

"It's humbling to see so many dedicated people who have been involved for so long," Nadol said, adding that it is the laity who keep the church on its pro-life track: "So many people ... who fight the good fight."

As Respect Life coordinator for the Diocese of Charlotte, Nadol is liaison and resource for pro-life activities across the 46-county diocese. Recent years has seen many parishes include pro-life coordinators, and Nadol remains an invaluable resource as she shares a wealth of information and knowledge on issues of life.

Nadol has been on the front line of Respect Life efforts in the diocese for more than a decade. Her fevering voice is unwavering on issues of life.

"Issues at the heart of the Respect Life appear complicated because they evoke such emotion," Nadol said. "In reality, respect for life is so simple and should permeate and be the foundation of every ministry. If you don't have the respect for life, it makes every ministry a moot point."

*The Office of Respect Life is one of the 35 programs and ministries that receives funds from the Annual Diocesan Support Appeal.*




*"Planting Seeds of Hope"*

# March rallies forces for life



By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

WASHINGTON — Although some of the youth from Hendersonville spoke little English, the March for Life, rally, and Masses transcended language barriers, speaking the language of life.

Yazmin Zaragoca, 17, one of the teens from Immaculate Conception parish in Hendersonville called the experience beautiful. Zaragoca is part of a growing trend in those attending the annual Life rally: Young people coming in droves to stand tall in support of life. "It's very nice, because you do not usually see people our age coming to church and coming for this purpose ... is pretty neat," Zaragoca said.

Students from Charlotte Catholic High School, Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville, and Belmont Abbey College joined their peers from parishes across the 46-county Charlotte diocese for this annual pilgrimage. The teens and young adults converged upon the nation's capital with prayers and hopes for the sanctity of life.

## Words of faith for the faithful

Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia told an overflowing crowd at the Jan. 21 vigil Mass for Life in Washington that "neutrality is not an option" and "silence is not a choice" in the ongoing "crisis in the defense of human life."

"To be Christian means that no disciple of Christ can responsibly take a 'pro-choice' stand when the 'choice' involves the taking of innocent human life," Cardinal Bevilacqua said.

Using "more direct language," he added, "It must be said that no one can consider himself or herself a true Christian who consciously supports abortion or euthanasia."

The vigil Mass, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, is held the night before the annual March for Life, which itself marks the anniversary of the Jan. 22, 1973, U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion virtually on demand.

In his homily at a Jan. 22 Mass prior to the start of the annual March for Life, Bishop William G. Curlin, of the Diocese of Charlotte, urged the congregation to "ask our dear Lord today that, as we march for the defense of innocent life, that grace will fall upon all those responsible for this tragedy."

"The defense of life is not something you just say with your lips, it is something that is part of your blood, part of the breadth of your life," the bishop said. "As Cardinal Bevilaqua said, do not be silent about it. Tell all the people about the sanctity of life, especially the unborn we celebrate today. All life is God's sacred gift; we should use it to praise him. Please take the message home with you and be apostles, be evangelists of God's love."

## A rally for the Masses

In the shadow of the Washington Monument, tens of thousands of marchers gathered to hear a diverse collection of political and religious leaders focused on one goal: "We are here to tell America the truth about abortion," said Nellie Gray, founder of the annual March for Life.

At the 29th annual observance of the Supreme Court's decision, President Bush spoke to the marchers via telephone from West Virginia, where he was visiting a manufacturing plant to talk about the economy.

"This marks 30 years of marching for life," he said, "a great example of an inspiring commitment. Everybody there believes, as I do, that every life is valuable, that our society has a responsibility to defend the vulnerable and weak, the imperfect and even unwanted; and that our nation should set a great goal—that unborn children should be welcomed in life and protected in law. Life should never be used as a tool or as a means to an end."

## Carrying the banner for life

A general calm seemed to follow the marchers as they made their way from the Washington Monument down Constitution Avenue toward the Supreme Court. At the beginning of the route, a heckler tried to get a reaction from the crowd, but did not get much of a response from marchers; many were praying the rosary or shouting chants of "Roe vs. Wade has got to go!"

Leading the March for Life were students from Charlotte Catholic High School. "It's a great honor, said Annie Hoffman, on the prestige of carrying the March for Life banner. The (CCHS) 10th grader saw it as a visible extension of her faith. "We can show it (our faith) off by holding the flag. It shows that the youth are involved too."

"It's a big honor because we're saying what we believe in and that is a big thing," said Megan Wray, also in the 10th grade." It makes you feel like you can change something."

"This is a great opportunity for the students to witness to their peers, that this is important for all of us, the young and old, to take part in this whole movement," said Franciscan Father Stephen Hoyt, CCHS campus minister. "This is everyone's business. It is something that we all need to be involved in. And that is the only way that we are not only going to change legislation, but actually the minds and hearts of all people: To understand, we need to respect life and see the dignity of all human life."

Joining in the 2002 March were students from Bishop McGuinness High School (BMHS) in Kernersville. The 32-student coalition faced challenges in making the trip. Final exams were scheduled the day they were to participate in their first March for Life. However, a supportive principal wanted his students to participate.

A driving force for the BMHS participation came from theology instructor, Andreas Montana. This was his third March, the previous life rally experiences from his former high school. "I hope my students will feel that we are here to celebrate life, and we are here to stand up for what we think is right," said Montana.

## The masses converge en mass

While the pilgrimage to Washington brought the faithful together in faith, it took great acts of faith to facilitate the details. Parishes and schools leased busses and vans or carpooled. Tony Petite, Knights of Columbus state deputy, extended monetary offers to any council in the state in need of stipends to cover travel expenses for parishioners. Two busloads arrived in Washington from the Hendersonville and Asheville area thanks to the Knights' generosity.

"As long as we have the money, they are going to get it," Petite said. "There's not a better cause. If doing this could save only one baby, it would be all worth it."

*Catholic News Service contributed to this article.*

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336, or e-mail, jskeane@charlottediocse.org*

# Charlotte Diocese Marches For Life

**Charlotte Catholic High School students carry the March for Life banner, leading the Jan. 22 March for Life in Washington. The Diocese of Charlotte was well represented with hundreds of individuals included with an estimated 100,000 participants, who were the most visible sign of opposition to abortion on the 29th anniversary of the Supreme Court Roe vs. Wade decisions legalizing abortion.**

**Included on these pages are youthful participants from Charlotte Catholic High School, Bishop McGuinness High School, Belmont Abbey College, and Hispanic youth from Immaculate Conception parish in Hendersonville.**



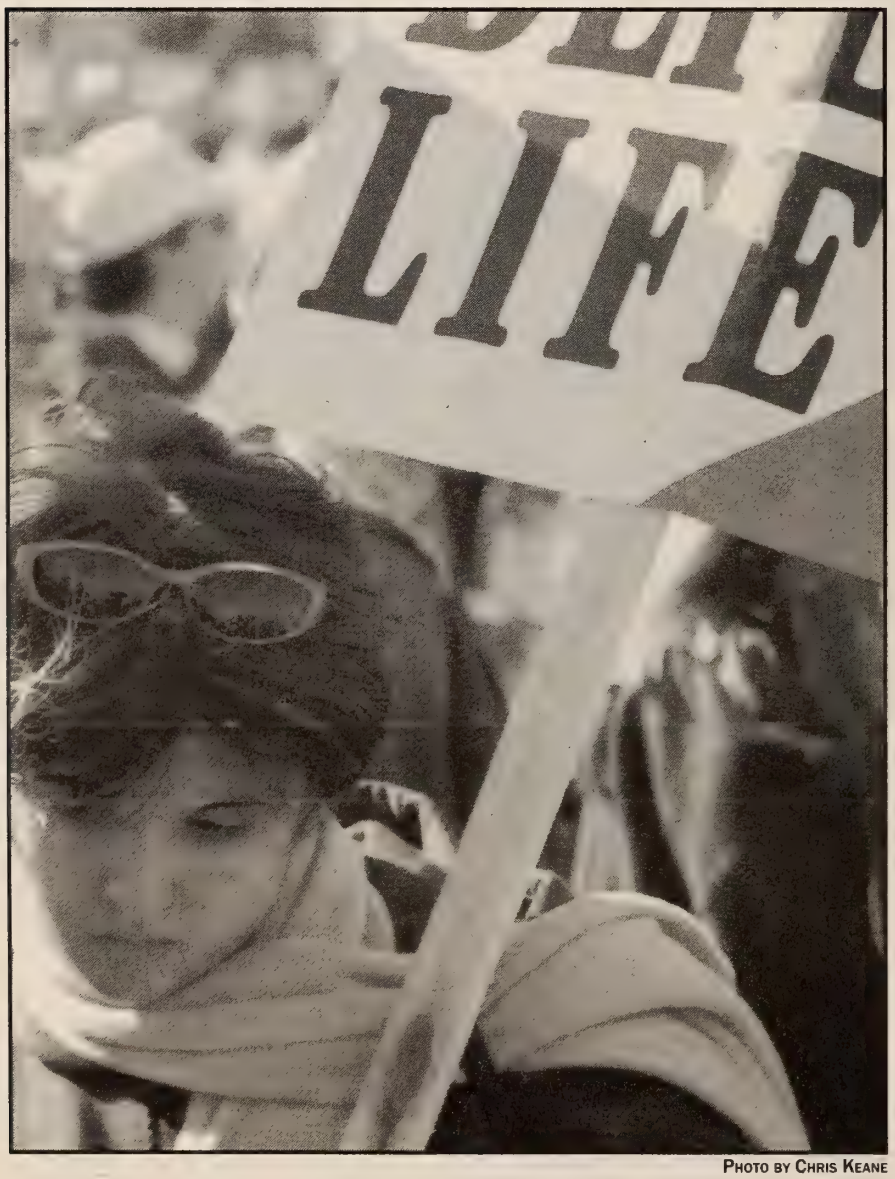




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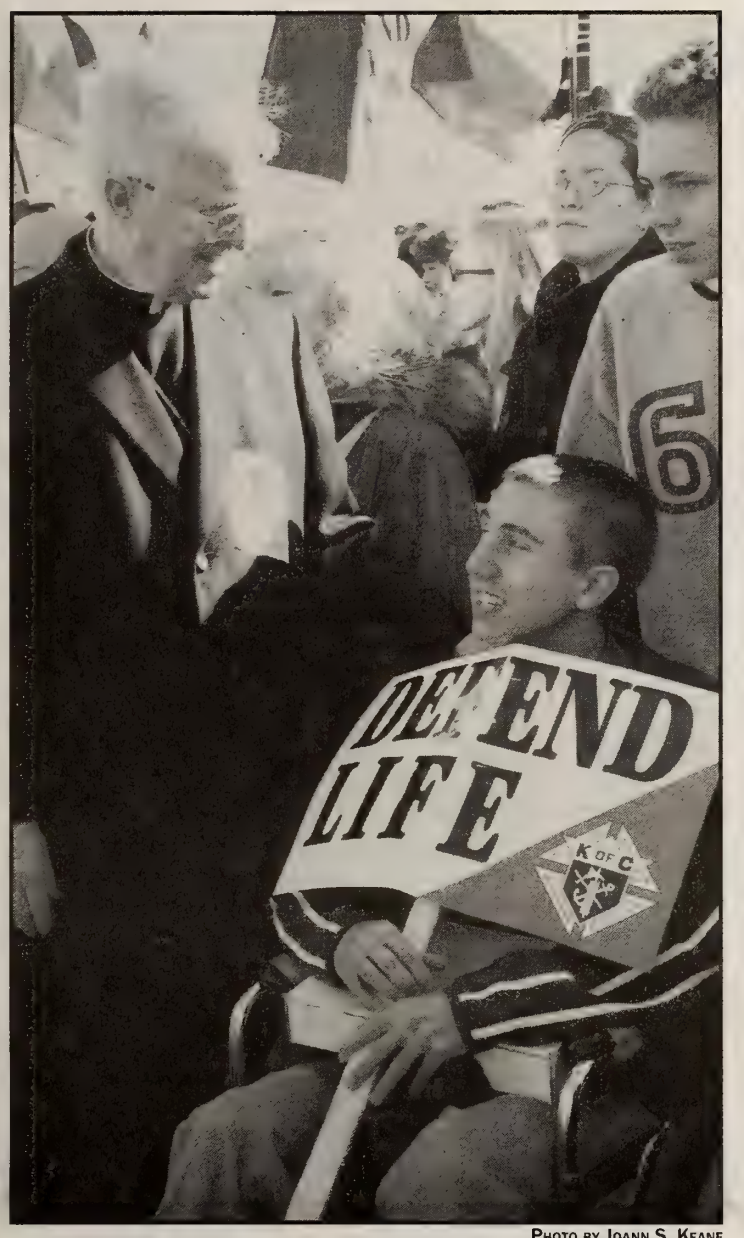



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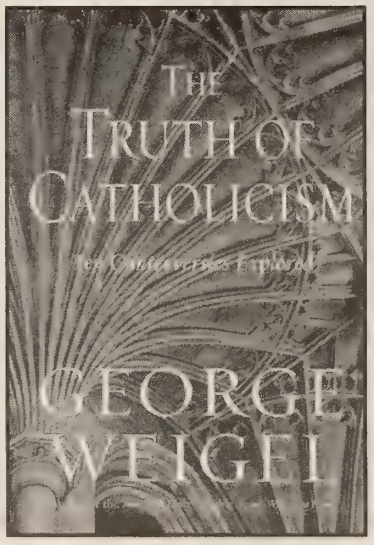
**Book Review**

# Book tackles much-debated subjects within Catholicism

REVIEWED BY FATHER JAMES MASSA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The new evangelization of the new millennium, Pope John Paul II tells us, is a twofold task. Catholics must bring the Gospel to those who have not yet heard of Jesus Christ and reach out to those estranged from the church. It is for this latter group that papal biographer George Weigel has written "The Truth of Catholicism: Ten Controversies Explored."

***THE TRUTH OF CATHOLICISM: TEN CONTROVERSIES EXPLORED,* by George Weigel. HarperCollins/Cliff Street (New York, 2001). 208 pp., $24.**




As he did in "Witness to Hope," his highly acclaimed biography of Pope John Paul II, Weigel seeks to demonstrate that the truth of Catholicism is ultimately the truth about human existence.

This assertion is a tough sell. Weigel himself knows firsthand how the church today frequently evokes hatred and scorn, especially among those who think its teachings dehumanize and marginalize them. As one of the leading commentators on Catholic life and belief in the United States, he has frequently faced off with secular and more liberal Christian critics. This book originates from Weigel's encounter with many misconceptions about Catholic teaching and practice during his 16-month book tour for the papal biography.

Weigel brings considerable theological expertise to the 10 controversies — such difficult issues as the uniqueness of Christ among the religions, the all-male priesthood within the symbolic structure of worship, the invincible bond between sex and monogamous marriage, the co-existence of suffering and faith in a loving God, and the compatibility of Catholicism with American democracy. This last topic, which Weigel has written about before, has a new urgency today when anti-democratic forces threaten terror at home.

Weigel draws most heavily on the theology of Pope John Paul, in addition to authors who helped shape Vatican II. The current pope, like his church, resists the facile categories of liberal and conservative. He is best understood as an evangelizer who views dialogue with those of other beliefs as a core aspect of his ministry.

This concise book leads the reader to a penetrating engagement with the core convictions of Catholicism. It is a useful guide to candidates for full initiation into the Catholic Church, as well as to other adult believers who simply want a better grounding in the essentials of their faith. Younger undergraduates enrolled in introductory courses in theology can benefit from Weigel's ability to show the practical import of church doctrine for their own lives. Far from being the "excess baggage weighing Catholics down on the journey of faith," the author contends, doctrine is the "vehicle that enables the journey to take place."

Catholic apologetics has perennially taken its cue from the First Letter of Peter, in which the apostle exhorts his readers to be prepared always to explain the reason for the hope that is in them (3:15). Peter then insists that this be done "with gentleness and respect."

"The Truth of Catholicism" represents perhaps the best in Catholic apologetics today, not only for demonstrating so compellingly the hope that continues to inhere in the Catholic vision of life, but also for treating with particular gentleness and respect the concerns of those who do not yet embrace this vision.

*Father Massa is an associate professor of theology at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, N.Y.*

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings:*
*Feb. 3, 2002*
**Cycle A Readings:**
**February 3, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
1) Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13
Psalm 146:7-10
2) 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
3) Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

While the crowd chanted during the final seconds before midnight in Times Square, I watched the glittering ball begin its traditional descent. I wondered about the people whose names had been etched in the Waterford crystal sections of the ball. Did they watch last year's celebration? Perhaps some of them were actually among last year's revelers on the street in Times Square. Last year they would have been strangers to us. This year their passing permeates our thoughts and prayer; moreover, it has left an indelible mark deep in our hearts.

In the days since Sept. 11, we have become kin to a bright little boy and his teacher who board a plane one morning to take a trip of a lifetime. We mourn with the young man who proposes to his girlfriend and slips a sparkling ring on her finger just before he kisses her goodbye at Logan Airport. A grandmother lives today because some firefighters risk staying behind to help her when the building literally is collapsing around them. The firefighters later realize that they are alive because they stopped to help this exhausted woman. Without her they would have perished in the rubble.

In the skies over Pennsylvania, some ordinary passengers do something quite extraordinary in the face of great danger, to save lives and to preserve our Capitol. They pray together. Then united, they take action that ends in a once quiet field.

The limp form of a Franciscan priest speaks to us of a life of dedication to God and humanity.

When the glittering ball ends its journey at the stroke of midnight, I think of all the innocent men, women and children. In the face of great evil, they are constant reminders of what is truly good and important in our lives.

Ironically, they have become a modern light to the nation.

When we read Matthew's account of the Sermon on the Mount in this week's Gospel, the timeless words of Jesus take on a deeper, more poignant ring. They comfort us, yet they challenge us. Terrorism has now invaded our shores, but we the living hear the call to be a light to the nations, an ever-faithful remnant, who know suffering but remain faithful to the words of Jesus.

**QUESTION:**
*How has the tragedy of Sept. 11 made you more aware of the need to put love of God, family and others first in your life?*

**SCRIPTURE TO ILLUSTRATE:**
*"The Lord protects strangers; the fatherless and the widow he sustains, but the way of the wicked he thwarts"* (Psalm 146:9).

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Feb. 3 - Feb. 9**

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Matthew 5:1-12; **Monday,** 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13, Mark 5:1-20; **Tuesday (St. Agatha),** 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14, 24-25, 30—19:3, Mark 5:21-43; **Wednesday (St. Paul Miki & Companions),** 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17, Mark 6:1-6; **Thursday,** 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12, Mark 6:7-13; **Friday (St. Jerome Emiliani),** Sirach 47:2-11, Mark 6:14-29; **Saturday,** 1 Kings 3:4-13, Mark 6:30-34

**Scripture for the week of Feb. 10 - Feb. 16**

**Sunday (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Isaiah 58:7-10, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Matthew 5:13-16; **Monday (Our Lady of Lourdes),** 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13, Mark 6:53-56; **Tuesday,** 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30, Mark 7:1-13; **Wednesday (Ash Wednesday),** Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Luke 9:22-25; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 58:1-9, Matthew 9:14-15; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 58:9-14, Luke 5:27-32

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**Movie Review**

# "Jubilee Singers: Sacrifice and Glory," Feb. 10, PBS

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The story of a brave group of former slaves who used their voices to keep their financially troubled university afloat as well as battle prejudice and oppression is the subject of "The American Experience" series' absorbing documentary, "Jubilee Singers: Sacrifice and Glory" to be rerun Sunday, Feb. 10, 10-11 p.m. EST on PBS (check local listings).

Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn., was opened by the American Mission Association to educate former slaves. It taught the freed slaves how to count their wages, write the new names they had chosen for themselves, and read the ballot and the Bible.

The Jubilee Singers started as an inspired fund-raising experiment for the impoverished school by its treasurer, George Leonard White. Although charged with keeping the school financially sound, White's passion was music. At the school he found that many of the students were gifted singers and formed a choir.

His idea to take these singers on the road to raise money for Fisk met with resistance even before he left: Parents were afraid to let their children go; fellow school teachers opposed the tour; and the American Mission Association refused to help, fearing that the chorus' appeal for funds would jeopardize their own fund-raising activities.

"Jubilee Singers: Sacrifice and Glory" describes the rocky beginning these young people and their determined leader had as well as the success that brought funds and fame when they began singing Negro spirituals. The secret music of the slaves that had been sung behind closed doors and in the fields was now shared with people everywhere the Jubilee Singers went, and the songs' moving simplicity brought tears to their audiences' eyes.

Eventually they would perform for presidents and queens, tour the United States and Europe, and establish songs like "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "This Little Light of Mine" as a cherished part of the nation's musical heritage.

But the Jubilee Singers did more than this. They challenged the prejudicial barriers that divided the nation and proved that African-Americans were educable. As their popularity grew, the hotels, railways and steamship lines they used began to integrate their facilities: Even boards of education opened schools for black children.

Yet the singers' main objective was always to raise enough funds for the nearly destitute Fisk University to remain open and active. These were strong and talented young people with great faith who made an indelible mark on history.

Dion Graham's soothing voice narrates the story, which skillfully presents the compelling story of these courageous young singers. Throughout the documentary by co-writer, producer and director Llewellyn Smith, vintage photographs of the singers and their performances are shown. The program also features today's Fisk Jubilee Singers performing many of the spirituals the original chorus sang on their tour.

One frustrating drawback of the documentary is that, while several historians and a few other individuals offer insightful comments throughout the program, they are not identified.

"Jubilee Singers: Sacrifice and Glory" is a well-spent hour that is both entertaining and informative for all age groups.

*Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*



CNS PHOTO FROM TOUCHSTONE

**Scene from movie 'Count of Monte Cristo'**
**Dagmara Dominczyk and Jim Caveziel star in a scene from the film "The Count of Monte Cristo." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Pope, at audience, reflects on sun as magicians, clowns listen

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Pope John Paul II spoke about the splendor of the sun at his general audience, his listeners included a group of Italians who try to spread the same warmth with magic wands and red rubber noses.

The 250 members of the Mago Sales Association, named after a Salesian priest who literally clowns around as Sales the Magician, gathered at the Jan. 30 audience to listen to the pope and to ask him to formally recognize Salesian founder St. John Bosco as the patron saint of magicians, jugglers and clowns.

"We already consider him to be our heavenly protector, but we would like it to be official," said Renzo Incarbone, wearing the multicolored patchwork tuxedo, curly yellow wig and big red nose he dons as Randy the Magician.

Pope John Paul did not mention their request during his audience address, which focused on Psalm 19's hymn to God the creator and, especially, on the psalm's poetic meditation on the sun.

In songs, stories and art, humanity always has shown its gratitude for the sun's light and warmth, often developing cults to the sun god, the pope said.

But for members of biblically based religions, he said, "the sun is not a god, but a creature at the service of the one God and creator."

Psalm 19, which begins by reflecting on the gift of the sun, ends by reflecting on the gift of God's word and his law, the pope said, showing how both communicate something about God.

The sun's witness to the power of God, the pope said, "is a silent witness which nevertheless is felt with force like a voice which resounds throughout the whole cosmos."

"With the interior gaze of the soul and with a religious intuition not distracted by superficiality, men and women can discover that the world is not mute, but speaks of the Creator," Pope John Paul said.

For Christians, he said, the psalm's personification of the sun as a bridegroom, hero and champion naturally leads to comparisons with Christ, the triumphant sun which shines from the darkness of the tomb, giving new life to all creation.

"Nevertheless, the Christian interpretation of the psalm does not cancel (its) basic message, which is an invitation to discover the divine word present in creation," he said.

"Certainly, though, as the second part of the psalm says, there is another and higher word, more precious than the light, which is the biblical revelation," he said.

"For those who have attentive ears and eyes which are not veiled, creation is a first revelation, which has its own eloquent language; it is almost another sacred book whose letters are the multitude of creatures present in the universe," the pope said.

### Abortion: It is an emergency

From Capitol Hill as far as I could see marched a sea of people for life! From all across the country they came to personally witness before the nation's political powers that the unborn are human beings and deserve equal protection under the law.

While my short trip of 40 miles — from Baltimore to Washington — was hardly an act of Hercules, many thousands traveled great distances to urge the president, Congress and the Supreme Court to do the right thing: End abortion once and for all!

For me the March for Life every Jan. 22 brings mixed feelings. On the one hand, it's a real pro-life shot-in-the-arm. It is a day when it seems as if victory is within our grasp. Then a sobering thought strikes me: We have been doing this for 29 years with no end in sight.

While it is true that abortions in the United States have dropped from an annual high of 1.6 million to 1.3 million, legal abortion still brutally dismembers and kills more than 4,000 innocent babies daily. At this rate, it will be well into the 22nd century before this holocaust ends.

The unborn desperately need all of us — clergy and laity — working and praying throughout the entire year on their behalf. An annual march or respect-life Mass is simply not enough, unless of course we're willing to wait more than 100 years to end this scourge.

If children were being lined up and shot every day in our cities and suburbs, we would treat it like an emergency. Abortion is an emergency! It's comparable to 10 jumbo jets crashing in the United States daily.

Nellie Gray, president of the March for Life, once told me that if just the Catholics in the United States stood up and demanded an end to abortion, it would end.

Opinion polls consistently reveal a small percentage of Americans strongly opposed to abortion, and an approximately equal percentage strongly in favor of it. With this kind of split in public opinion, legislators avoid this issue like the plague.

It's imperative that Catholics apply significant political pressure here. We need to regularly write our state and national legislators, urging them to support current and upcoming pro-life legislation. Your diocesan respect-life office will be pleased to assist you.

Finally, we need to be peacefully present in large numbers, on a regular basis, at every abortion clinic in the nation. The Lord should find us standing in solidarity with our tiniest brothers and sisters, witnessing to their human dignity and praying for an end to abortion.

Msgr. Philip J. Reilly, international director of Helpers of God's Precious Infants, has developed a very effective strategy of prayer and counseling at abortion sites.

Information on early human development, housing, education, financial aid, medical assistance, adoption and caring faith communities is offered to anyone who will listen. And listen they do. Msgr. Reilly told me that in New York City alone, more than 5,000 women seeking abortions last year chose life due to this prayer-action strategy!

Besides organizing the Brooklyn diocese, Msgr. Reilly has assisted scores of dioceses worldwide and is most willing to help anyone interested (phone: 1-718-853-2789/E-mail: frhgpi@aol.com).

Twenty-two years ago, in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol, several thousand of us heard Pope John Paul II boldly proclaim, "We will stand up every time that human life is threatened. When the sacredness of life before birth is attacked, we will stand up and proclaim that no one ever has the authority to destroy unborn life!"

Where do you stand?

# Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO
CNS Columist



## Work matters

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

They're only the most recent stories: Ford Motor Co. is cutting 35,000 jobs worldwide. Plant closings in Haywood County in 2001 idled 335 people. VF Corp. in Andrews closed Jan. 11, putting more than 500 people out of work. And, studies show that people today will change their jobs or companies five or six times in their careers.

Sudden or impending job loss is frightening. I know. It's happened to me twice in the last five years. Some lose their jobs through downsizing or company shutdowns, or a sudden career-change opportunity may present itself. The circumstances may be different, but faith is called for in every situation. We heard about one of Scripture's most famous career changes on Jan. 27 when we listened to Matthew 4:12-23.

Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, meets Simon and Andrew and tells them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." The Gospel says that, "At once they left their nets and followed him." Same for James and John. As soon as Jesus calls, they go with him.

Jesus' first disciples probably believed they would spend their lives catching fish. Yet, here was Jesus asking them to make a career change—to become, not fishermen, but fishers of men.

In "Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation" [Jossey-Bass Inc., 2000], Parker J. Palmer says that in his life there have been "moments when it is clear—if I have eyes to see—that the life I am living is not the same as the life that wants to live in me." That was true for the disciples. The lives they were living were not the lives they were really called to. They had to go deeper to fulfill what God had planned for them.

That happened to me a few years ago. I was in shock, humiliated, petrified and prostrate in prayer begging God to give me back the job from which I'd just been fired. Who would ever hire me for another journalism job? I'd just bought a new pickup truck. How would I make the payments? What was going to happen to me?

Of course, I wasn't rehired. The managing editor wanted someone with better organizational skills. My master's degree and I spent the next two-and-a-half years as an unskilled laborer in a furniture factory, at a starting rate of $6.15 an hour, with benefits that can best be described as minimal. In that time I learned a lot: to accept not being in control all the time, how to be a team member, to not be afraid of the future. Like Palmer, I was called to give up the old me to become the me I should be.

He writes: "In retrospect, I can see in my own life what I could not see at the time-how the job I lost helped me find work I needed to do, how the 'road closed' sign turned me toward terrain I needed to travel, how losses that felt irredeemable forced me to discern meanings I needed to know. On the surface it seemed that life was lessening, but silently and lavishly the seeds of new life were always being sown."

Those lavish seeds in my own life helped me to do well in the better job I later had, as news editor for a company's publishing division. When our office closed, because the headquarters decided to outsource our publications, I was confident that no matter what happened, I would be OK because God was with me.

I know it's easy to say trust God, and everything will turn out OK, but it can be monumentally hard to do when you're in that rock-and-a-hard-place situation. I don't think it's valid to say that anyone should sit around and wait for God to step in. Obviously it's important to look for new work, to send out résumés, to take the necessary steps to find new employment, even if that means moving to a new city. What I am suggesting is that anyone can do what those first four disciples did. We don't know what concerns were in the backs of their minds as they were leaving their nets behind. We just know that they were moving forward into new lives.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

### The knowing parent

Bill Gildersleeve was on the line in front of me at the grocery store last week. He wasn't alone. His two little daughters, who looked to be eight or nine years old, were helping Daddy shop. Well, adding things to his shopping cart might be more like it.

Checkout lines must be designed by someone who likes to torment parents. The assorted temptations on display include tons of candy, toys and magazines. So here you have it: a parent's just finished trekking up and down the aisles, trying to balance what's needed and what's affordable and then it starts. The children see something at checkout they just "have to have." Well, not really. But they want it anyway. Say no, you're likely to face protests and griping. Say yes, and you've given in to the manipulations of both children and store owners. So what are you to do? My friend on the line faced a similar dilemma.

Now, before sharing Bill Gildersleeve's response to his children, let me tell you about the man. In our town, he has always been the local star, the fellow who had it all. With looks, popularity and a lovely wife, his life looked to be a gift. He was also blessed with a natural entrepreneurial spirit. He knows business and what people want. Put simply: Bill is the image of success. But parenthood's a different game. Success in sports, business, school is absolutely no assurance that you'll be a great parent. That's the job for which there is no training: you learn by doing. Frankly, most parents would admit that they make lots of mistakes along the way.

So I watched Bill and his girls with no little interest. How would this guy handle the minefield of demanding youngsters? From where I stood, Bill hit a home run. He didn't say yes and he didn't say no. He calmly listened to their requests, and quietly said: "Not this time, perhaps next time." And, amazingly, they nodded, they understood. He hadn't rejected the idea out of hand. He just wasn't acquiescing right now.

No one likes being told "no." Whether you're eight or eighty, we like to hear the word "yes." We want it our way. There are very few ways that "no" won't be taken as a form of rejection. What Bill did was to listen first, then qualify his answer. That is a much more respectful way to handle people of all ages.

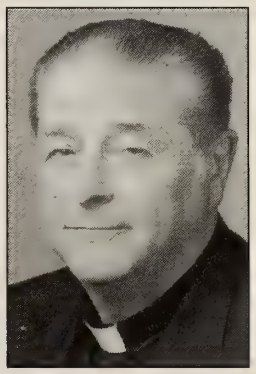
For example, if you tell me your opinion and I immediately say, "No, you're wrong," there's no way you're going to be open to my alternative point of view. But if, on the other hand, I listen to you respectfully and then respond by affirming what you said and yet expressing a different view, it will go down much better. Now my point may be diametrically opposed to yours, but I bet you'll at least listen and consider what I'm saying. Why? Because I respected you and your thoughts well enough to affirm and consider what you said.

Communication is the key to bridge-building. In a world with deep rivers of misunderstanding and mistrust, we need every bridge. And we build them by communicating our truth gently and showing real consideration for the other person and for his or her viewpoint.

That's what I think happened in the grocery store last week. Bill Gildersleeve didn't just say no, he opened a door to possibility. His daughters knew they were heard. They nodded and helped him carry the bags of groceries to the car. I guess Bill has found success, too, in the place it matters most, in his family.

Whether between family members or strangers, respect is always the best place to start.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

### Catholic participation at a Lutheran church wedding

*Q. I hope you can advise me on something bothering me much right now. One of my grandsons will be married this spring. He is Lutheran, and the ceremony is in a Lutheran church.*

*What should I do during the wedding as far as kneeling, sitting, taking Communion or whatever else? Do I just sit and listen? (New York)*

A. Under ordinary circumstances, you are free, as a Catholic, to participate in the ceremony the same as other people attending, except that you should not receive Communion.

Judging from ceremonies I've shared in other churches, I cannot imagine there would be anything contrary to the Catholic faith that should make you hesitate.

Sit, stand, kneel (some Lutheran congregations kneel during parts of the service), respond to the prayers — in other words, follow the lead of others present. We are encouraged by the Catholic Church to share in prayer with those of other faiths, particularly at special occasions like weddings, funerals and ecumenical services.

As I said, you should not receive Communion during the Lutheran service, if Communion is offered. For us, reception of Communion is a significant sacramental statement of common belief and religious commitment, and faith community with those with whom we receive this sacrament.

For this reason, Catholic regulations indicate that we should avoid this kind of participation in Protestant worship. I have discussed the reasons for such a rule more deeply several times in this column.

It is worth keeping in mind that you may not be invited to Communion anyway. This will depend on which Lutheran synod that particular congregation is part of.

Certain Lutheran groups and congregations strictly prohibit people of other faiths, even other Lutherans, from sharing their eucharistic communion. We have an obligation to respect those wishes when we are their guests.

### Clarification on anointing of the sick

*Q. After the terrorists attacked New York Sept. 11, newspapers reported that priests on the scene gave the "last rites." Is this what we used to call extreme unction? I thought that sacrament was replaced by the anointing of the sick. (Florida)*

A. It is not quite correct to say that one sacrament replaced another. Rather, a different name is now given to what is the same sacrament.

The name extreme unction came from the Latin "extrema unctio," the last anointing. For centuries, most people came to assume this meant the anointing should be given in the final hours of a person's life. Some of us still remember when a dying person's family hesitated to call a priest to minister this sacrament, fearing the sick person would panic and assume death was imminent.

The actual meaning of the term was something different. It implied that this was the last of four possible sacramental anointings of the church, the other three being baptism, confirmation and holy orders.

The Constitution on the Liturgy of Vatican Council II addressed this confusion. "Extreme unction," it said, "which may also and more properly be called anointing of the sick, is not a sacrament only for those at the point of death. Hence, as soon as any one of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for that person to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived" (No. 73).

# Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

### Addressing religion rejection from children

Religion is a prism through which we see, experience and understand the world around us. We raise our children in "the faith" so that they may share with us a common experience and understanding of God and God's action in our life together. It can be very painful when our adult children stray from their religious tradition. Parents may feel it as not just a rejection of doctrine or theology but also them or perhaps even God.

A mistake for parents in such situations is to make religion the wedge between them and their offspring. Though the pain of rejection is real, they should let go and let God. If God's will is to be done, we must get our will out of the way. The best we can do is to pray that the Holy Spirit will touch them and guide them to God. Then do all we can to sustain the relationship.

A reader from Charlotte writes:

My son and his wife got married 26 years ago. They went to a minister and got married in a chapel. He was in the Navy and didn't have much time to go through the Catholic way. I started to pray for my son hoping he would come back to the Church.

After losing my parents and two brothers I was alone in Toledo. Jerry and Karen asked me to come and live with them in Asheville.

Karen and I were sitting in the living room just talking. Then she said, "I would like to become a Catholic." I didn't think I heard her correctly. I said, "What did you say?" So, she repeated, "I want to be a Catholic." I've prayed for so long for my son to return to the Church. Karen's words were heavenly music to my ears.

I was her sponsor at the Easter Vigil when Karen came into full communion with the Catholic Church. That same evening she and Jerry were married in the Church.

The three of us go to church every week and on holy days. God answered my prayers. When I get upset about something, I always talk to God.

Our faith is a gift that we want to give our children. However, our faith is insufficient to sustain their relationship with God as responsible adults. At some point in their lives they must discover for themselves an adult faith that calls them into a life with God. This may happen in the religious tradition in which they were raised. Sometimes it may be another path. Through prayer and a willingness to continue loving parents become God's invitation to their adult children and instruments of the Holy Spirit. To keep the faith keep praying.

**Questions for Reflection:**

- *Where is there alienation between you and a family member? Have you prayed about it?*
- *How do you experience religion as a bonder in family life?*
- *When were the times you let go and let God?*

# Justice and hope in times of uncertainty: Themes from the Old Testament for today's world

By DIANNE RIGGS
Correspondent

HICKORY — Did you know that a prophet is one called by God to be a bridge between God and the people? Or that the Old Testament prophets pointed to Israel's belief in its chosen status as a covenant people? Or that false prophets speak in their own names or the name of another god?

These are some of the thought-provoking ideas that Sister Joan Cook, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, brought to the 80 participants in the Parish Catechetical Leadership In-service, Jan. 18 at the Catholic Conference Center. Initiation ministers, lectors, eucharistic ministers, parish catechetical coordinators and Catholic-school representatives attended her presentation, "Prophesy in the Judeo-Christian Tradition."



Sister Joan Cook

Sister Joan, who holds a doctorate in philosophy in Hebrew Scriptures from Vanderbilt University and a master's degree in theology from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, teaches at Washington Theological Union, Washington, D.C., and teaches those preparing for pastoral ministry.

At the heart of Sister Joan's lectures was her modeling of a fruitful way to approach, study and find contemporary meaning and application in the Old Testament prophetic books. She highlighted Amos, Hosea, First and Second Isaiah, giving historical, geographical, socioeconomic, and other settings; then showing significant genres, literary patterns and devices and the important themes the prophets wanted to convey. Sister Joan showed how these applied to people today.

So successful was her method that in-service participants left with an eagerness to open their Bibles and begin study. "(It was) enjoyable, lots of new insights," said Richard Bennett of Sacred Heart in Brevard. "Gives me courage to read some of these parts of the Bible that I stayed away from before."

Bennett said he liked knowing that a man would hand over his outer garment as a guarantee for a debt in those days (about 900 to 500 B.C.). However, the person receiving the garment was bound to give it back before nightfall, so the debtor would not be cold. "(It) makes reading this part of the Old Testament so much more alive and real," he said.

This kind of response was exactly what those helping set up the in-service were hoping for. "Vatican II says we must honor Christ in the Scriptures as well as in the Eucharist," said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs. "We need to internalize the word of God. St. Jerome said, 'If ignorant of Scripture, ignorant of Christ.' "

Sister Joan explored the themes of advocating justice and integrity as a people of the covenant, (especially in Amos, Hosea and First Isaiah) and bringing a word of hope in times of uncertainty, not only to Israel but to all peoples (especially in Second Isaiah).

At first, she said, there were no really "poor," as "everyone had nothing" in the nomadic Hebrew tribes. When they acquired land, some became wealthy, and when surpluses developed, economic classes emerged. At the same time, widows, orphans and strangers, who had previously been taken care of and given hospitality as a matter of course, began to be neglected. As the rift between rich and poor developed, the poor were taken advantage of and abused. The prophets saw this as sin and as a turning away from the covenant relationship with God. They urged repentance and just treatment of everyone or punishment would befall Israel.

And it eventually did. The northern kingdom fell to the Assyrians in 722 B.C. Jerusalem and the southern kingdom fell to the Babylonians in 587 B.C. The Hebrews were carried off to Babylonian exile. After nearly 50 years, (Second) Isaiah received the vision that Israel had paid more than enough for its sin. Everything is turned upside down, said Sister Joan, and God is realized as a God of everyone. The prophet relates God's message that he has been with them all along, even in their exile. The task now is to "let go of discouragement" and "let's move forward."

Of course these themes have great relevance today, to the individual Christian, to the parish church and to the worldwide church. Everywhere there are the vulnerable: children, elderly, homeless, refugees, mentally ill - even people in RCIA classes, who may be uncertain in their spiritual direction, Sister Joan said. People can take the Old Testament prophets' model to speak and act prophetically for justice in these times.

An important aspect of the prophet's message was his call from God. It was usually dramatic and unmistakable with a definite assurance that God's word would be with him as he acted as a bridge between God and the people. Sister Joan said it was useful to look at the call narratives of Isaiah (First and Second), Jeremiah and Moses in working with young people trying to make decisions about direction in their lives.

Sister Joan said God called prophets - they did not call themselves. They were countercultural figures, going against the commonly expected grain of society in the interests of God. They were insightful and often "spoke in a voice an 'octave too high,' "saying what the people did not want to hear. They spoke to their own time, but used words for all time. Thus, they were "particular and universal."

Participants found the lectures important for their work. Yvonne Montgomery, a faith-formation coordinator at Holy Trinity in Taylorsville, said she will use the information from the in-service in her work with youth. "(I want) ... to make them think about what they do or did in their lives that was (action) like a prophet."

"She (Sister Joan) said we are all prophets, building bridges between God and ourselves and God and whom we serve," said Ernest Mazzatenta, a eucharistic minister at Immaculate Conception in Hendersonville. "As prophets, (it) means more than taking Communion to them (homebound). It means taking the Gospels, reading and paraphrasing to them." She added that it means looking beyond the homebound's pains, to "what they might derive from special situations that might be positive."


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# Re-established women's group promotes church development and fellowship

By DENISE KASPER
Correspondent

CLEMMONS — The women's group that was the driving force behind Holy Family Catholic Church has been resurrected. The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Guild is back in business.

"The guild was the backbone of the church until we got going and got parish commissions," said Sandy Arend, founding member and the group's present treasurer. "Anytime the priest said, 'I need,' we did."

Church services were still being held in Clemmons Moravian Church and the Clemmons Vogler Funeral Home chapel when the guild formed in 1978 with 39 members. The bylaws stated that the guild was to offer spiritual and social opportunities to the women of the Holy Family congregation. The Holy Family handbook notes that the guild was the main force in the faith community becoming an independent parish.

Over the years, the guild sponsored dances, suppers, parties, trips, bazaars, open houses and fund-raising events. In 1986, the club became inactive, but last year Jean Borden thought it was time to reactivate it. Borden, guild president, explained that while the group is in this formative period, the first item on the agenda is for the women of the community to become aquainted, then plot their path.

"We're still trying to figure out what we'd like to do," Borden said. "It's in the beginning stages. The focus right now is to come together and get to know each other. We'll build from there. (The guild) should be fun. We're just having fun, and I've made a lot of new friends."

The guild is named for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born saint. Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born in New York City in 1774; her father was a physician and an anatomy professor at King's College, which later became Columbia University. Her mother's father was an Anglican minister.

In 1794 she married a merchant, William Seton; they had five children. Seton's business went bankrupt and his health failed. The Setons and their oldest daughter traveled to Italy in hopes of finding a cure. He died in 1803 in Leghorn, Italy.

The pious woman was attracted to Catholicism because of the kindness of Catholic friends she met in Italy. She was received into the Catholic Church in New York in 1805, thus ostracizing her from her family. A "Catholic Encyclopedia" online article states that, "little of her husband's fortune was left, but numerous relatives would have provided amply for her and her children had not this barrier (Catholicism) been raised."

She later moved to Baltimore and, along with two other women, started America's first Catholic school. On March 25, 1809, she professed her vows. The community that formed around her became the Daughters of Charity of St. Joseph. She became Mother Seton, the head of the community.

A passage from "Butler's Lives of the Saints" from 1991, states that "the sisters established orphanages and hospitals, but they gained most renown for their commitment to the then burgeoning parochial school system, which became one of the glories of the Catholic Church in the United States. In moments caught from running her congregation, Mother Seton not only worked with the poor and the sick, but found time to compose music, write hymns and prepare spiritual discourses, many of which have since been published."

Mother Seton died in 1821 and was canonized in 1975.

The group, which has 38 members, meets on the third Thursday of each month and often invites guest speakers. The next meeting is slated for Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. and will include a program featuring a massage therapist and a beauty consultant. Dues are $10 a year, and membership is open to any woman 21 years and older, whether or not she is a member of Holy Family.

*For more information about the group, or to become a member, contact President Jean Borden at (336) 766-7411*

*To view the Catholic Encyclopedia online article, go to www.newadvent.org/cathen/13739a..htm.*


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# Deacon draws strength from faith, family, fellowship

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

NEWTON — Woodwind instruments provided a sense of stability in Scott Gilfillan's young life. The bass clarinet and saxophone were the glue that held his social life together. His ability to play the instruments in school bands helped the teen make friends wherever his family settled. With a father in the Air Force, the family called 10 states and two countries their temporary homes at various times.

The constant moving was rough for Gilfillan, who had trouble adjusting to the uprooting. "It was pretty lousy," he said. "We moved about every two years, and I went to four different high schools. Playing in the marching band was helpful because it provided a social group for me and provided sense of continuity with people with similar interests."



Rev. Mr. Scott Gilfillan

With one Catholic parent, the frequency in moves also did not give Gilfillan a stable spiritual foundation. "My mother was Catholic, and Dad wasn't. We didn't have a really strong Catholic family, and when Mom became ill when I was a teen, we didn't go to church much at all."

Rev. Mr. Gilfillan said that during those "churchless" years he did have a link to the church from priest family friend who asked him to play the flute in a folk band at Mass. "It connected me back to the church."

It was in Beaufort, S.C., where he went through a couple of life-changing events: high school graduation in 1975 and his mother's death when he was 18. Her death had a deep impact on Gilfillan who hid his feelings in silent grief. "It wasn't the best time in my life," he said. "I didn't deal with the grief and loss well at all, and I suppressed it with rebellious activity."

However, despite his feelings of loneliness and hurt, he entered Clemson University with zeal and fervor. The cultivation of his interest in industrial engineering through summer construction jobs and his mother's earlier encouragement of his mathematical and design abilities led to his engineering degree in 1979.

While in college, his spiritual life, which had never developed in any concrete way, began to grow. He lived next door to a woman who invited him to Mass almost every Sunday. "I got plugged back into the church," he said. "No matter how hard I tried not to care about church, something always pulled me back. I started going fairly regularly then."

A move to Laurinburg, N.C., proved beneficial in a couple of ways. He began his career at Butler Manufacturing as a steel-manufacturing supervisor and industrial engineer and met his wife, Kim, over pets and laundry. Kim, a Charlotte native, had finished her business administration degree at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and had moved to the coastal town to accept a job with the Employment Securities Commission.

"Both of us had dogs, and he was chasing my puppy one day. I had just moved to the apartment complex where he was living and asked him where I could wash my clothes, and we've been washing clothes for 20 or so years now," joked Mrs. Gilfillan. "We washed clothes on our first date. I kissed a lot of frogs before I found my prince."

The couple married in 1982 in her Methodist church after marriage preparation at Gilfillan's local parish. Mrs. Gilfillan had been raised in the Methodist faith but was considering converting to Catholicism.

The couple relocated to Illinois and then to West Virginia, where Mrs. Gilfillan was able to explore her husband's religion more thoroughly. Her tennis buddies answered her questions about the religion, and she grew more comfortable with the religion. "The Catholic women were open to my questions and explained things in a way that I could understand. It was the first time I heard about the RCIA program," said Mrs. Gilfillan, who converted while in West Virginia.

The couple began to consider moving back to North Carolina after Gilfillan heard about a steel-processing plant opening in Newton. They moved in 1990, and he became general manager. He threw himself into his work but neglected his faith and some aspects of home life. However, the birth of his third child drew him back to the church. Her premature arrival brought his spiritual life back into focus.

"She was in the hospital for four weeks, and I had to refocus on my family, where faith had started to develop," said Rev. Mr. Gilfillan. "I made some choices not to be at work and to be with my wife and three children. It was the right time for us to move in our faith journey."

Gilfillan desired the stability and spirituality for his family that he did not have as a child. So, they became more involved at their parish, St. Joseph in Newton, and Gilfillan busied himself with lecturing at Mass, leading the RCIA and volunteering with parish council and the Guardian ad Litem program. The next step was the permanent diaconate.

He had been observing their parish deacon and thought that the ministry would be right for him. With his wife's support, he was ordained in June 2001. He says that the formation classes were a family project. "The kids came to the classes, and they knew what I was doing and respected me for it," said Rev. Mr. Gilfillan, who has become involved with baptisms and prison ministry.

"The kids have really admired what their dad is doing, and it has enhanced their lives and mine also," said Mrs. Gilfillan, who works in the school system. "We have always tried to be open to God in our lives, and our goal is what God wants for us."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*




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February 8, 2002
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# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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Bishop William G. Curlin greets fifth graders Chris Riley and Alisa Renten at Sacred Heart parish in Salisbury, as Pastor John Putnam looks on. Bishop Curlin celebrated a Catholic Schools Week Mass for students of Sacred Heart School.

Photo by Joann S. Keane




## Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

See stories pages 10 - 16

### House passes resolution honoring Catholic schools' contributions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As schools across the nation observed Catholic Schools Week Jan. 27-Feb. 2 with thousands of open houses, service projects, special assemblies, guest speakers and school Masses, a handful of U.S. representatives spoke publicly about the benefits of their own Catholic school education. "The Catholic education I received provided me with the tools to not only forge success in life, but gave me an unending desire to serve my fellow man," said Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr., D-N.J., Jan. 29 on the House floor prior to passage for the third year in a row of a resolution honoring Catholic schools.

### Irish women's group seeks to make St. Brigid Day a national holiday

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — An Irish women's group is campaigning to make St. Brigid's feast day, Feb. 1, a national holiday. Women in Media and Entertainment said St. Brigid of Kildare's feast day should be made a national holiday in recognition of the contributions made by women to Irish society. The group took their request to Irish President Mary McAleese Feb. 1, presenting her with a straw cross, a sword and a cloak — three symbols of the sixth-century saint. The Feb. 1 event was part of a three-year campaign that began on International Women's Day in March 2000, when the Irish Senate passed a motion for the holiday to be created. The motion has received support from all political parties. Veneration of St. Brigid in Ireland is second only to that of St. Patrick, according to "Butler's Lives of the Saints."

### Nation's youngest Catholic bishop ordained in Houston

HOUSTON (CNS) — Before a crammed arena that swayed with song, Father Joseph S. Vasquez was ordained the new auxiliary bishop of Galveston-Houston Jan. 23. The 44-year-old priest of the Diocese of San Angelo became the nation's youngest active Catholic bishop when he was ordained to the episcopacy at the Catholic Charismatic Center in Houston. More than 2,500 from the dioceses of Galveston-Houston and San Angelo squeezed into the center for the two-hour ordination liturgy, joining 100 of Bishop Vasquez's family members from west Texas, Oklahoma and California at the event.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Afgan girl recieves food from distribution center**
**An Afghan girl carries her share of food with care at a food distribution center in the Maslakh refugee camp outside Herat, Afghanistan, Jan. 31. Millions of Afghans have been forced from their homes after more than 20 years of war and four years of severe drought. Catholic Relief Services and Caritas International are among the agencies providing food and other assistance to displaced people and Afghan refugees.**

### For Blessed Juan Diego's descendants, canonization will be justice

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — With his high forehead and cheekbones and receding hairline, Raymundo Yebra Soriano is described as the spitting image of a 16th-century painting of Blessed Juan Diego. The 70-year-old shopkeeper smiled at this thought and the project to use him as the model for a monument to the Nahuatl Indian chosen by the Virgin of Guadalupe to be her messenger as he was walking up a rocky hill north of Mexico City in 1531. But the pride in his facial and familial ties with Juan Diego soon was replaced with humility. "What we, the descendants, want is for him to be canonized. We ourselves are not important," said Yebra, expressing satisfaction at Pope John Paul II's plans to make Juan Diego a saint, probably when the pontiff visits Mexico in late July.

### Catholic leaders seek to improve AIDS programs for Hispanics

WASHINGTON (CNS) — National Catholic leaders in Hispanic ministry and in AIDS prevention are joining together to develop AIDS educational materials and training programs for Hispanics. There is a need for them because of the growing number of Latinos infected with the HIV/AIDS virus, said Ronaldo Cruz, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs. "Hispanic ministry has been very silent about this and not much involved in AIDS work," he said. Cruz made the comments in an interview with Catholic News Service after he attended a mid-January meeting in Daytona Beach, Fla., with officials of the National Catholic AIDS Network to discuss formation of a joint task force geared to the needs of the Hispanic community.

### Diverse voices heard at church-convened conference on globalization

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The very diversity of voices at a high-powered conference on globalization convened by the bishops of the Americas highlighted how pervasive the impact of the global economy is on human life. Participants ranged from the heads of the world's two most powerful international monetary institutions to a Peruvian-born priest serving Canada's native people in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Newfoundland. Among topics discussed were international trade, aid and investment, environment, agriculture, health, education, workers' rights, cultural diversity, the effects of corruption, corporate ethics, development, poverty, immigration and poor countries' external debts.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**February 17 — 2 p.m.**
Rite of election Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro

**February 19 — 20**
Guest speaker at Newman University Wichita, Kan.

**February 23 — 2 p.m.**
Rite of election St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte

**February 24 — 3:30 p.m.**
Rite of election St. Barnabas, Arden

## Diocesan planner

**February**

**12** BELMONT — The New Century Saxophone Quartet will be performing tonight at 8 p.m. at Belmont Abbey Basilica, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd., as part of the Belmont Abbey College/ Monastery Performing Arts and Guest Artist Series. The program will feature music from Bach to Leonard Bernstein. For more information about the free concert open to the public, call Karen Jacob at (704) 334-3468 or e-mail kjacob@vnet.net.

**12** CHARLOTTE — Because of Ash Wednesday, the 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. The next meeting will be held on the regular second Wednesday date of March 13. For more information, call Bobbe Conlin at (704) 643-1376 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

**12** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Arthritis Support and Education Group will meet this morning from 10-11 a.m. in Room D of the parish ministry center, 3016 Providence Rd. Speaker Dr. Don Joyce, retired orthopedic surgeon, will speak on knee and hip replacements. For further details, call (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**12** HICKORY — Pastoral care training, a branch of diocesan volunteer ministry, is designed to train parish volunteers to provide pastoral care to the elderly in retirement facilities, assisted living facilities, nursing homes and memory-impaired facilities and the homebound. All training sessions will be held at St. Aloysius Church, 921 2nd St. NE, tonight and Feb. 19 from 7-9 p.m. For registration and information, call Jenny Robinson at (828) 438-0774 or Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220.

**12** LEXINGTON — Our Lady of the

### Vatican denies Pope Paul VI sought to sell Pieta for world's poor

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican denied a report that Pope Paul VI wanted to sell the Pieta, the famous sculpture by Michelangelo, and give the proceeds to the world's poor. The Italian magazine Diario reported that a month before his death in 1978, the pope met with a French antiquities dealer, Daniel Wildenstein, to explore the possibility of such a sale. Wildenstein, now dead, described the meeting is his recently published memoirs. During their meeting, the pope allegedly expressed his anguish at global poverty and worried that people thought he and others at the Vatican were living in opulence. Diario said the episode, recounted in the French edition of Wildenstein's memoirs, was omitted from the Italian edition because of Vatican pressure. "The report is without foundation," Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said Feb. 1.

### Polish church shocked at funeral home kickbacks for hastened deaths

LODZ, Poland (CNS) — Polish church leaders expressed shock after revelations that doctors and ambulance workers in Lodz allowed patients to die in order to profit from deals with local funeral homes. Several health workers in Lodz have been arrested on suspicion of speeding the deaths of patients in return for kickbacks from funeral companies. Archbishop Jozef Zycinski of Lublin warned against blaming the whole medical profession for the crime and allowing the outrage to generate a "black vision of society." The archbishop told a Jan. 28 meeting of priests in Chelm, "We should condemn this evil and thank the journalists who exposed these barbaric abuses. But we shouldn't claim that's how everyone acts or injure the innocent with uncontrolled aggression."

### Catholic leaders support decision to insure unborn children

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic leaders praised the Bush administration's Jan. 31 announcement to expand health coverage to unborn children of low-income women, saying it was a good decision to protect mothers and their infants. But groups that support keeping abortion legal criticized it as step toward making abortion illegal. Under the plan, announced by Secretary Tommy Thompson of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, states could provide prenatal care by classifying the developing fetus of a low-income woman as an unborn child eligible for the Children's Health Insurance Program, known as CHIP.




PHOTO BY REUTERS/PAUL MCERLANE

**Relative of a Bloody Sunday victim holds a cross before the 30th aniversary march in Londonberry**

**Annie Ward (6), a relative of John Young, one of those killed on Bloody Sunday, holds a cross during the 30th anniversary march to the Bogside, Londonderry, Feb. 3, 2002. Relatives and friends of those killed on Bloody Sunday gathered in Londonderry on Sunday to mark the 30th anniversary of the day in 1972 when British soldiers shot dead 13 civil rights marchers.**

### Churches worried after news that Canadians gave prisoners to U.S.

OTTAWA (CNS) — Canadian Defense Minister Art Angleton's revelation that Canadian troops were turning over Afghan prisoners to the United States has drawn fire from political and church quarters. Angleton confirmed in the House of Commons Jan. 29 that Canadian special forces captured two or three fighters in Afghanistan and handed them over to the United States, which does not recognize al Qaeda and Taliban fighters as prisoners of war. The next day, he admitted he had known about the incident since Jan. 21, but did not inform Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien until after Chretien called the Canadians' capture "hypothetical" Jan. 29. International law states that such prisoners should receive "fair and humane treatment" whether they are called unlawful combatants or prisoners of war. But the Church Council of Justice and Corrections said it was worried that, without guarantees of due process, the prisoners could receive the death penalty, which has been abolished in Canada.

### Church official says Angolan government more open, but no talks set

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — Although the government and main rebel group in Angola have expressed willingness for the church to facilitate negotiations to end the 27-year-old civil war, no date or venue for talks have been set. "Things have changed in recent months, in that there are more statements by government leaders saying that they are in favor of dialogue," Father Francisco Eurico, executive secretary of the Angolan bishops' conference, said in a late-January telephone interview from Angola's capital, Luanda. "The government has indicated that it will accept the facilitation of the church and other parts of civilian society," he said, noting that the government and rebel movement UNITA are "more open to talks and want it to be made possible for dialogue."

### Kansas health care conscience act could serve as national model

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (CNS) — Can pro-life pharmacists be compelled to fill prescriptions they know will result in a chemical abortion? Can Catholic nurses be forced to choose between their job or their conscience? Not if proponents of the Health Care Providers' Rights of Conscience Act have anything to say about it. The bill, now before the Kansas Legislature, faces considerable opposition from Planned Parenthood and others, but its importance cannot be exaggerated.

Rosary Church, 619 S. Main St., will be celebrating the following events: a special liturgy honoring married couples with the renewal of vows, a special blessing and a social tonight at 7 p.m.; distribution of ashes at noon Mass and at 7 p.m. bilingual Mass on Feb. 13; and a 6:30 p.m. meal, Salesian studies, Stations of the Cross and Benediction starting Feb. 15 and continuing Fridays during Lent. For further details, call the church office at (336) 248-2463.

**15** HICKORY — Engaged Encounter is for couples planning marriage, who desire a richer, fuller life together. Although the encounter weekend is Catholic in origin and orientation, it is open to couples of any faith. Couples are encouraged to attend the weekend three to six months prior to their wedding date. Engaged couples may take part in one of several Engaged Encounter weekends, which will take place at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane: today through Feb.17, Mar. 22-24, April 5-7, May 10-12, Aug. 23-25, Sept. 20-22 and Oct. 25-27. For registration and other information, call Carl Whitesel at (704) 987-9420 or (888) 310-9040 or e-mail eeregistration@yahoo.com.

**18** BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., will be hosting an education series on religions of the world including Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism from 7-8:30 p.m. continuing tonight and every Monday until March 4 in the Family Center. Facilitator Dennis Teall-Fleming, parish director of faith formation, will discuss the religions' origins and how they have impacted the world. Also, during Lent, beginning Feb. 20 and continuing every Wednesday until March 20 at 6 p.m., a Lenten program will take place at the parish. Childcare is available. For details, call Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, Ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

**20** ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., will be having a Lenten soup and substance series entitled "Prayer: Doorway to the Kingdom." Prayer traditions from the Franciscans, Carmelites, Jesuits and Benedictines will be presented at the 6:30 p.m. sessions held every Wednesday beginning tonight and continuing until March 20. For further information, call Sheryl Peyton at (828) 684-6098, Ext. 302 or e-mail stbardre@bellsouth.net.

**21** BELMONT — The Abbey Players/ Belmont Community Theatre will be performing Shakespeare's "Hamlet" opening tonight at 8 p.m. in the Haid Theatre, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. The play will run Feb. 22, 23 and 28 and March 1 and 2. For tickets and other information, call the theatre at (704) 825-6787.

**25** CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia will be held today and every fourth Monday from 10-11:30 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. With advanced notification, activities for the memory-impaired can be provided. For more information about the support group or the Shining Stars Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday at St. Gabriel from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and every Thursday at Sardis Presbyterian Church from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

### Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — All married couples are invited to participate in the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter the weekend of Mar. 1-3 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel. Marriage Encounter is a 44-hour period when couples can take time off from families, work and other responsibilities to focus on each other to grow spiritually and emotionally as one. For more information or reservations, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*



## Associate editor joins staff of The Catholic News & Herald

BY JOANN S. KEANE
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE - The Catholic News & Herald welcomed Associate Editor Kevin Murray to the editorial staff Feb. 4.

As associate editor, Murray fills a position that calls for many skills. In addition to writing, photography, and editing, he will supervise the network of freelance writers who contribute to the diocesan newspaper.

"This opportunity is a wonderful way to incorporate my faith while utilizing the talents and skills God has blessed me with ... in a way that gives something back to the community," said Murray

Murray, whose byline appears in this edition for the first time, comes to Charlotte from Gaston County by way of Tampa.

Although they were living in the sunshine state, Murray and his wife, Jeannette still considered North Carolina home. "As a former resident of North Carolina with family near Charlotte, we were eager to return to the area."

He wrote for several newspapers in the Gaston County area before moving to Tampa where he worked in production and development for Visual Communications International. Additionally, Murray is an independent web site designer.

Murray received his Bachelor of Arts degree in English, with a journalism minor from UNC-Charlotte in 1999.

Murray fills the associate editor position previously held by Jimmy Rostar, who accepted a news position in Greenville, N.C., this past November.

"I am eager to take on new assignments and to get to know the wonderful people in the Diocese of Charlotte," said Murray.

Murray and his wife have settled back into Gaston County, specifically in Belmont.

Contact Associate Editor, Kevin Murray at (704) 370-3336, or email kemurray@charlottediocese.org

# Quaker Peace Testimony given at Franciscan Center

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — A group of over 40 Catholics gathered on their lunch hour at the Franciscan Center to listen to Dr. Max Carter, director of campus ministry and the Friends Center at Guilford College. Carter's topic was "The Quaker Peace Testimony: A Personal Perspective."

Carter earned a bachelor's degree from Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, Ind., and holds doctorate in American religious history from Philadelphia's Temple University.

Raised as a Quaker, Carter, like all adults in the "Community of Friends," went through a process of "convincing." The "Friends" must be personally convinced of the peace ethic promoted by Jesus through the Bible, an ethic that must be lived out in everyday life. Although the Friends do not have a sacramental structure, this personal conviction is similar to the profession of faith professed by Catholic young adults in confirmation.

Founded in 1652, the Quaker community "abolished the laity by claiming all are members of the clergy," said Carter. By 1668, the Friends had published a public protest against slavery, and under the direction of John Woolman, Quakers no longer owned slaves by 1672. Woolman started the Quaker Abolitionist Movement two years later.

A large part of Quaker belief is active pacifism. Carter stressed that this was not "passive-ism" but a pacifism that "elicits the fury and indignation from the world at large because Friends must be totally immersed in the world in order to change it."

Whereas the Quakers do not believe in the "real presence" of Christ in the sacramental Eucharist, which is an article of faith in the Catholic Church, they do have an understanding of the Eucharist as a "communion of silence."

"A silence during which Christ is present and leads, guides and directs the believer." Therefore, stressed Carter, "the Community of Friends come together to do business and to worship as they commune with the real presence of God, oftentimes for hours until a unanimous consensus is reached."

The only authority at these meetings is Jesus, said Carter. Therefore, "there must be a period of 'discernment' in which each participant must wrestle with weighty matters while determining whether a particular message is for him or her or the community and whether it is from God or from ego."

As Dorothy Day, Gandhi, and King believed, the Friends believe that the Kingdom of God exists on earth. "Friends consider their community the 'Body of Christ' living the Kingdom of God on earth," said Carter. "Life then, is to bear the cross of Christ. This is what it means to be Christian: to take up an inward cross, which leads to Crucifixion to the world."

According to Carter, the Friends live by four tenets: integrity, in which the believer preaches the life of Christ by cheerfully integrating it into the believers life; simplicity, through which the believer removes all obstacles and impediments which will block one from the knowledge of God; equality, which means all are children of God; and peace, which is rooted in the Sermon on the Mount.

"When Jesus disarmed Peter (in the Garden), he disarmed us all," Carter added. "Therefore, the Friends have taken on the same pro-life positions proposed by the Catholic Church, which includes the areas of abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment and the whole range of peace topics."

Carter explained that the Quakers have an oral tradition, which was passed on through shared stories. He told of the

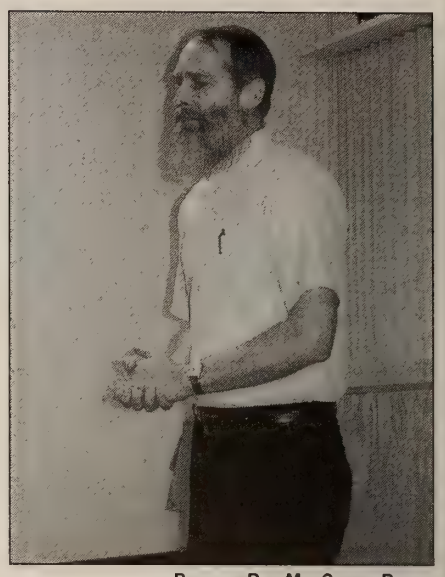


PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Quaker pacifist movement in the Revolutionary War wherein both the British and the Colonials overran the farms of the Friends.

In the 1800s, "during the Irish Potato Famine, it was the Quakers who provided the Irish Catholics food relief without requiring religious conversion as did the other Protestant Sects," said Carter.

Carter also told how he "was drawn between peace and war during the Vietnam conflict" until his sophomore year in high school. He had been talking to three Japanese women, one of whom was the only one in her family to survive the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945. A cement abutment was the only thing that had saved her life.

It was this story that convinced Carter not to participate in any action that promoted destruction. And he has totally immersed himself in the peace ethic since then by giving talks and seminars and educating the public about the faith tradition and its effect on society.

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# Seminarian embraces faith with family support

"Planting Seeds of Hope"

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — For Patrick Cahill, the Catholic school experience has been most gratifying. It was in that setting of learning and faith that he first heard the call to the priesthood. The Charlotte Catholic High School (CCHS) graduate is a seminarian at Theological College, the national seminary of The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C., and is studying at The Catholic University of America.

His parents' support, a strong grounding in faith and family and the love of Christ have characterized his life. Born in Richmond, Ind., the oldest of six filled the shoes of secondary caretaker with little fuss. "Growing up in a large family," Cahill said, "I had to accept a lot of responsibility at a young age, to help out at home and set a good example for my younger siblings. But it came pretty naturally. Being a big brother was one of the roles I had to fill and did so willingly."

With his parents as role models, he mapped a course early in life that was filled with faith and scholastic development. His mother ministering in the parish inspired him. "Her constant attempt in raising us to have good Christian morals made a big impression on me. (Having that) strong foundation and close family was of primal importance in keeping a solid faith life."

When Cahill's parents told him that the family would be moving to North Carolina, he was excited at the prospect of starting over in a new state. They moved to Concord and later to Charlotte, and Cahill began attending CCHS. While North Carolina held great promise for him, Catholic school was not at the top of his list.

"I wasn't looking forward to it at first, but my parents wanted me to go. It required great sacrifice to go — a 45-minute drive each way. I didn't know anyone, but the people were very welcoming. By the end of my freshman year, I really felt like I had found my place."

Cahill blossomed in his new environment by becoming student council president and playing varsity football and baseball. A meeting with Bishop William G. Curlin set him on his path toward ordained ministry.

"He was so incredible and kind," said Cahill, "and when I met him for the first time, he told me...that he didn't regret becoming a priest. I was thinking about what I wanted to do after high school, and I wanted to have his kind of assurance, conviction and happiness."

He grew interested in daily Mass and confession and nurtured thoughts of priesthood. He spoke with his parish priest and prayed about his life decision. "I think that my calling consisted of a series of many instances in my life where the priesthood had come up. The idea of it wasn't weird to me because I wasn't closing doors to anything else. I kept the idea of priesthood as an option."

He graduated from CCHS in 1998 and received a scholarship to Belmont Abbey College where he studied philosophy and theology. After his sophomore year, he decided that he had to go to seminary. "Belmont Abbey was a good place for me because I had two outstanding years there, and I felt like it did a lot for me in the pursuit of my vocation. The examples of my parish priest and the monks made the priesthood a more realistic path for me to follow."

His parents and friends were shocked at his decision, but he reassured them that he was making the best choice for his life: "Initially, everyone was surprised that I would enter at such a young age, but ultimately, they realized that one doesn't enter the seminary and immediately get ordained. The seminary is a time for prayer and discernment."

Cahill transferred to The Catholic University of America in the fall of 2000 with a Basselin scholarship. His graduation is scheduled in 2002, and he will become a diocesan priest in 2007 after another year of study in philosophy and four years of theology.

"I think my goals for the priesthood are to encourage young men to consider a vocation to the priesthood and to reach out to those in need and console them with the love of Christ."

*Vocations is one of 35 programs and ministries that receives funds from the Annual Diocesan Support Appeal.*

# Pastoral counseling professor to discuss spirituality and psychology

ROCK HILL, S.C. — The Rock Hill Oratory: Center for Spirituality invites all to participate in the 22nd Cardinal John Henry Newman Lecture Series as a yearly gift to the church and in tribute to Cardinal Newman, 19th-century scholar and Oratory priest in England. This year's speaker; Dr. Robert Wicks, professor in the graduate programs in pastoral counseling at Loyola College in Maryland and a visiting scholar at Stritch Medical College in Chicago; will present two talks entitled, "The Simple Care of a Hopeful Heart."

The presentation will include information about maintaining a healthy perspective, the importance of unlearning, elements in self-nurturance, appreciating the "enemies" of balance and compassion, the role of reflection and the types of friends necessary for a rich, supportive, interpersonal network.

There is no charge or pre-registration for the lecture. Because of limited parking, carpooling is encouraged. Beverages will be provided, but participants must supply their own brown-bag lunch. The Newman lecture begins at 10 a.m. on Feb 23 at the Oratory: Center for Spirituality, 434 Charlotte Ave. For further details, call Sarah Morgan at (803) 327-2097 from 8 a.m.-noon Monday through Friday.




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### Florida Catholic man named to head White House faith-based initiative

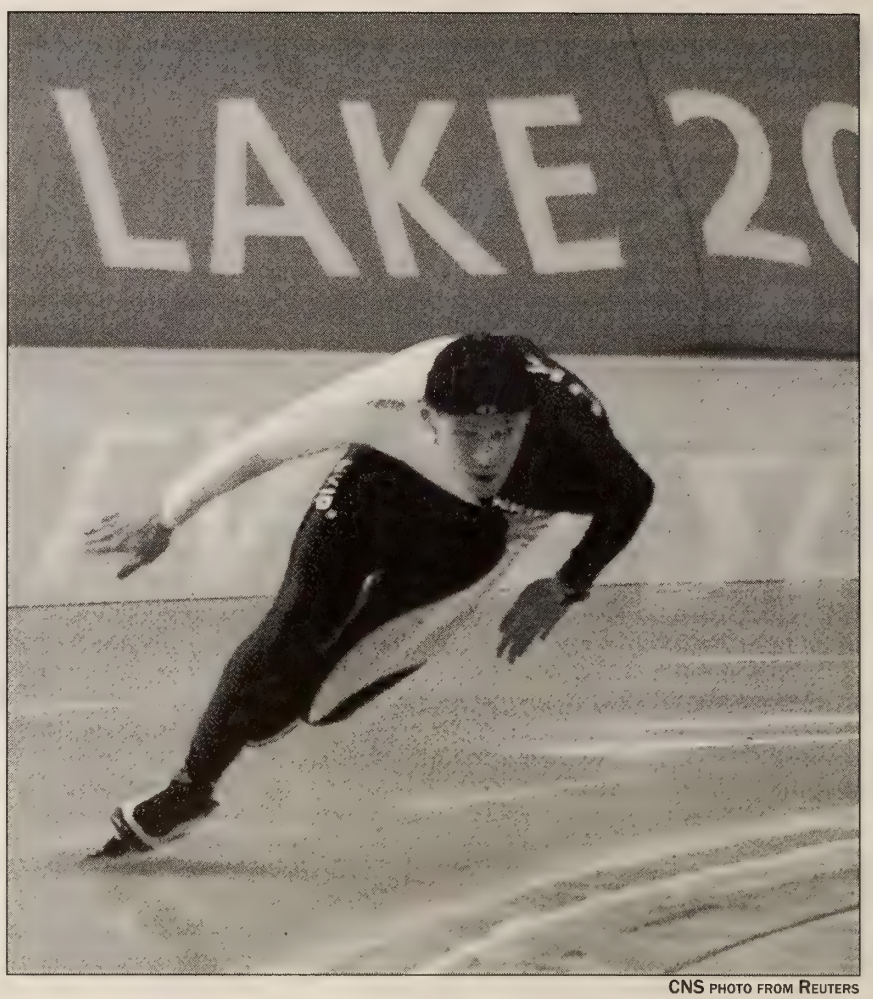
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jim Towey, a Florida Catholic man who has worked for both Democrats and Republicans in political life — and for Mother Teresa at one time — was named the director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives by President Bush Feb. 1. Towey has spent the last six years as the founding director of Aging With Dignity in an effort to provide better care for people nearing the end of life. Last year, he moved from Florida to Washington to expand the group's reach nationwide. An attorney, Towey was legal counsel for 12 years to Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and he lived for one year as a full-time volunteer at the Gift of Peace Home in Washington, which is run by the Missionaries of Charity and ministers to people with AIDS.

### Annette Kane retires as NCCW executive director

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Annette Kane, executive director of the National Council of Catholic Women for the past 16 years and part of the organization's staff for 23 years, retired Feb. 1. "NCCW opened me to an incredible network of women who support one another in times of sickness and loss, when confronted with harsh realities like family separations, domestic violence or drugs," said Kane in a statement. She said the women she has worked with have embodied "Gospel values for their families and parishes," and that beyond the "boundaries of their own lives, they stand in solidarity with women and children around the world who live in much more difficult circumstances." Kane first worked as program director and then executive director with the organization that is a federation of 7,000 Catholic women's organizations representing millions of Catholic women across the country.

### Indianapolis second-graders make wine, trappings for first Communion

AURORA, Ind. (CNS) — It started in the school cafeteria with a mound of grapes and a group of second-grade students who couldn't wait to get their hands slimy. The children, who attend St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception School in Aurora or participate in the parish's religious education program, mashed the grapes their parents and teachers would then help them turn into wine for their first Communion May 5. "It was fun," said Alex Abrams, a second-grader enrolled at St. Mary. The practice used to be an annual event at the school, dating back about 30 years, but over time the tradition faded. Parents who remembered the event brought it back three years ago and hope to restore it as a parish tradition.




CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Speedskater practices on Olympic ice track**

**A Ukrainian speedskater speeds past a Salt Lake City 2002 banner during practice on the Olympic ice oval in Kearnes, Utah. Athletes from around the world were arriving in Utah for the Winter Games that start Feb. 8**

### Cardinal sees missed opportunity at latest World Economic Forum

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington said religious leaders could play a useful role in the World Economic Forum but that this potential was not realized at this year's Jan. 31-Feb. 4 meeting in New York. The role of religious leaders is to "get ethical and religious points of view into these discussions" with business and political leaders, he said. Many business and political leaders "would be open to that," he added. The cardinal said that because forum organizers had "a special track" for religious leaders, they spent much of their time talking with each other. An interreligious panel at one plenary session was the only formal opportunity for interchange, he said.

### Suburban Chicago churches shelter homeless, but not without a fight

INVERNESS, Ill. (CNS) — The first night Holy Family Parish provided emergency shelter, about 15 homeless people in the northwest suburbs of Chicago looked forward to having a more comfortable place to sleep. But after an outcry from some of the church's neighbors, the homeless did not sleep there. Instead, Holy Family parishioners had to operate the shelter out of the Presbyterian Church of Palatine, near Inverness. The church opened its doors after hearing about the reaction the Catholic church received. The Inverness parish joined "The Journey from PADS to Hope," a shelter and social service program that relies on a coalition of churches to provide the homeless with a roof overhead, a meal and a pad on the floor. "PADS" stands for Public Action to Deliver Shelter.

### Is the end near? Catholicism doesn't speculate on apocalypse

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Speculation that the end of the world is near "is a recurring theme in American religion and has given birth to entire denominations," according to author and religious scholar Paul Thigpen. "Jesus says specifically in the Gospel that 'you do not know the hour of my return.' Yet even with that in the Gospel, people keep trying to set a date," Thigpen said in an interview with the Catholic Herald, Milwaukee archdiocesan newspaper. The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 may have spurred new interest in apocalyptic topics, judging from high sales for the "Left Behind" series of novels about the end times. "These books push the misguided 'secret rapture' agenda, and their teaching can be seductive because they are packaged as entertainment," Thigpen wrote in his book, "The Rapture Trap," a look at end times from a Catholic perspective.




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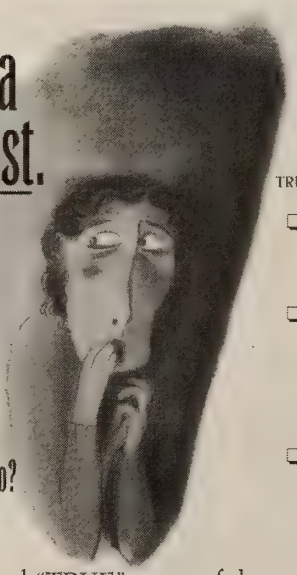
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# Charlotte Diocese consults on new catechesis directory

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

HICKORY — If you draft it, they will come to critique it.

The Diocese of Charlotte's Consultation on the National Directory for Catechesis was held at the Catholic Conference Center Jan. 28. Approximately 65 people representing diverse demographics of the 46-county diocese met to provide input on the first draft of the new directory.

"There was a beautiful mosaic of people there," said Cris V. Villapando, diocesen director of faith formation programs. "It was the kind of diversity that the bishops were looking for in consultation."

The draft is currently being studied and evaluated in a nationwide consultation of those involved in catechetical ministry. The U.S. bishops voted in 1999 to develop the new National Directory for Catechesis in light of the General Directory for Catechesis, issued in 1997. The National Directory for Catechesis is intended to be an improved and expanded version of "Sharing the Light of Faith," the National Catechetical Directory published in 1979.

Villapando, who was designated by Bishop William G. Curlin to assist with the diocesan consultation, noted that the new directory is more than a simple revision of the National Catechetical Directory.

"It's not just an editorial update," he said. "The whole direction has changed."

Lifelong faith formation and the cultural diversity of American Catholicism are among the new themes emphasized in the draft. The nationwide consultation is intended to better represent the multiethnic reality of the U.S. church.

Diocesan consultants consisted of religious and lay people, educators and program directors, professionals and parents. There were representatives from Hispanic Ministry, Native American Ministry, disabilities ministry, Catholic schools, faith formation, RCIA, and many others.

The diverse group rated the draft on readability, tone and content. For six hours, they discussed the draft's theological soundness and merit, respectfully debated one another on various issues, and offered changes and suggestions to improve the draft's content.

Villapando was very gratified by the results. "The consulters were very knowledgeable, intelligent and discerning in their remarks," he said. "They were very generous of their time. We covered a lot of ground."

The next step is to "collate and synthesize all of the major comments and suggestions," said Villapando.

The material is then submitted to Bishop Curlin for his approval before going to the Editorial Oversight Board of the National Directory for Catechesis. Once all the diocese's feedback is collected, the board will determine if there is need for a second national consultation. The goal is for catechists to have the finished National Directory for Catechesis by 2004.

Villapando believes the consultation process will produce great results. "The more diverse the group, the more likely we are to experience the diverse gifts of the Holy Spirit," he said.

*Catholic News Service contributed to this story.*

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org*

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# Chicago Archdiocese announces Catholic school closings, openings

By MICHELLE MARTIN
Catholic News Service

CHICAGO (CNS) — Three new Catholic elementary schools will open and 14 will close in the Chicago Archdiocese this summer.

The schools to be opened will be the first new Catholic schools in the city of Chicago in 13 years.

The plan, designed to make the archdiocesan school system stronger and more efficient, if a bit smaller, has been in development since the arrival last year of the archdiocese's new schools superintendent, Nicholas M. Wolsonovich.

It also calls for the consolidation of two elementary schools, St. Matthias on Claremont Avenue and Transfiguration of Our Lord on Rockwell Avenue, forming one school with two campuses.

The changes come in response to changing demographics throughout the archdiocese, Wolsonovich said.

"Parishes and populations are always changing, and we as an organization have to adapt to those changes," he said. "That means the schools have to change, too."

Archdiocesan officials announced the changes Jan. 14 after working with all schools to assess their viability, based on criteria such as their Catholic identity, enrollment pattern, financial resources, academics and availability of nearby Catholic schools.

Many of the schools slated to close have six-digit annual deficits. "If we had all the money in the world, we wouldn't have to close any schools, but that isn't the case," Wolsonovich said. "These schools have a rich legacy of service to their communities over a long period and provided excellent faith-based education to generations of students. But today's fiscal realities mean they cannot remain open."

He said efforts are being made to accommodate all the children and teachers affected.

In fiscal 2001, schools across the archdiocese lost $49.6 million. The archdiocese provided $9 million in grants to schools — an investment that will continue at $6 million a year. In addition, the Big Shoulders Fund is providing $2.5 million in operating grants to inner-city schools this year, along with $6 million in scholarships, Wolsonovich said.

Next school year, the archdiocese expects to have 249 elementary schools, down from 261 this year and 267 last year.

The Office for Catholic Schools is studying the feasibility of opening more elementary and high schools in the southwest suburbs and in Lake County, north of Chicago. It also is looking at expanding existing schools in Chicago neighborhoods that are growing.

To help remaining schools stay viable, the Office for Catholic Schools hopes to get more schools to use the "Tuition Covenant" plan, a two-step process that bases tuition on the actual cost of educating each student but provides financial aid for families that need it.

"Parents tell us cost is the number one reason they do not send their children to Catholic schools," Wolsonovich said. "Parents also tell us they believe that a Catholic school education is a good investment in their children."

One of the three new elementary schools is a specialized middle school, not yet named, in Our Lady Help of Christians Parish on the West Side. To be run by the De La Salle Christian Brothers, it will serve the African-American community. Like San Miguel Middle School, a similar Chicago school for Hispanics run by the same order, it will have three teachers per 25-student class and provide tutoring, mentoring and scholarship support to prepare its students to succeed in a rigorous high school learning environment.

Both the other schools are coincidentally named Immaculate Conception.

One, at Immaculate Conception Parish on North Park Avenue, will open in the fall to preschool and kindergarten students only, with plans to add one new grade a year.

The other, on Exchange Street, has been operating as a primary-grade campus of nearby St. Michael School for the past three years, starting with kindergarten and first grade and adding a grade each year.

St. Michael's principal, Dominican Sister Judine Hilbing, said both neighborhoods have a high demand for Catholic schools. The Immaculate Conception campus is 100 percent Hispanic, 100 percent Catholic and filled to capacity with an average of 25 students in each of its four grades. St. Michael's 319 pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade students are a mix of African-American, Hispanic and other racial and ethnic groups, she said.

Of the 14 schools slated to close, 11 are in the city of Chicago and three in suburbs.

# Immaculate Heart of Mary opens its doors to growing community

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

HIGH POINT — By building a new church, one community is building in size.

Bishop William G. Curlin presided over the dedication Mass for the new Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on Feb. 2. The new church symbolizes the growing Catholic population in the High Point area.

"I salute you because you have joined me today to dedicate this wonderful church," said Bishop Curlin, which drew applause from the congregation.

The church, built to accommodate 800 worshipers, was full to capacity. According to parishioners, the church has been full every week since the first Mass held on Christmas Eve last year.

"It's a beautiful church," said Bob Lodding, a parishioner. "People are very excited."

The new Immaculate Heart of Mary was built to replace its smaller predecessor. Al Guecia, a member of the dedication committee, noted that the congregation was growing "tremendously."

"We were so crowded for so long. It was standing room only," said Guecia. "Now you can come in and sit down without being squeezed."

Plans for the larger church began a decade ago said Perry Kairis, chairman of the planning and building committee. "It's been a long journey, but it was worth every minute of it. There's so much love in this project and this building," Kairis said.

Oblate Father Joseph C. Zuschmidt, pastor, told the congregation that the undertaking was successful due to "all the people of faith who planned, designed and built this church...all the people of this parish labored so long and diligently."

In a letter to the parishioners, Father Zuschmidt wrote, "To all of you who worked on the various committees and who contributed in any way to our church, I thank you...I am proud of all of you who played various roles, large and small, but all of them significant in doing something beautiful for God and for this parish."

A unique design theme within the church has helped to incorporate the "concept of life," according to Rev. Mr. Thomas Kak, parish permanent deacon. The design runs through the stained glass windows, the altar, the tabernacle and so on.

Within the altar, he said, "we have not only the concept of sacrifice, but we have visually added the concept of the meal, of Jesus' sharing himself with us," said Rev. Mr. Kak.

Another unique feature of the church is a crucifix that can be closed to conceal the body of Christ. The concept of life is included in the cover's design.

Closing the crucifix at Easter and revealing this design will "serve as a reminder of Jesus' victory on the cross," said Rev. Mr. Kak. "(which is) a continuing symbol of life coming from the cross."

The bishop's dedication included the blessing and sprinkling of water, anointing of the altar and walls and lighting of the altar and church.

"In the years to come, when you gather to celebrate, you'll feel the presence of Jesus here," said the bishop.

Many were moved by the dedication Mass. "It was very exciting," said Lodding.

"It was just beautiful," said Guecia. "It was more than I expected."

Kairis was equally pleased with the growing congregation. "It's nice to see a lot of young people coming here," he said. "This building will serve many generations to come."

As Father Zuschmidt told the congregation, "We will be building here for decades to come."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*



Photo by Joann S. Keane

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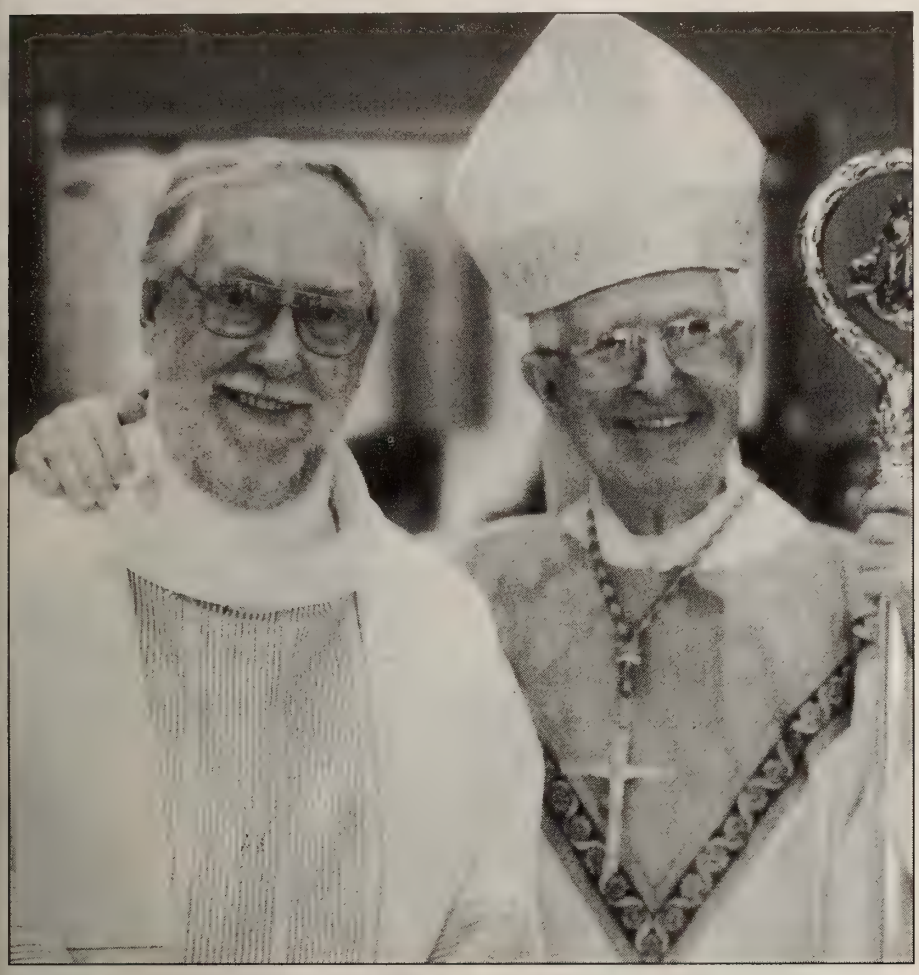
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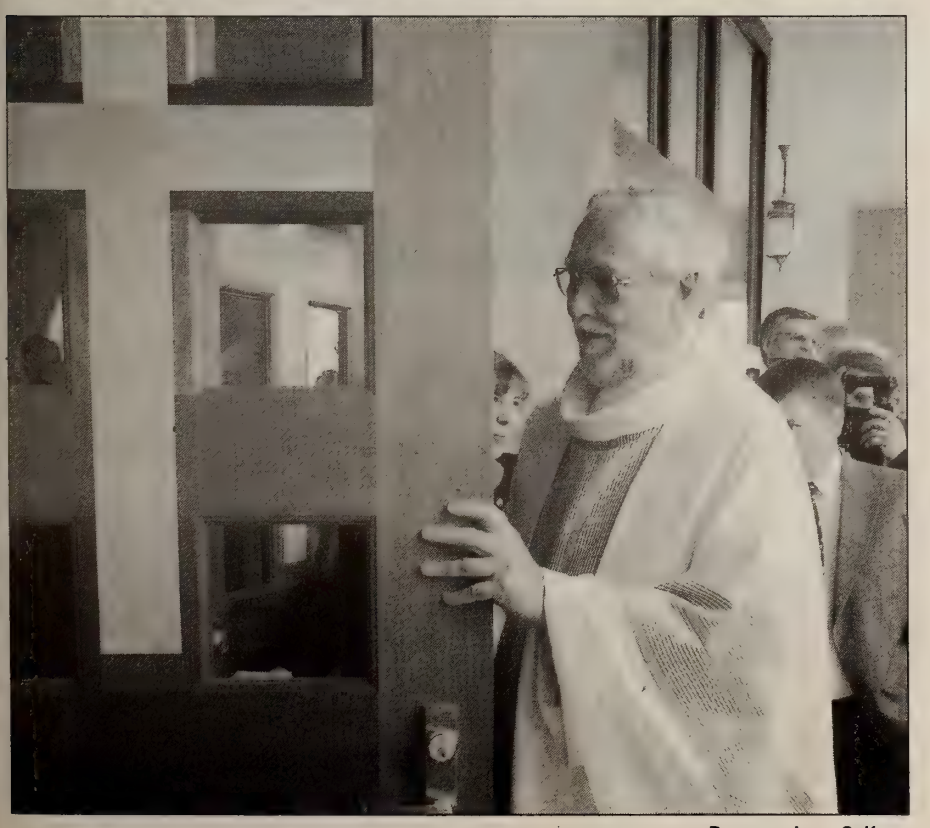
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# Immaculata wins big with new sports program

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

HENDERSONVILLE — An infusion of money and lots of parent and student participation have created a new sports program for middle schoolers at Immaculata School, a pre-school through eighth-grade facility with about 180 students.

The teams are called the Immaculata Stars. Girls play volleyball in the fall, and boys and girls play basketball in the winter. There's co-ed golf in the spring, and the school hopes to add soccer to its program in the fall. In Henderson County, boys play soccer in the fall, and girls play in the spring.

The school has joined the Western Carolina Middle School conference, which is for private schools. However, the Stars also play nonleague teams.

"When we started, it was nice to be able to get into something that was ongoing," said Bill Mann, Immaculata principal. "They've had intermittent sports, but not anything as highly organized and ongoing as this. It's done a lot for the spirit of the school, the involvement, the identity."

The desire for an organized sports program surfaced in January 2001 at a town meeting at the school. A sports committee of parents and the principal, with Lu Ann Welter as chair, soon formed to address the situation.

"It's really a nice meshing of people working together," Welter said. "Really, we just saw a need for it in the middle school. Before this, our kids had to go through the parks department to play."

Funding comes from the $3,000 in donations that Immaculata added to its budget to seed the program and from admission charges for adults to attend games. The school has purchased equipment, including a volleyball net, wall pads and uniforms, and a scoreboard was donated.

A four-week boys-and-girls' basketball clinic held after school several days a week in March last year prepped the players for the upcoming season. Teams are open to all Immaculata middle schoolers.

"We don't have tryouts," Welter said. "We have a no-cut policy. Any kid who wants to play can play. We want our middle school athletes to learn the game if they want to play it in high school. Maybe they'll find a sport they never would have thought of."

Girl cheerleaders are present during the girls' games. Then some of the girl players rush to change to cheerleader uniforms and join the cheering squad to root for the boys. Other students operate the concession stand, where they learn skills like handling money.

Everyone's enthusiastic with players' parents and siblings cheering during the games, and the players driving hard up and down the court.

Katie Patterson's son, Jonathan, a fifth grader, is on the basketball team. "They have the best spirit; they really do," she said.

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*



Photos: by Joanita M. Nellenbach

# OLG School celebrates with visitors, pep rally

GREENSBORO — Our Lady of Grace School celebrated Catholic Schools Week in a variety of ways.

Student council members provided all ministries for the Jan. 26 Mass with the faculty and staff all in attendance.

Several community speakers, including an environmental biologist for the city of Greensboro and a first class marine science technician, visited the school on Monday.

Other events during the week included eighth graders visiting the Greek Orthodox Church, and kindergarten through third-grade students collecting books for the Pathways Shelter. Students also participated in a park and school grounds cleanup and a pep rally recognizing honor roll students, contest winners, athletes and cheerleaders.

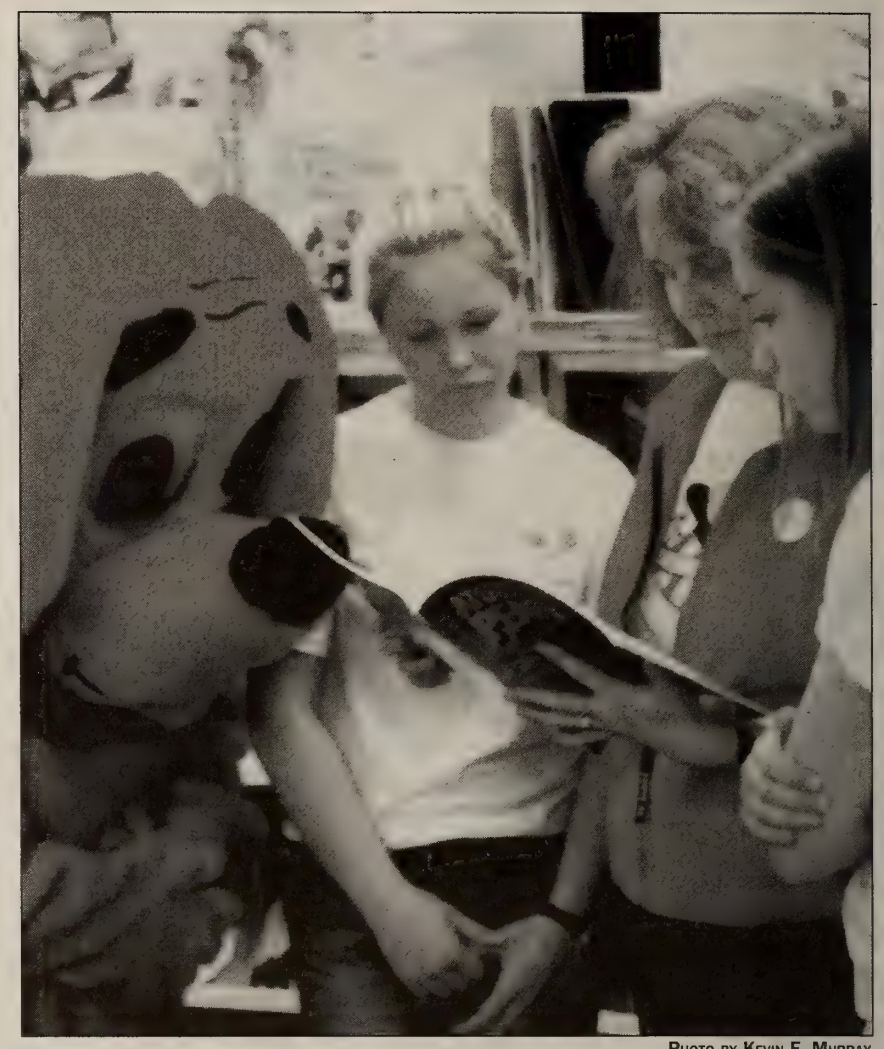
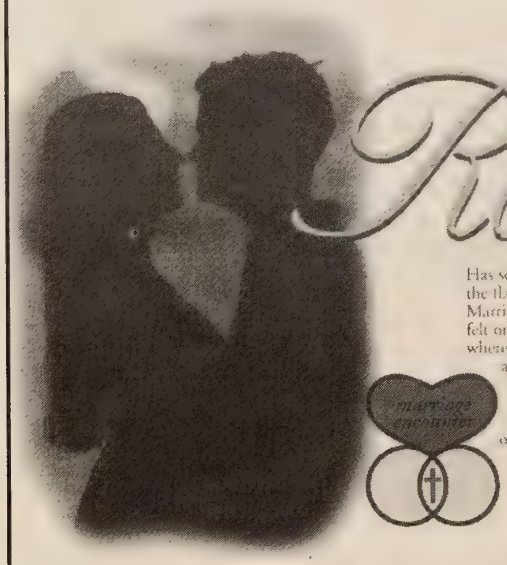


Photo by Kevin E. Murray

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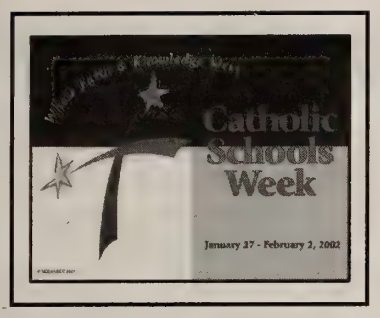
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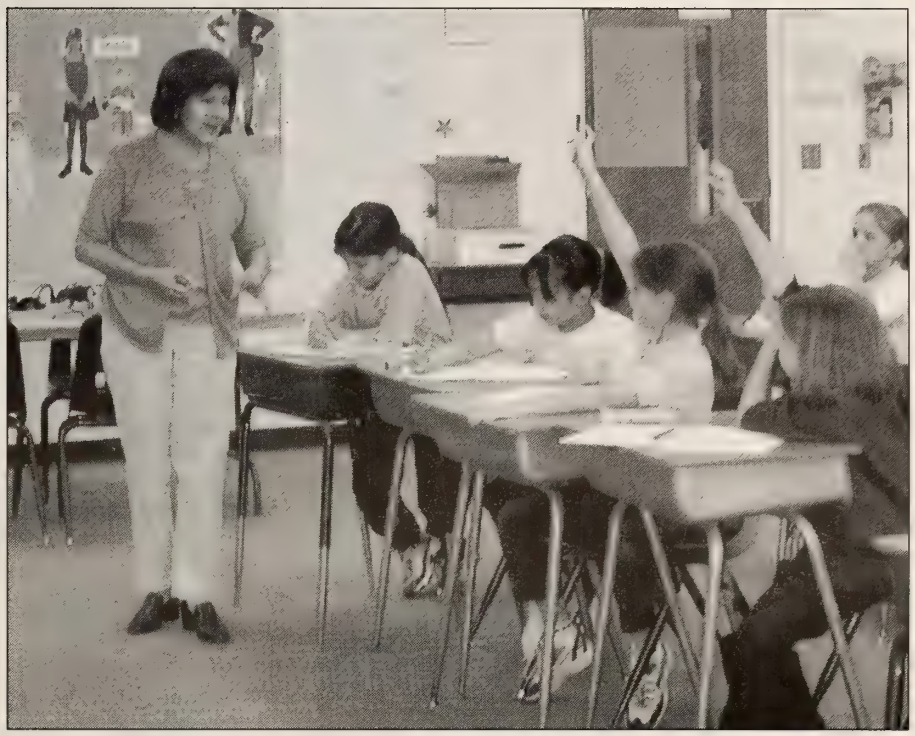
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# Spanish teacher broadens minds at Our Lady of The Assumption





By MARY MARSHALL
Corresponent

CHARLOTTE — Spanish class at Our Lady of the Assumption School is fun and exciting thanks to Gladys Silva, the Spanish teacher.

"I love teaching. It's in my blood. All my life I wanted to be a teacher," said Silva.

Silva, who is originally from Chile, has been teaching all her life. She earned a degree in education at a private college in Chile, run by the Salesian order. Arriving in the United States, she attended classes to become certified. She has taught at Our Lady of the Assumption for the past seven years.

Visiting her fourth grade class, one senses a love for the students and for teaching.

"I try to make class fun as I introduce words, sentences and concepts through art, songs, dance, reading and writing along with a few games and videos," said Silva. "No child is ever embarrassed in my classroom. We are all learning together."

Today's class is exciting as Silva introduces different foods in Spanish to the students. Using blackboard magnets representing glasses of water or milk, sandwiches or pasta, she identifies the food. The students take turns coming to the board to place them in food groups, writing their Spanish name next to them. Silva then challenges students to create a sentence in Spanish for a breakfast, lunch or dinner menu. Hands shoot up as students put together soup and sandwiches or pasta and milk.

Silva introduces concepts according to the students' ages.

"For example, kindergarten students learn numbers and family members with the aid of booklets, which show a mother—mama—or a father—papa," said Silva. "By second grade, students are writing and speaking days of the week, months, years and learning objects within a home or classroom. Third-grade students study Latin American countries and their capitals."

The students play various versions of Spanish bingo — animal bingo, fruits and vegetables bingo, or clothing bingo. They also play Spanish tic-tac-toe, and learn about Latin American countries by watching videos.

"These are wonderful teaching aids, and the children learn through fun activities," said Silva.

"Silva is loved by our students, families and teachers," said Patricia Murphy, principal of Our Lady of the Assumption School. "Her kindness, gentleness and respect of each of us permeate her classroom. She integrates subject matter with Spanish as students learn language and culture interspersed with geography and the fine arts."

Silva is creative and talented. She leads fourth graders in a meditation song, which they will present at an upcoming Mass. Her classes are community oriented. At Christmas time, students made Spanish cards with English translations on the back for Asbury and Epworth Place nursing home. Second graders visited the nursing home, giving the cards to residents and singing "Nanita Nana" and "Feliz Navidad".

Silva's classes begin with a prayer in Spanish. Kindergarten students recite, "Thank you, Lord Jesus, for all your blessings." The level of prayer increases with the upper grades reciting the Our Father or Hail Mary. Each day, one of the Spanish classes recites a Spanish prayer for the entire school as the dismissal prayer.

Within the past year, Silva's responsibilities expanded to include working with ESL students who need a little extra help understanding the American culture.

"I work with them on basic academic skills: writing, reading comprehension, vocabulary, and phonetics," said Silva. "I meet with the students one-on-one and have great respect for their culture. It's a learning experience as we learn from each other. The program is wonderful, one that is vital as we familiarize these students with the American ways."

Silva's love for teaching also reaches out to second grade faith formation students.

"The Lord gave me the talent to teach," said Silva. "I feel compelled to use this talent to help students as they prepare for their first Communion. Second graders are so anxious to learn. I enjoy working with these little children. It's an honor for me to help them prepare to receive the Lord."

Silva's teaching opportunities are vast at Our Lady of the Assumption but they are all connected because they involve children. "In all areas, I am helping children and that is most important to me," said Silva. "Our School is like a family. We all work together. The parents are very involved. The teachers and principal are so wonderful. Everyone helps — it's a great feeling to be here."



Photo by Kevin E. Murray

**Teachers and students take to the court**

**A faculty member at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte shoots for the basket during the school's faculty vs. students basketball game Feb. 1.**

## CCHS students join hands for service project

CHARLOTTE — During Catholic Schools Week Charlotte Catholic High School students participated in Hands Around Our School, a project that was designed at the request of Belmont Central Elementary School in March 2001. Through the project, the students raised money to support the innovative programs and services that Holy Angels provides to children and adults with mental retardation and physical disabilities, many of whom are medically fragile. These services include residential services, education, social work, physical therapy, medical services, creative arts, spiritual growth and recreation.

The Hands Around Our School Project began with the showing, in homeroom, of the video, "Surely the Presence" which gives an overview of the programs and services of Holy Angels, as well as images of the residents who live there. Money was collected on a homeroom basis. The students, staff, faculty and families at the school collected monetary donations for the programs and services of Holy Angels during the week. For every donation of one dollar, there was a paper hand with the student's name written on it. The hands were placed around the halls and classrooms of the school, creating "Hands Around Our School" and celebrating the wonderful deeds of the students.

# St. Ann students get a blast from the past

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — No computers, no TVs, no videos, no talking while changing classes and no snacks — this was a new experience for St. Ann School students as they reverted to the 1950s on Jan. 29, to celebrate their 45th anniversary during Catholic Schools Week.

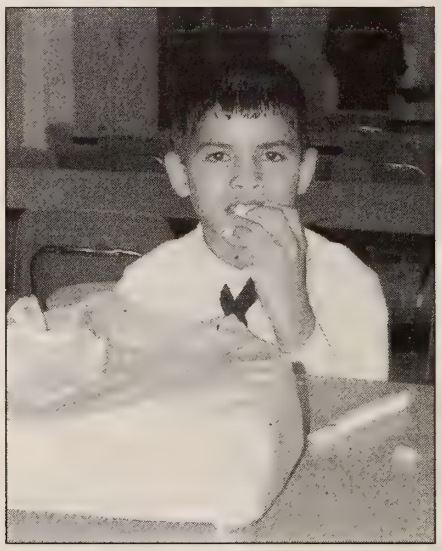
It was a real learning experience as boys wore ties, and girls were clad in jumpers, blouses and knee socks with long hair in ponytails or pigtails. What happened if a boy forgot his tie? According to the rules of the day, he had to make one out of paper and wear it.

Students asked if they wore tennis shoes. No, girls wore saddle shoes, and boys wore black shoes. What did they do for recess? Students jumped rope, played hand clapping games, hopscotch and dodge ball.

Teachers also donned clothes popular in the '50s. First-grade teacher Denise Heskamp borrowed her neighbor's grandmother's three-piece dress, which was made of wool and metallic thread. Her accessories included pearl earrings, bracelet and necklace and white gloves.

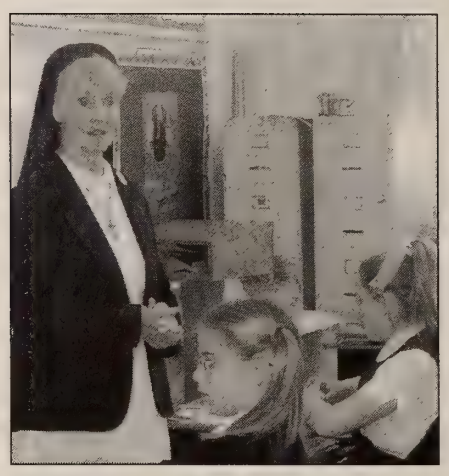
Principal of St. Ann School, Sister of St. Joseph Helene Nagle, delighted students by changing to several different habits throughout the day. One student's response to her veil was, "I like your curtain, Sister." Another quipped, "I like your costume, Sister."

They learned and practiced protocol of the day — students stood when called upon and sat with their hands folded the remainder of the time. When the principal entered the classroom, students responded, "Good morning, Sister Helene." She, in turn, responded, "Praise be Jesus and Mary." The students answered, "Now and forever."



Photos by Mary Marshall

**First-grader Alex Blunt, dressed in a shirt and tie, sits with the wax paper wrapping from his sandwich.**



**Sister Helene Nagle, principal of St. Ann School, wears one of the habits she wore during the day. Sister Helene also participated in the school-wide "back in time" theme for the day.**

One teacher remembered her teacher using a yardstick placed over the heads of the students to perfectly line them up in the hall.

When St. Ann School opened, the entire faculty was comprised of nuns. A year later, two lay people were hired. Every class began with religion, and all teachers were Catholic. Curriculum was different in those days, as well. There were no foreign language classes until high school, and not every school had a library. St. Ann School always had a music teacher and a library but did not have a librarian in the early years. Physical education classes focused on exercises, running and relay races. Many schools did not have physical education.

One student asked what happened if you didn't do your homework. Sister Helene answered, "You did your homework. Your parents saw to it that it was done. And you didn't lose it because it was packed up and put by the door the night before."

Students were encouraged to ask questions relevant to school, home and expenses in the 1950s. Classroom teachers went over trivia from the 1950s such as: the average income was $3,216; a new car cost $1,511; a new home was $8,450; bread was 14 cents a loaf, and a gallon of gasoline was 18 cents. During the 50s, RCA began making a three-inch color picture tube, and Cadillac introduced a one-piece glass windshield.

Students were amazed to learn that families ate dinner together every night, and the only outside evening activity was scouting. Students walked to school and went home for lunch, as there were no cafeterias in the schools. After school, they changed clothing and roller-skated, rode bikes or played games outside.

Students loved Wednesday — better known as Sunshine Day — a day of teachers showing appreciation for students as they spoiled them with treats and freed them of homework assignments. The theme was, "If you weren't here, we wouldn't be here."

Faculty and staff were treated to dinner during the week, compliments of the Parent-Teacher Organization. Father Mark Lamprich, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, celebrated Mass with the faculty volunteering for all the lay parts. Throughout the week, students collected food for Charlotte Has Heart.

Other activities highlighting the week were visits from alumni including: Nancy West, a student during the first years of the school; a band concert by Charlotte Catholic High School; a faculty student basketball game where students celebrated in the Olympic spirit by carrying in an Olympic flag; and a talent show followed by parents joining or taking their student out for lunch.

"Catholic Schools Week is a wonderful way for us to relate to the students in a different way," said Sister Helene. "We have a good time; many of the activities are unstructured. It makes all of us appreciate a Catholic education. Staff, faculty and student alike love it. Faculty and staff do all the planning. It brings them together in a special way."


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# St. Leo School doubles enrollment during Catholic Schools Week

By SUSAN DEGUZMAN
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM - Extra students, and lots of them, lined the lockers of St. Leo School in celebration of Catholic Schools Week. With the spirit of welcome, these "locker people" wore paper constructed look-a-likes created by students and teachers under the design of art teacher, Stephanie Iauco.

Approximately 300 four-foot tall cardboard locker people with personalized facial markings were made. Each student colored in "himself" or "herself." Renditions of teachers were also hung in the halls, many very close in resemblance to their live models.

Science projects and artwork were also displayed, as well as notes from each family telling what they liked about St. Leo's and what improvement they would like to see in the school.

Other decorations and expressions of the school's spirit hung in the halls for visitors who attended open house and registration.

President Bush visited Winston-Salem on Wednesday of Catholic Schools Week. Several students accompanied eighth grade teacher Mary Lou Schline to the event.

During that day, which happened to be Celebrate the Nation Day, students gathered around the flagpole in front of the school for the Pledge of Allegiance. Boy scouts and girl scouts played a role in the ceremony. Later in the day the students wrote letters to soldiers and veterans of our country.



Photos by Susan deGuzman

Celebration of teachers, students, families, volunteers and the local community were also part of Catholic Schools Week. Specially designated masses were held at St. Leo Parish, Holy Family Parish in Clemmons and Bishop McGuinness High School.

Other festivities during the week included a teachers' luncheon, a Math-A-Thon to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, "Vittles for Volunteers" breakfast, pizza and bingo for families, and a student talent show.

"We had a wonderful celebration of our school during the week," said Principal Georgette Schraeder. "Catholic schools are the best because we are communities for life, and we have a love of learning and a desire for God."

# Mother finds inspiration as All Saints volunteer

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Whether she's directing a program, a classroom or traffic outside the school, it's apparent that Martha Hutson is All Saints School's most precious volunteer.

"She does everything," said Trish Hazel, school secretary.

Substituting for teachers, working the front desk, running the carpool and everything in between, Huston — a nurse by vocation — started volunteering at All Saints when her oldest child joined the original kindergarten class. Ten years and four children later, Hutson has become an integral part of the school.

"You'd need a 100 of her to replace her. When parents find out Martha's a volunteer, they say 'We could never do all that,'" said Betsy DesNoyer, All Saints' principal. "She does our carpool every single day."

"(She volunteers) rain, shine or ice," said Hazel.

Hutson doesn't get what all the fuss is about. "I don't work here," she said, "I play here."

It was the carpool situation that triggered Hutson's call to action. With the parents of over 600 students cramming the school's parking lot, Hutson offered to create a more effective pickup system.

"If there's a problem, don't be a part of it. Be part of the solution," said Hutson.

The carpool now begins every day at 2:30 p.m. "By 3:15 p.m., we've safely placed every child in his or her car," she said.

"She's ultra-concerned for the students' safety," said DesNoyer. "She's willing to go the extra mile."

Hutson said her involvement with the school was a "domino effect." "The more you get to know people, the more you want to help out. I'll do anything that they'll let me."

Hutson's devotion to the school hasn't gone unnoticed.

"Martha is a true angel," said Shayne Brannon, a parent at All Saints. "She's the most giving person I've ever met."

"She has true love for this school — the children, the teachers," said Hazel. "We just love her."

It's that love that inspires Hutson to continue doing all that she can for All Saints.

"Everyone here is so gracious and giving," Hutson said. "Everyone thinks of ways to improve their programs. It's such a great environment for our children. It didn't take Benny (her husband) long to see why I like it here.

"If people could see a tenth of what I see, they'd all want my job," she said. "I've learned more about my faith here. This is my sanctuary in life. It feeds my soul."

While Hutson considers those at the school as her inspiration, many — faculty, staff, students and parents alike — feel the same about Hutson.

"She's so much fun. She's always full of laughter," said DesNoyer.

"In the 10 years I've known her, she's never had a negative thought," added Hazel.

Reflecting on her decade of service, Hutson said, "I can't think I've ever questioned this. The appreciation of the people around here is just tremendous."

"Every school needs a Martha Hutson," said Hazel. "But we don't want to share her. We want to keep her for ourselves."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail, kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*



Photo by Kevin E. Murray

**Martha Hutson shares a laugh with students while substituting in a kindergarten class at All Saints School in Charlotte. Hutson has been a volunteer for the past 10 years.**

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# Asheville Catholic School celebrates with worldly Mass

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE - Students at Asheville Catholic School are studying the world this year, and that focus was evident when Bishop William G. Curlin arrived for a Catholic Schools Week visit. Displays the students had created about various countries were prominent along hallways and in classrooms. Bishop Curlin talked about prayer in his homily, and the students sang prayers in Spanish and Swahili during the Mass.

Second and third graders led the Mass entrance procession into the school gymnasium. The second graders carried flags; behind each flag walked the third graders attired as saints from those countries.

Concelebrating with Bishop Curlin were Father Francis T. Cancro, pastor of St. Eugene; Father Wilbur Thomas, Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville; Father Andrew J. Latsko, St. Margaret Mary, Swannanoa; and Jesuit Father Edward M. Ifkovits, St. Andrew the Apostle, Mars Hill. The Rev. Mr. Michael Zboyovski, St. Eugene, proclaimed the Gospel.

"Do you believe in prayer?" the bishop asked during his homily. "Do you pray for your parents? Do you pray for your brothers and sisters? I was told many years ago that you live like you pray. Prayer makes your heart joyful. Prayer is the fuel that keeps the heart burning. It feeds your soul."

He spoke the prayer that Mother Teresa of Calcutta had taught him to say first thing each day: "Good morning, Jesus. Come to me today. Live in me today." Then he added, "Prayer is like a bell ringing, saying that God is here."

Students Natalie Burns, Allie Plouffe, D'Andrea Evans and Alicia Funderburk led the offertory procession with liturgical dance.

Later, the student choir sang the post-Communion hymn, "Lord, When You Came." The song, "Pescador de Hombres" in Spanish, is based on the Gospel story of Jesus calling his first disciples. It's refrain, which the students sang in Spanish, talks about going into the world for love of God. The words: "O Lord, in my eyes you were gazing, kindly smiling, my name you were saying; all I treasured, I have left on the sand there; close to you, I will find other seas."

Before Mass ended, students held before the congregation a banner, bordered with flags of the world and displaying a picture of Mother Teresa and her words "Peace begins with a smile." Then students stepped up to the lectern to quote from Mother Teresa's sayings. There were gifts for Bishop Curlin. Maggie Gross, a second grader dressed as Mary, Queen of Scots, presented a picture she had drawn of the fifth glorious mystery of the rosary. J. P. McQuilling offered the bishop a world-mission rosary.

The recessional hymn was the Swahili "Bwana Awabariki"-"May God Grant You a Blessing").

Bishop Curlin toured the school, stopping in each classroom to visit with the students.

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*



Photo by Alesha M. Price

**Parade of nations**

**Students at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte participated in the school's International Fair, held Jan. 29 and 30. The students had the option to dress in clothing representing their ethnicity or in red, white and blue gear. Parents posed as "ambassadors" to various countries as they offered facts and stories and created international displays. Pictured from left to right, fifth-graders Jessica Walsh O'Sullivan, 11; Gabriela Sevillano, 11; Sarah Yosief, 11; and Rachel Decker, 11, look at the South Africa display on Jan. 30. The girls represented Ireland, Peru, Eritrea (NE Africa) and France. Principal Sharon Broxterman said, "Most of the children from other countries were able to give the other children some background so that they could learn more about their different heritages and origins."**



Photos: by Joanita M. Nellenbach

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STUDENTS CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK IN TRIAD

**GREENSBORO — Saint Pius X Catholic School spent a week celebrating Catholic Schools Week that included special events for the students and staff. The students read special prayers during morning announcements each day. They also wrote and read stories to honor their teachers at a luncheon for the faculty and staff members on Feb. 1. The week's most unique event took place at the student Mass on Jan. 31 when Principal Mark Akerman's daughter, Emma Frances Akerman, was baptized by Father Marcaccio before a full St. Pius X Church.**

**"I had seen how excited the children in the parish were one Sunday to see a Baptism, so I suggested to Father Marcaccio that Emma be baptized at a school Mass," said Akerman. Father Marcaccio agreed that it would be a wonderful way to conclude Catholic Schools Week. Participants of the baptism included Akerman and his wife, their son Cole, godparents Bob and Teresa Scheppegrell and their son Andrew.**

# Our Lady of Mercy honors distinguished volunteer

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — During Catholic Schools Week, Our Lady of Mercy School found time to celebrate and honor one of their own.

After Mass on Feb. 1, a day for honoring the teachers, Principal Sandra McMonagle presented the school's most distinguished alumni award to Susan Nitz Renegar. Not only is Renegar involved with the school, but also is heavily involved with parish life.

Renegar is the coordinator of the Parish-Life Commission. She plans receptions for priests who are reassigned. She coordinates the annual parish picnic as well as the evening celebration for the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy. She planned and assisted in the Catholic Schools Week luncheon serving over 40 people and in the athletic banquet serving over 300 guests.

Renegar is also extremely active at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School (BMHS), especially during the theatrical shows.

A 1971 graduate of Our Lady of Mercy School, Renegar went on from BMHS to obtain a nursing degree so she could continue to serve others. Married with two sons, her involvement with Our Lady of Mercy intensified after one of her sons arrived at the school.

Comparing Renegar to the school's logo, McMonagle pointed that Mary is also known as "Our Lady of Kindness." It is this kindness that sets Renegar apart from the rest as she follows the example of what Jesus wants us to be, said McMonagle. Then, pointing out the school mascot, the mustang, McMonagle said that it never stays still and is always active, and that is what Renegar exemplifies — for she is never still and is always doing anything she can for others.

After the presentation, the volunteers served a special luncheon for the teachers and staff.

On Jan. 28, the school held an open house with sixth- through eighth-grade students providing visitors with guided tours of the school. Some of the week's other events included a thank-you day for the students, complete with demonstrations, games and bowling.

Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor, engaged the students during his homily, asking them why they thought Catholic education was so special. Answers ranged from "learning about God" and "beliefs" to "learning to look for God in other places." When asked how these truths were put into place, the students responded with "helping," "praying," "sharing" and "loving each other."

Father West gently stressed that not only must they learn, they must also work at putting these things into practice in school, at home and with siblings. "That's why Catholic schools are so important," he added, "because they teach you how to put it into practice."

Photos by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

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# Family sacrifices much for Catholic education

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

MOORESVILLE — Robert and Barbara Cella place Catholic education above their own time and comfort. They are not only willing to sacrifice financially to pay the tuition for their three children to attend Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, but they are also willing to sacrifice time as they travel an hour and 15 minutes each way from Mooresville to Kernersville.

Of the three children — Michelle, a junior, and Kevin and Carolyn, both freshmen — only Carolyn didn't originally want to attend Bishop McGuinness. Now, she says, "I wouldn't want to go anywhere else."

As parents, the Cellas prefer the Catholic parochial school system because the curriculum is much more of a challenge than the local schools and there isn't the overcrowding found in public schools.

Michelle agreed, "Both teachers and students at Bishop McGuinness are more focused on academics," she said.

"The teachers want you to learn more so the work is harder and we will be better prepared for college," said Carolyn.

Carolyn believed Catholic education was a positive force in their family life as it brought the faith alive for them. "It is good for the children to hear about the Catholic beliefs so that they can in turn support and defend those beliefs to others," she said.

"We already know a lot about the faith, but the teachers concentrate on the actual beliefs and practices as well as the morality and church teachings surrounding topics like abortion, sex, and euthanasia," said Michelle.

Kevin agreed with Michelle, adding that he is "glad the teachers are strengthening his beliefs."

Barbara and Robert felt as though the tuition is especially fair for the high school education their children received. "One of the things we really appreciate is the paying for all books and materials up front," said Barbara. "Even though it is a large expense at the beginning of the year, it's easier to have it taken care of ahead of time."

The biggest reason Bishop McGuinness was chosen over Charlotte Catholic was the traffic problem. Even though the Cellas live geographically closer to Charlotte, time-wise, Bishop McGuinness is much closer. Barbara said the I-77 and I-40 traffic was much less than expected and the drive to and from school was working out much better than anticipated.

"Michelle helps drive on occasion," said Barbara. "The travel time has become a blessing in disguise, as it is a time for good communication between all of them as a family unit."

"In the morning we listen to music or sleep but on the way home, when not studying, we like talk," added Michelle.

To help fray the expenses and to pass the time while the children are in school, Barbara has found a job with flexible hours.

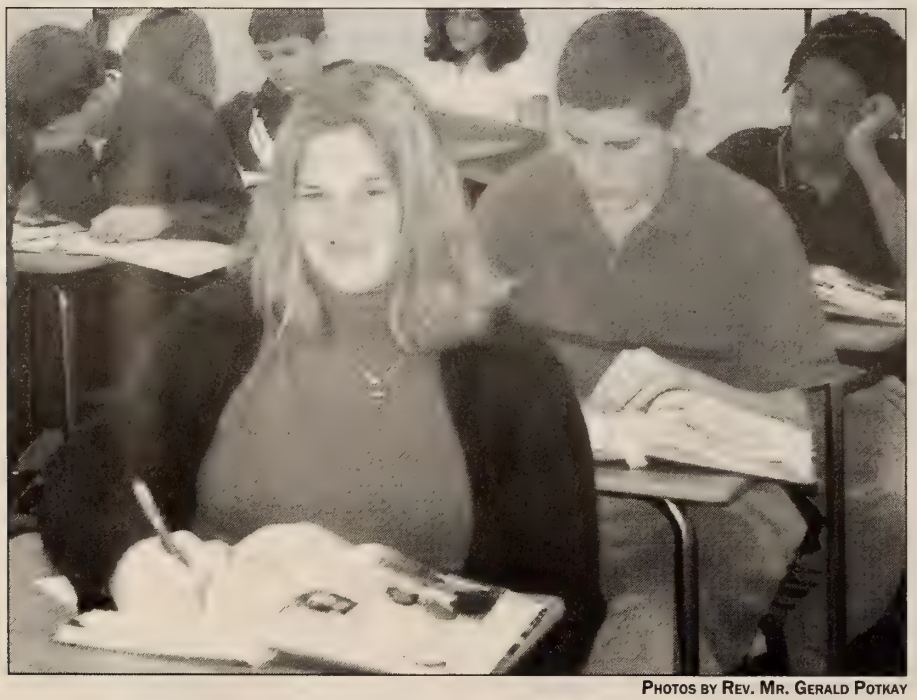
The Cellas are also pleased that Michelle, Kevin and Carolyn have been able to fit in so nicely with the school population and gain many new friends. They added that they are always informed about their children's needs for help both academically and with discipline.

"The teachers are always willing to offer extra help when it is needed," said Kevin.

The biggest problem for all concerned revolved around extracurricular activities. All three children miss that part of their education, because, as Kevin said, "They are important events that open up friendships."

"Although difficult, to say the least, some of the problem is taken care of through sleepovers," said Barbara.

Robert Belcher, director of admissions at Bishop McGuinness, said, "The Cellas are a remarkable family. They must be admired for the total self-sacrifice each of them is making to give and/or receive a faith-based education. It is a very important part of their lives and it speaks well for the whole family."



PHOTOS BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

# St. Patrick students box up care and love for others

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Shopping for toiletries like toothpaste, soap, shampoo and similar items sounds like an everyday task for many. But, for families at St. Patrick School, the common household goods meant something special. More than 200 families participated in a service project that involved decorating shoeboxes and filling them with hygiene items for Montagnard parishioners at St. Patrick Cathedral.

On Jan. 29, in conjunction with Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 27 through Feb. 1, the students assembled for a presentation from Mar Bris, a Montagnard community leader. He thanked the student body for their efforts and spoke about Vietnam, his people and their trek from the Communist-occupied country to the United States and the Diocese of Charlotte. The shoeboxes will be distributed to families in Charlotte and surrounding areas.

Angela Montague, principal, said the Catholic Schools Week committee and parish council decided that the shoebox project would benefit her students. "(This represented) cultural diversity for our children to see how other communities live by doing outreach service projects," Montague said. "We figured that this would be a good way to start because the parish is so involved with the community. Church and school is a very good combination."

Faye Almon, one of the Catholic Schools Week chairpersons, said that the project helped to teach the students about race relations and fellowship. "This community outreach project was so important to these young kids because it made them think about tolerance and compassion for people who are different. (I hope) it planted a seed in their minds as far as volunteering so that as adults, they'll know to give back to the community."

Students decorated the boxes, added the personal items and included a letter about their families, school and faith. Montague said that the children seemed to enjoy the voluntary project because it was something that the family could do together.

"I was happy that we were doing something for other people," said first-grader Julia Richardson, 6, who drew a large heart on her box decorated with white paper and glitter glue.

Fifth-grader Hannah Foltz, 10, said that she appreciated being able to participate in a service project during Catholic Schools Week. "I felt like we were doing something special for someone who could actually use it. This (project) really showed how giving the Catholic community really is."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*



PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

**First-graders Julia Richardson, 6, and Henry Reed, 6, look at the shoeboxes decorated and filled with hygiene and personal items for members of the Montagnard community in Charlotte. The students took part in the family service project during Catholic Schools Week.**

Best wishes for Catholic Schools Week!

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# Clergy, women religious gather in Triad to celebrate call to service

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

HIGH POINT — Women religious from all over the diocese congregated at Maryfield Nursing Home for the sixth annual celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life Feb. 1.

This gathering was in response to the call of John Paul II in 1997 stating this celebration "is intended to help the entire Church to esteem even more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the practice of the Evangelical Counsels. And, at the same time, is intended to be a suitable occasion for consecrated persons to renew their commitment and rekindle the fervor which should inspire their offering of themselves to the lord."

In addition to the Poor Sisters of the Mother of God, the program drew religious from the Sisters of Mercy, the Sisters of St. Francis, the Sisters of St. Joseph from Rochester, N.Y., the Sisters of Christian Charity, lay associates, those in formation to become associates, as well as members of the laity and the diaconate.

Mass was celebrated by Franciscan Father Louis Canino, director of the Franciscan Center in Greensboro.

During the homily, Father Canino said that religious vocations are an awesome gift, that God has chosen them to the consecrated life. "We who have been consecrated, refined, purified, retested, further refined and retested over and again are hopefully the 'Faithful Remnant.' We are in a crucial climate that calls for a vibrant religious life without a clear sense of personal limit," he said.

"When permissive ministers think they can handle every problem, they loose the effectiveness of ministry. Therefore," Father Canino warned, "each of us needs to avoid the 'Messiah Syndrome.' At the same time, there must be a sense of joy in our lives. For, if religious do not have mirth, they will have madness. To be authentic, we religious need to lead a life of prayer, compassion, and love."

Giving an example, Father Canino said, "If I were a concert musician and failed to practice for one day, I would notice. If I failed to practice for a week, the music critics would notice. And, if for a month, the public would notice. The same applies to an active prayer life."

Father Canino explained that three factors were affecting both clergy and religious today: existentialism, the philosophy that regards human existence as unexplainable and the freedom of choice and responsibility for one's actions which have no objective standards; hedonism, the devotion to pleasure; and power.

"Christian religious leadership requires resistance to possessions and security," said Father Canino. "That we religious must live lives of poverty, chastity, obedience, solitude, justice, simplicity and compassion. All of which is foolishness to the eyes of the world."

Father Canino noted that the religious sometimes feat what their own communities might say. "But, we are called to be prophetic. We need to take the risk. That is what we are called to do," he said.

"The mark of a saint," Father Canino concluded, "is not that one has reached perfection. But even after having fallen, one still has the burning desire to please God."

St. Joseph Sister Phyllis Tierney, pastoral associate at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, said she thoroughly enjoyed Father Canino's presentation and was glad she came.

Sister of St. Francis Bernadette Svatos, diocesan Northern Regional Coordinator for Faith Formation, agreed and expressed her hope of attending next year's celebration.

After Mass, those in attendance gathered for a reception.

# Young adult Catholics like religious but know little about them

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Young adult Catholics generally have a positive opinion of men and women religious, but many do not know a great deal about them, according to a new national study. Only one-third of those surveyed, for example, said they knew the difference between diocesan priests, who do not take vows, and religious order priests, who do take vows. Fewer than two-thirds said they knew the difference between a priest, who is ordained, and a religious brother, who is not. A report on the study was released in connection with the World Day for Consecrated Life Feb. 2-3. Commissioned by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the study was conducted last year by sociologist Dean Hoge of The Catholic University of America.


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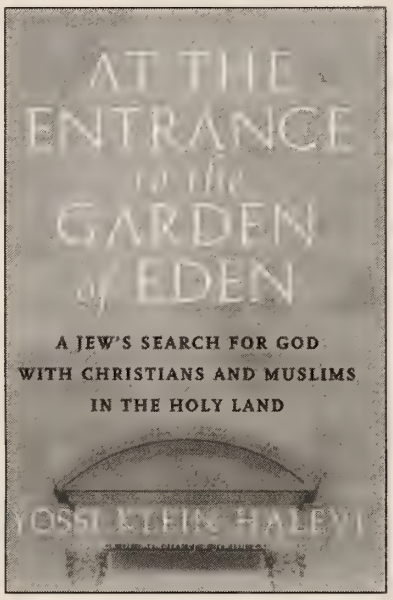
**Book Review**

# Interfaith read for all denominations

Reviewed by Eugene J. Fisher
Catholic News Service

The Jewish writer Cynthia Ozick likened Yossi Klein Halevi's "At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden" to Thomas Merton's "The Seven Storey Mountain" —

AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE GARDEN OF EDEN: A JEW'S SEARCH FOR GOD WITH CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS IN THE HOLY LAND, by Yossi Klein Halevi. William Morrow (New York, 2001). 315 pp., $25.00.




the story of a profound spiritual journey made accessible to anyone who reads it with the eyes of faith. I do not think that is an exaggeration.

I have for many years admired Halevi's writing as an Israeli journalist in The Jerusalem Report and The New Republic. I did not realize that he is Orthodox, from Brooklyn, N.Y., and a journalist of the soul no less than he is of the tangled skein of Middle Eastern politics.

Here, Halevi visits — as a Jewish pilgrim — Christian and Muslim men and women who have surrendered themselves to God. He follows a path opened by the small but courageous group of interreligious activists who devote their lives to the vision of Jerusalem as the meeting place of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

This story of a Jew's search for God in Christianity and Islam has even greater urgency today when ideologues of both left and right are trying to turn the terrorist crisis into a war between Islam and its sibling Abrahamic faiths.

This book reassures that God can be found — or rather that God will find us despite the violence that has shattered the peace of the Holy Land — if only we search. Halevi finds the quiet of humble openness with Christian nuns and monks who invite him into their convents and monasteries. He listens to the divinity-infused cadence of the songs of the Sufi Muslim sheiks — mystics — who invite him to their houses of prayer, and who patiently respond as he asks them the most basic (and therefore most difficult) spiritual questions.

Even while he asks for their guidance in his Jewish quest for God, Halevi struggles with his own fears and anger: fear and anger with Christianity's dismal history of hatred for and persecution of Jews throughout the centuries; fear and anger with Islam's current rejection of his people's need for liberation in their own land and security for the future.

Through the people he meets, he is able to understand their suffering and the integrity of their search to be at one with the God of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar. This is especially true, I think, of his experience with Armenian Orthodox Christians, with whom he shares a spiritual landscape marked by 20th-century genocides, committed by the Turks against Armenians early in the century and by the Nazis against Jews a few decades later. The sense of ultimate loneliness and loss that is shared by Armenians and Jews enables Halevi to attend Holy Week services, especially Good Friday, a day when Jewish fear of Christians — for tragic historical reasons over the centuries — is normally at its peak.

Halevi has organized his book around the great Muslim and Christian liturgical feasts he attends with his spiritual mentors, often after months of interrelating. Catholic readers will learn something of the meaning of Ramadan, Id el-Adha, and Lailat al-Miraj for Muslims, just as they will learn new aspects of the meaning of our own liturgical seasons of Lent, Easter and Christmas.

Likewise, the reader will be introduced to many truly remarkable individuals and religious communities. Halevi has long conversations and shared meditation, for example, with Catholic nuns, conversations at once theological, historical and spiritual. One European-based, Catholic religious community of men and women, the Beatitudes, has dedicated itself to restoring to Christianity its Jewish heart, that of its founders, Jesus, Mary and the Apostles. And a Catholic Melkite monk has dedicated his life and monastery (built by his own hands) to maintaining living links with Jews and Muslims equally.

The Holy Land, a land occupied in uneasy co-existence by Israelis and Palestinians, has for four millennia been a God-besotted place, a land of strife and sorrow where God's presence ironically has been most intensely showered. Here, an Israeli journalist shows us that the presence of God still hovers over the Holy Land. And he introduces us to some of the people who, in the quiet melodies of their lives and liturgy, have opened themselves to the divine presence, and been immensely enriched by it, thereby enriching us.

*Fisher is associate director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings: Feb. 10, 2002*

**Cycle A Readings:**

**February 10, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1) Isaiah 58:7-10
Psalm 112:4-8a, 9
2) 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
3) Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

By Bozena Cloutier
Catholic News Service

I was an adult when I first heard the phrase "the lights went out over Europe." Hearing it I immediately was taken back to my childhood in wartime London. That phrase fit so well. All our windows were hung with thick, ugly curtains so that no light showed outside. Wardens patrolled the neighborhood every night to see that strict blackout was enforced.

Not only were houses dark, but so were streets, cities, indeed whole countries. Going out at night was not undertaken lightly. It was dark out there, and the only lights were the straight, probing beams of searchlights crisscrossing the night sky. Sometimes there was the bright, quick burst of anti-aircraft fire or, more ominously, the fires set off by fallen bombs.

It was in those years that I learned to love and appreciate the light. One of my favorite things is flying into a city at night and seeing the lights below me shimmering like jewels. I know now that those bright lights represent freedom and life.

Light is a theme in this Sunday's Scriptures. Isaiah in the first reading exhorts us to acts of compassion, to caring for others, and promises that light shall shine within those who live this way, and any gloom they encounter will be turned to brightness.

Jesus tells us that we "are the light of the world" and that we must act in such a way that others may see and recognize that light for what it really is.

Many times we discount our own power to influence others. We are keenly aware of the mixed motives with which we act and shrug off our impact on the outside world as insignificant. Yet, as we look back on our own life stories and faith journeys, we so often stop to remember a grade school teacher, a particular neighbor or a passing stranger who somehow, in some small but profound way, deeply marked our character and destiny.

In the prayer group to which I belong, my friend Judy often says this prayer: "Lord, may your light shine through us so that others may see it and want what we have." I have learned to say this prayer frequently, particularly at the beginning of the day.

We often forget that this light is not of our making. It is the Lord's. And the Lord multiplies and transforms our small acts of goodness so that they too shimmer like jewels in the darkness.

**QUESTIONS:**

Recall a scene of light in your life. What are your associations with this light? What did it mean to you? Think of someone you know who carries the light of Christ within. What makes that person so attractive and inviting?

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Feb. 10 - Feb. 16**

Sunday (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 58:7-10, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Matthew 5:13-16; Monday (Our Lady of Lourdes), 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13, Mark 6:53-56; Tuesday, 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30, Mark 7:1-13; Wednesday (Ash Wednesday), Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; Thursday (Lenten Weekday), Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Luke 9:22-25; Friday (Lenten Weekday), Isaiah 58:1-9, Matthew 9:14-15; Saturday (Lenten Weekday), Isaiah 58:9-14, Luke 5:27-32

**Scripture for the week of Feb. 17 - Feb. 23**

Sunday (First Sunday of Lent), Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7, Roman 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11; Monday (Lenten Weekday), Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18, Matthew 25:31-46; Tuesday (Lenten Weekday), Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 6:7-15; Wednesday (Lenten Weekday), Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 11:29-32; Thursday (Lenten Weekday), Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 or 4:17 (Esther's prayer), Matthew 7:7-12; Friday (Chair of Peter), 1 Peter 5:1-4, Matthew 16:13-19; Saturday (Lenten Weekday), Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Matthew 5:43-48

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## Video Reviews

By Catholic News Service

*NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

**"Atlantis: The Lost Empire" (2001)**

Imaginative animated adventure set in the early 1900s in which a young cartographer (voiced by Michael J. Fox) becomes the key to unraveling an ancient mystery when he leads a group of intrepid explorers to find the lost city of Atlantis. Although the fanciful narrative becomes muddled, directors Gary Trousdale and Kirk Wise's edgy, angular animation and distinctive characters voiced by a fine cast compensate for some of the film's shortcomings. Intermittent action violence. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Disney)

**"Blue Moon" (2000)**

Slender romantic fantasy in which a long-married couple (Ben Gazzara and Rita Moreno) on a weekend away to recharge their relationship magically encounter themselves 40 years earlier (Brian Vincent and Alanna Ubach) when they were contemplating marriage, and each couple is able to help the other move forward. The veteran actors outshine their counterparts in writer-director John Gallagher's sweet but sluggish story that more resembles a staged play. An implied affair, minimal profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Fox Lorber)

**"Bubble Boy" (2001)**

Mean-spirited spoof in which a young man (Jake Gyllenhaal) who has lived his entire life in a bubble to protect his weak immune system constructs a mobile bubble and travels to Niagara Falls to stop the wedding of his childhood sweetheart (Marley Shelton). Director Blair Hayes' forgettable road-trip comedy crawls along with one-note, foolish characters and base, unfunny jokes that mock human frailties. Recurring slapstick violence and mayhem with some sexually suggestive dialogue and crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Touchstone)

**"The Curse of the Jade Scorpion" (2001)**

Enjoyable 1940s romantic comedy in which an ace insurance investigator (Woody Allen) and the agency's newly hired efficiency expert (Helen Hunt) are used by a hypnotist in a jewel heist. Writer-director Allen's often funny film capitalizes on the era's fascination with hypnotism, though it runs into trouble wrapping up its otherwise entertaining narrative. Several sexual references and an extramarital affair. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Dream Works)

**"Glitter" (2001)**

Pathetic musical drama set in the 1980s New York City club scene that tracks the rise of a young singer (Mariah Carey) from a childhood spent in foster homes to her discovery by a disc jockey (Max Beesley) and on to ultimate fame. Along with indistinguishable original songs, a pitiful narrative and contrived camera work, director Vondie Curtis Hall's leading lady has no charisma to pull off the vanity vehicle. An implied sexual encounter, brief violence and some crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Columbia TriStar Home Video)



CNS PHOTO FROM MIRAMAX

**Scene from Miramax film 'Birthday Girl'**

**Nicole Kidman and Mathieu Kassovitz star in a scene from the movie "Birthday Girl." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

**"Kiss of the Dragon" (2001)**

Brutal action film in which a top Chinese government agent (Jet Li) travels to Paris to assist the chief of police (Tcheky Karyo) in busting a gangster ring, but finds himself framed for murder in a foreign land. Despite a few well-choreographed martial arts scenes, director Chris Nahon's vicious, negligible narrative degenerates into nonstop bloodlust with the value of human life disregarded. Excessive, gratuitous violence, a sexual encounter, some drug use and recurring rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Fox Home Video)

"Pavilion of Women" (2001)

Lushly photographed melodrama adapted from the Pearl S. Buck novel set in 1938 China where a middle-aged wife (Luo Yan) gifts her brutish husband with an innocent concubine whom her son (John Cho) comes to love, even as the wife and an American missionary (Willem Dafoe) struggle with mutual feelings of love. Director Yim Ho contrasts East-West cultures against the backdrop of the imminent Japanese invasion in a romanticized depiction of broken vows leading to heroic redemption. Brief wartime violence and numerous but discreetly handled sexual situations. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Universal)

**"Tortilla Soup" (2001)**

Pleasing comedy about a Mexican-American widower (Hector Elizondo) and his three grown daughters (Jacqueline Obradors, Elizabeth Pena, Tamara Mello) who experience unexpected romances and discover their true passions while their chef father cooks elaborate gourmet meals for them each Sunday. Director Maria Ripoll's spicy story about family, food and romance entices the taste buds while tugging on the heartstrings with visually succulent dishes, delightful characters and an engaging narrative. A sexual encounter and a few sexual references with brief profanity and crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Columbia TriStar Home Video)

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## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Trust in God's victory over evil in world, pope says

By John Norton
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said believers who are overwhelmed by evil and suffering in the world could look forward with joyful hope to God's ultimate victory.

Even when God seems distant, he never forgets those who trust in him in the midst of their trials, the pope said Feb. 6 at his weekly general audience.

"Dwelling amid evil and suffering, they know with absolute certainty that the goal of history is not the emptiness of death, but a joyful encounter with the God of our salvation," he said.

In his talk, the pope focused on Psalm 43, a poetic prayer for deliverance and perseverance in the midst of suffering. He was continuing a series of reflections on the Liturgy of the Hours, daily prayers based on the psalms.

The pope said the psalm's author, exiled from Palestine, "feels a solitude created by misunderstanding and even aggression from unbelievers, aggravated by the isolation and silence of God."

"But the psalmist reacts against the sadness with an invitation to himself to trust and with a beautiful affirmation of hope: He relies on still being able to praise God," the pope said.

The pontiff, who turns 82 in May, spoke slowly but clearly and broke into a broad grin when about 1,000 scarf-waving members of an Italian youth group cheered him.

# Pope calls for legal protection of human embryos, disabled

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II called for legal protection of the human embryo, saying society should recognize its rights as a human being with an individual identity. The pope also called for legal measures to guarantee rights for other categories of persons unable to fully defend themselves, including the mentally disabled and the terminally ill. He made the remarks at a Sunday blessing at the Vatican Feb. 3, which marked the 24th annual Day of Life promoted by the Italian church. The pope said the embryo, like all human beings, should be guaranteed "the right to develop according to its own potential."

## Guest Column



FATHER JAMES HAWKER
Guest Columnist

### The Catholic School: Where Faith and Knowledge Meet

You may be familiar with the long running Broadway musical of yesteryear entitled, "South Pacific." One of the central characters, Bloody Mary, an elderly Polynesian lady, captures in song her thoughts and feelings as one who has been effected personally by racism and discrimination. Her experiences as a minority take a seemingly tragic toll as she expresses in the memorable melody, "You have to be taught how to hate."

Yet, regardless of the sadness of her situation, having been marginalized by some and rejected by others, Bloody Mary never lost her spirit of self-worth and self-esteem. She did not hesitate to name and oppose those manifestations of evil that were catalytic in debilitating or destroying the lives of so many good but fragile people. Bloody Mary, within the sublimity of her simplicity, was such a passionate prophet of peace and justice. Unlike others, she neither gave up, nor did she give in.

As is so apparent in the Gospel accounts, Jesus reaches out again and again to the rejected, abandoned or marginalized. His care and compassion are manifested in his words and actions. Integral to his teaching is the truth that each human being is made in the image and likeness of God. All are to be the beneficiaries of his love.

The theme of Catholic Schools Week, "Where Faith and Knowledge Meet," is rather intriguing and worthy of reflection. Keep in mind that the word knowledge can be viewed from two legitimate, through analogous, perspectives. On the one hand, it is the result of gaining information about someone or something. On the other, the word refers to a much richer experience. In this instance a person not only "knows about" from an intellectual point of view, but manifests a much more extensive degree of personal involvement. Intimacy and enthusiasm are integral to this interpretation of knowledge. In this latter instance, then, knowledge is not simply a matter of the head, but of the heart.

When Jesus called the disciples his intention was that they would not only know about him, but be intimate with him. The achievement of that reality is the essence of faith. On one occasion when Jesus said sadly, "How long have you been with Me, yet you don't know Me." He challenged his disciples to grow in intimacy with him and to appropriate and assimilate his vision and values while exemplifying the virtues that are integral to living his way.

The Catholic school is a graced environment within which the participants should not only know about the Lord but come to know him. The Catholic school is a graced environment within which learning and living are viewed through the prism of faith. Were the Catholic school not committed to assisting the children and youth to appreciate and cultivate the relationship between these integrated realities, it would be unfaithful to its mission.

Bloody Mary, who represents the plight of all who suffer injustice, must be heard and heeded by the maturing believer. The vision and values of Jesus must teach and transform the person of Faith. The unenviable experiences of the marginalized, the ignored, the violated and the forgotten cry out for the presence of Jesus. Then too they depend upon the active altruistic involvement, in one way or another, of those who know Jesus because knowledge and Faith are one in their lives. Being committed to social justice is an essential task of the Catholic school whose foundation is the person and message of Jesus.

*Father James Hawker is the diocesan vicar for education and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.*



## Economy of Faith

GLENMARY FATHER
JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

### Beyond Just War

Frank Gardner, a navy radioman, rode his modified B-24 into the Sea of Japan after it was hit by enemy fire two months before WW II ended. Most of the crew were killed in the crash, but Gardner with his life jacket bobbed in the water desperately clinging to a wheel till his capture a few hours later. For two months he faced the grim life of captivity and privation. In the prison camp, one guard beat him daily with a crude wooden baton the size of a baseball bat, and with bad food and poor treatment, he developed a stomach problem that lasted until his death.

Weeks later when the war ended, the Japanese guards surrendered to their American prisoners. In a plea for mercy, Gardner's guard gave him the baton used in the daily beatings. It became one of the mementos Gardner brought home from the war.

Afterwards Gardner became a Glenmary priest assigned over the years to small parishes in Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina. To each assignment he brought his baton. The wood of his torture became for him a sacramental. Reflecting on the baton he gradually grew more non-violent as he recognized the hideous cycle of violence and the futility of war.

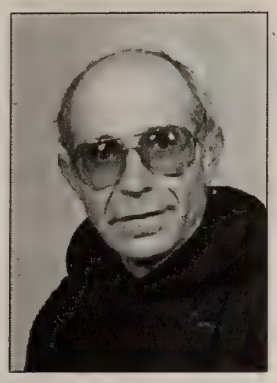
Father Gardner's spiritual journey took him past unquestioned patriotic duty to a meditation on the spirit of Jesus. "You have heard it said...'You shall not kill'...But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment" (Matt. 5:21.) "Offer no resistence to one who is evil" (Matt. 5:39.) As simplistic as some Gospel sayings appear, they command the conversion of heart, ever journeying from an instinctive violent response to the graced light of compassion and forgiveness.

"No peace without justice, no justice without forgiveness," said Pope John Paul II at this year's World Day of Peace. He did not mean that forgiveness overlooks the need to right a wrong. Rather, forgiveness represents the opposite of resentment and revenge. It "heals and rebuilds troubled human relations from their foundations." To John Paul II, forgiveness is the fullness of justice, and both justice and forgiveness flow together to heal the human spirit.

The just war theory, part of the church's tradition since the time of St. Augustine, never envisioned the horrors of modern warfare. Just war advocates today must whittle away the square corners of the theory to fit today's global reality. Modern warfare means non-combatants suffer more losses than soldiers, the environment sustains widespread and ongoing problems and impoverished countries must postpone economic development until the clearing of buried munitions. Wars are never over with the secession of hostilities. They endure until personal trauma and the devastation of God's creation find healing.

"The War Against Afghanistan Must Stop," a statement signed by some 70 U.S. Catholic leaders in December, plainly calls for "a new paradigm for judging questions of war and peace today." At the same time Catholic theology affirms the legitimate stance of those professing "a position of principled nonviolence." While pacifism may not represent a call for all, its prophetic spirit acts in dynamic tension with accepting the inevitability of war.

Father Gardner preached tirelessly against the Gulf War shortly before his death in 1991. He joined John Paul II in questioning the war's morality. While Father Gardner never declared himself an absolute pacifist, he looked for creative solutions beyond the theory of just war. That spiritual journey took him from the experience of his own torture to imagining a world where disputes could be resolved more creatively.



# Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA,
OFM CAP
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Touched by Love

People all over the world are fascinated by St. Valentine, patron of lovers. Legend and history are intertwined regarding this subject. However, love is a reality, which cannot be defined, but can be definitely lived, and indeed is an everyday experience. I believe that love is "being touched" by the one who is the Creator of Love. We are talking about Love with a capital L. Let me explain this truth by way of a nature story. Here is what Mr. X experienced:

"We were hiking in the mountains out West when I saw the stone, a small one, about the size of a half-dollar, with smooth rounded edges. Ordinarily I would have passed it by, not being a rock hound. It would have remained there for another 1000 years perhaps, a mere pebble among the larger stones on the trail. But this one instantly caught my eye. It was special. Glinting in the sunlight, it seemed to reflect all the surrounding colors, as though trying to mirror nature. Into my pocket went the rare find. All the way home to the East Coast, I thought about where I should display it, so its beauty could be most enjoyed. I finally placed it in a curio cabinet, next to some jade and carved ivory. I forgot about it for a while.

Then one day, while dusting, I was surprised to see that the stone had completely lost its luster. It sat on the shelf among the other lovely objects, a hard, gray chunk of nothing, downright ugly. I was shocked. What had happened to the prize I had so carefully brought back with me across the continent? Where was the sparkle and the colors that had attracted me so much? Disgusted, I snatched it up and started for the kitchen door to throw it out. Then, just as I opened it, a beam of light struck the stone. As though by magic, it began to shimmer and glow again. In an instant, the beautiful jewel tones shone brilliantly. Had they returned? Or had they always been there, dormant, waiting to be released? Wondering, I glanced up the sky. Sunlight — that was the answer. The rays from the sun were all my stone needed to come alive."

It needed to be touched by the light ...as much as we need to be touched by Love (God) to experience love. Love can be experienced in many different ways.

In a light-hearted play called "The Curious Savage," one of the characters, named "Fairy May," is feeling mighty low because, as she says, "no one has said they love me this live-long day." To which a character named "Mrs. Savage" replies, "yes, they have, Fairy. I heard Florence say it at the dinner table. She said, "Don't eat too fast, Fairy." "Was she saying that she loved me?" Fairy asks. "Of course," Mrs. Savage replies. "People say it when they say, "Take an umbrella, it's raining; or hurry back, or even watch out, you'll break your neck." There are hundreds of ways of wording it — you just have to listen for it, my dear." Fairy May then says, "My dentist said I had perfect occlusion. Do you think he was telling me that he loved me?" Mrs. Savage answers, "What else?" Fairy May, all aglow with that refreshing good news, says, "Oh, thank you. I've been missing so much. Oh! My dentist loves me!"

# Guest Column



DR. MICHAEL SKUBE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

"Since the time of the Second Vatican Council, ... the Catholic school has had a clear identity, not only as a presence of the Church in society, but ... as a genuine and proper instrument of the Church. It is a place of evangelization, of authentic apostolate and of pastoral action — not through complementary or parallel or extracurricular activity, but of its very nature: its work of educating the Christian person."

This quote emphasizes the importance of our schools as stated by the bishops of the United States in the document entitled, "The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School," 1988, para. 33.

Catholic schools in the United States have educated hundreds of thousands of children and young adults and have educated them well. At the heart of the Catholic school's existence is the school's ability to assist in forming a people of faith and to hand down the sense of Catholic tradition. As stated in the United States bishops' document entitled, "To Teach As Jesus Did," Catholic schools are "the most effective means available to the Church for the education of children and young people."

With great consistency, studies of Catholic schools in the United States have shown a strong correlation between religious attitudes and behaviors of Catholic adults and the number of years they attended Catholic schools. Adults who studied eight or more years in Catholic schools were more actively involved in their church and contributed to the parish more generously. They were more apt to be hopeful people, trusting and tolerant of others, aware of the complexity of moral decision making, and supportive of the equality of women. No other educational effort of the church has been able to show these types of results.

Also, it has been validated by research that seniors in Catholic high schools expressed more positive social attitudes and values than other students studied. They expressed great racial acceptance, greater concern for others, greater willingness to participate in community affairs and to volunteer their time, and they valued more highly the importance of making a difference in society.

For over 100 years, Catholic schools have been an enduring and reliable resource of the Catholic Church. Catholic schools have increased in importance in times of unrest. In the years since the second Vatican Council, the direct positive relationship between years spent in Catholic schools and adult religious practices such as attendance at Mass, involvement in parish life, attitude toward vocation and belief in life after death has actually increased.

In previous times, Catholic schools formed and protected the faith commitment of immigrant children against the attitudes of religious bigotry and second-class citizenship. Today, Catholic schools nurture the faith of a people who will encounter new challenges: people who will be moral in the face of demeaned values; people who will speak out with compassion to oppose inhuman acts; people who will be a voice of conscience to a world which is at times indifferent to economic and social injustice.

Our Catholic schools provide the basic values that have always been emphasized: respect for God, for country, for self and for each other. Now is a time to renew this commitment to the quality of faith formation and in values as they come together with knowledge in Catholic schools in an appreciation of academic preparation conducted in a safe, secure environment.

### Is this remarriage valid?

*Q. After 10 years of marriage I found myself facing a divorce, something I never thought would happen. We had problems for years which my husband would not admit or discuss. Later we had counseling together and now are happily remarried. I'm worried, however, that we were remarried by a judge. My husband says we were and still are married by church law. Is this true? Even some of our family is questioning us about this. (Oklahoma)*

A. Your husband is right; no "remarriage" in the church was needed. Husbands and wives with painful experiences like yours, however, need every possible grace of healing and strength to fulfill their renewed commitments.

In my experience, renewing their marriage vows with a priest, perhaps in connection with a Mass, can be a wonderful and encouraging experience. You, and other couples in your circumstances, might speak with your parish priest and consider doing that.

### Confusion about validity of Pax Christi

*Q. During the past few months, we have read much in our Catholic and daily papers about an organization called Pax Christi. Is it some sort of secret society or a group approved by the Catholic Church? Can you explain who it is, and what it does? (Ohio)*

A. Pax Christi (Peace of Christ) is an international Catholic agency, created in Lourdes, France, shortly after World War II by German and French Catholics, with the purpose of reconciling the enemies of that war.

The movement spread quickly to Poland, Italy and other countries, including the United States. Since then, perhaps most notably since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, it has become a major voice urging the search for and use of nonviolent, peaceful methods for resolving international disputes.

Pax Christi's mission and message appear to be twofold. First, in the end, violence, including military violence, can only breed more violence, never real peace. Thus, one major objective is to explore and articulate in the public forum alternatives to war for conflict resolution.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

We too easily and immediately, says Pax Christi, fall into the language and behavior of armed conflict before genuine alternatives are even considered. They contend there are such alternatives, which could bring criminals to justice without devastating nations and peoples.

Second, true peace will never happen, Pax Christi holds, until the world addresses the colossal social injustices which engender the hatred which explodes into violence.

Archbishop Renato Martino, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, reminded the United Nations last year of the growing gap between rich and poor in most affluent countries and in the world.

The Northern Hemisphere contains a fifth of the world's population, and consumes 80 percent of its wealth and resources. Countries of the Southern Hemisphere, with 80 percent of the population, have only 20 percent of its wealth and resources.

That is not only unjust, it is a threat to the stability of the planet, he said; the unjust status quo will continue fueling conflicts.

In a few words, I believe that pretty much defines the Pax Christi message.

Obviously, it is not a secret society; and it is thoroughly Catholic, at least in that it reflects the hopes and constant pleas of Pope John Paul II and the world's bishops.

# New Vibrations reach audiences around Charlotte

BY MARY MARSHALL
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — The New Vibrations, an ecumenical touring youth choir sponsored by Idlewild Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, began 29 years ago with 18 young people who enjoyed making music.

Since that time, 472 teens from seven nations have participated in the choir. Forty-four high school students, 33 females and 11 males, compose this year's choir. They represent nine towns, 17 schools and 23 churches.

Twelve of these students are members of Charlotte Catholic parishes: Meghan Morrison and Catherine Stallings from St. Matthew; Anne Diener from St. Vincent de Paul; Maggie Alter and Nina Stewart from St. Ann; Lisa Banta, Chris Cosentino, Courtney Cosentino, Stephanie DuBois, Katrina Leister, Michael Rupp and Katie Wall from St. Luke.

Dr. Bob Wallace, minister of Idlewild Presbyterian Church and coordinator of the choir, enjoys watching each teen's confidence grow as they assume responsibilities and perform with the group.

"One student was terrified of performing in front of a group," said Wallace. "Overcoming this fear, he became a soloist and today is one of the top sales representatives for his company."

Marsha Colbert-Smith, who currently co-produces and performs with Colbert and Company, a professional cabaret company, directs the musical program, which offers an uplifting message to people of all ages. The repertoire of sacred music ranges from contemporary to traditional to toe-tapping gospel. Linda Booth's choreography and Michael McIver's accompaniment energize each concert.

The prayer circle is a tradition before each concert. Wallace leads the students in prayer giving each an opportunity for prayer requests. His kind, gentle, fatherly manner strengthens them. Adding valuable words of advice he says, "Remember you are going to make mistakes; just remain composed, smile and go on."

The choir is well organized and very professional including their performance clothing. Girls wear black palazzo dresses with sequined tops, and boys wear tux pants and shirts with bright blue bow ties and cummerbunds.

Drummer and soloist Chris Cosentine said, "It's a lot of fun to do something you enjoy with those who also enjoy spreading the news of Jesus Christ."

Following each performance, students shake hands with the audience, thanking them for coming.

Ann Diener, who signs as well as sings, especially likes the friendships she has made. "I love to sing," she said. "There is a lot of energy and smiles in this group. We are praising God and having fun doing it."

There are no auditions for the choir. Each student is welcomed and appreciated for the talent they bring, such as singing, playing a musical instrument, dancing, signing and helping with setup.

"The kids bond and draw close to each other," said Wallace. "I enjoy getting to know them. We put together a new concert each year and a new group of students about every three years."

Seven adults make up the support staff. They serve as advisors to the students as well as help with sound and lighting. Melissa Withers, who has had three children and two godchildren in the choir since 1988, enjoys being around the choir and helping out as needed. Donna Shenoha, who attends St. Matthew Catholic Church, doesn't have any children in the choir but loves music and the opportunity to be in a ministry.

Concerts are every Sunday evening between February and May in churches within a 100 mile radius of Charlotte. Students tour for a week in the summer presenting performances in several states.

# Applications invited for local poverty grants

CHARLOTTE — The Office for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is accepting grant applications for the 2002 funding year. CCHD makes small grants from $500 to $5,000 to organizations without regard to religious affiliation. Applications must be postmarked by February 15, 2002.

Established in 1970 as the U.S. Catholic Bishops' domestic anti-poverty program, CCHD is a response to the Biblical call for justice for the poor. The Diocese of Charlotte CCHD Committee will consider programs and projects that: seek to affect the root causes of poverty in the target community; involve genuine participation of the people served in the planning and decision-making of the sponsoring organization; and indicate potential for institutional change, empowerment of the people and community involved, and the development of local leadership.

For an application, contact Terri Jarina, diocesan director, CCHD, Office of Justice and Peace, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28203-4003; (704) 370-3234; FAX (704) 370-3377. To obtain the application as an email attachment in a MS Word document, send an email request to thjarina@charlottediocese.org. The application is also available on our website at www.cssnc.org/justicepeace.


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## Superintendent of Catholic Schools

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**The deadline for receipt of applications is February 28, 2002.**

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1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28203

# Deacons and wives ascend mountains for continuing education

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

LENOIR — Deacons and wives from around the diocese made the trek — some as long as three hours — through the mountains of Lenoir to attend a continuing education class on homiletics at St. Francis of Assisi Church Feb 2.

Upon completion of the morning prayer, Rev. Mr. Arthur Kingsley, coordinator for continuing education of deacons, introduced Father Francis T. Cancro, pastor of St. Eugene Church, who gave three sessions on homiletics.

Prior to coming to the Charlotte diocese, Father Cancro taught the art of preaching for six years at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

"The three key aspects of preaching," said Father Cancro, were "the word, the preacher and the context."

Using the perspective of the Vatican Council II document "Dei Verbum" ("The Word of God"), Father Cancro revealed how the word of God lives and breathes in the life of the church. "In this context" he said, "the word of God is big and broad. It is not narrow and limited to only a single interpretation."

Referring to encyclical "Evangelii Nunciandi" ("On the Evangelization of the People," written by Pope Paul VI), Father Cancro said, "The word of God is a living, active, dynamic reality that must be proclaimed, read, and acted upon. It is a process that must be internalized, proclaimed and actualized by the church."

To achieve this goal, using historical criticism, we must understand the authorship and culture of the times in which the Gospels were written, as well as the theological context of the authors.

With the Christmas narratives as an example, Father Cancro showed the different approaches of Luke and Matthew. "The preacher must be sensitive to all of these theological overtones presented in the Gospels. This, with an openness that can only come from a disposition of prayer, which includes the Liturgy of the Hours and the Lectionary," said Father Cancro.

"The preacher must also know when to stop. There needs to be a balance between church and society. Secular holidays are not liturgical," he stressed.

With a quote from ordination: "Believe what you read. Preach what you believe. And practice what you preach."

Other sessions focused on the practical such as good hygiene, testing eyesight and hearing regularly and becoming aware of those annoying chronic physiological preoccupations. In addition, preachers must become sensitive to stresses because of family or workplace situations.

Another important aspect was for the preacher to push the extroversion button as much as possible, for without proper socialization, a preacher would tend to loose credibility. But Father Cancro also warned about spreading oneself too thin.

"When preaching, we should avoid anything that interferes with the delivery of the message." Those distractions Father Cancro considered as "noise."

Father Cancro sanctioned the use of props if they fit personality, are big enough, are used correctly, and are put into the right context.

Most importantly, "practice your homily ahead of time," Cancro urged. "Time it so that it falls into the comfort range of the listener — between eight to 10 minutes without ever going over 12 minutes."

"The preacher must also be very sensitive when preaching to multi-ethnic populations," Cancro said. "At the same time, we must be in tune with the social vocabulary of all the people, young, old, new and old Catholics, the disabled, those with alternate life styles and people with various income levels."

Augustinian Brother Bill Harkin, regional representative of the Augustinian province, said of the presentation: "I think Father Cancro is very practical and theological. He knows what he is talking about and gave me new methods on how to preach with reference to other people."



**Elizabeth Steinkamp and Rev. Mr. Vincent Shaw discuss the program during the Continuing Education Class on Homiletics at St. Francis of Assisi Church Feb. 2.**



PHOTOS BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**Deacons and their wives mingle during a break at the Continuing Education Class on Homiletics at St. Francis of Assisi Church Feb. 2.**



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# Vietnam vet places focus on faith and ministry

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

THOMASVILLE — Hearing gunfire pierce through the air became commonplace for David King. Even while playing football, the sounds of fighting did not cause alarm. The location was Vietnam, and the shots were from battles between American troops and the Viet Cong. King had been drafted into service in 1967 like many other young men.

"You get acclimated to it after while," Rev. Mr. King said of the gunfire. "The first time something happens, you are scared to death. The second time, you are angry. My faith brought me through that. In situations like that, your faith doesn't come out until things happen. People look to God for answers during difficult times."



Rev. Mr. David King

His busy schedule did not allow him to attend church services regularly while in the service, but Baptist-born-and-raised King remembered the words of his mother, who told him to "always seek the Lord." Thoughts of his home life in Thomasville, N.C., comforted him as he was exposed to sights and sounds foreign to his childhood experience.

He was born in Virginia and had moved to North Carolina at the age of seven with his parents and four siblings. His mother, a Methodist, had converted to the Baptist religion, while his father, a butcher, became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints later in life. Although they did not attend church as a family, King's baptism when he was 12 was significant to his faith life.

"I remember going in white and coming out orange because the water was muddy. My life began to head in a particular direction because of baptism," said Rev. Mr. King, who became more involved with ministry during his teen and young adult years.

Lack of college funds after high school graduation in 1966 led him into the working world until he was drafted. He signed up for four years of active duty in the Army and became a military intelligence specialist.

His time in the service was overshadowed by his mother's bout with cancer. In 1972, when his active service was almost over, he went home on leave to be with his mother. However, he returned too late; she had died the day before. "I hate that I didn't get to see her before she passed," he said solemnly.

After his discharge in 1972, King spent nine years in the Reserves. He began working at Henredon Furniture, took night business classes and attended Baptist services on Sundays.

While moving up the ranks of the furniture business and becoming acquainted with his co-workers, he developed a curiosity about Catholicism after hearing discussions. He had always been interested in the religion and seized an opportunity to attend Mass at Our Lady of the Highways Church (OLH) with a company employee. He did not understand the Mass, but his casual interest in the faith tradition grew into a serious quest for knowledge and answers.

"I was intrigued with Catholicism because of what I had seen in the media," Rev. Mr. King said. "I realized that something was missing in my faith — a sense of history and ritual. It made me wonder why we didn't do some of the same things in the Baptist Church. I didn't want to convert at the time but wanted to find out what made the religion tick."

Many years would pass before King fully dedicated himself to Catholicism. However, he began meeting with the pastor at OLH and took classes at the parish. Church ministry was his focus, and he said that he began to have a "longing for the Eucharist." That longing was satiated when he converted in 1989 on Easter with several other people.

King's faith grew with time, care and dedication. He made his Cursillo a few months after coming into the church and attended RCIA classes. "I didn't have to (attend the classes), but I wanted to learn more," he said. "I became an RCIA team member the following year, and (over time) a eucharistic minister, faith formation teacher, parish council member and Boy Scout leader. Things just kept going; I was getting more involved with parish life and with other people's lives."

Some of those people included permanent deacons, and he grew increasingly aware of a need to further serve the church. He entered the lay ministry program, a requirement of the diocesan diaconate program, and set his sights on the ordained ministry. "I thought 'what more can I do?' I had talents to share and thought that it (the diaconate) would be one way I could do it."

He applied to the diaconate program and was accepted. He found that he had much in common with his classmates except for one thing — he was single.

He had dated as a teen and as an adult but never found the right one. "I am not sure why I never married. I thought it would happen, but it never did," said Rev. Mr. King, who helped raise his two nephews for over 10 years.

If a single man is ordained a permanent deacon, he is not allowed to marry. For married deacons, if their wives pass away, they are not allowed to remarry. Thoughts of the single life had sunk in his mind and would surface at various times. "If you are single, you have to do everything else while going to classes," said Rev. Mr. King, ordained in 2001. "No one is there, no wife or family members to help.

"When you come into the church with your faith, you know how you are supposed to behave — as a single person and not as a married person. That means practicing celibacy. The idea of not being able to marry did cross my mind...but other things take the place of those thoughts, all of your work and prayer... . There are big decisions to make, but there comes a point when you turn everything to God."

Although Rev. Mr. King was recently laid off, he has not wavered in his commitment to faith and ministry: "I am thankful that God has given me the opportunity to do this. In whatever state we are in, we have so many blessings. You have to evaluate them and share them with others as Scripture tells us."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

# Pope John Paul II Cultural Center drops admission charge

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington dropped by the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center Feb. 6 to help it inaugurate a new admission-free policy. The cardinal ceremonially contributed the first voluntary offering that will replace entrance fees and met with children from a nearby Catholic school who were touring the center. As he was leaving Cardinal McCarrick did not rule out the possibility that Pope John Paul may personally visit the center during a trip to North America in late July. "We always invite him to come," he said in response to a Catholic News Service question about such a trip. "The Holy Father is always welcome — at the JP II Cultural Center, the Archdiocese of Washington. ... We'd always love to have him. He knows how wonderfully welcome he'd be."



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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

February 15, 2002
Volume 11 • Number 22

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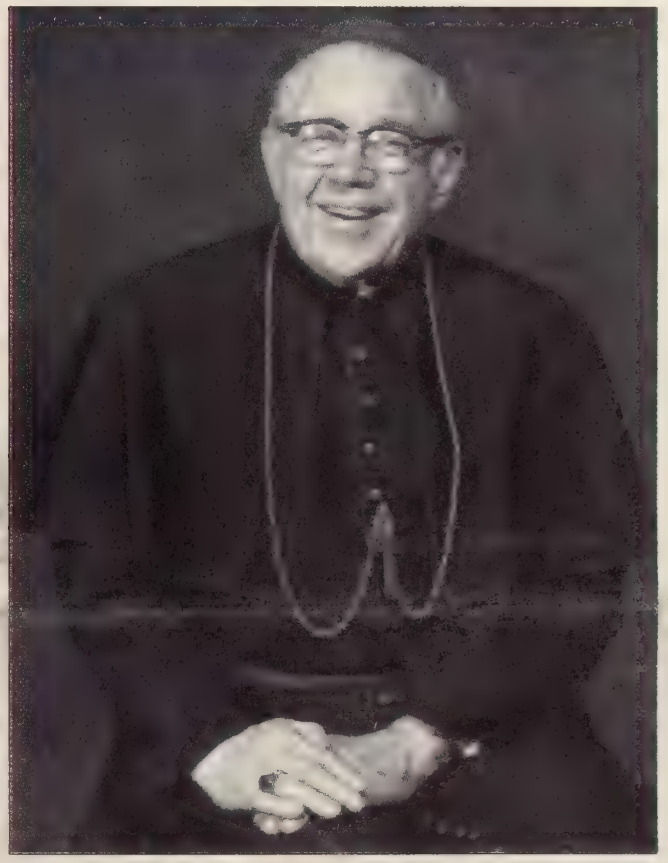
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*Next week:* The Catholic News & Herald is dedicated to Bishop Michael J. Begley, with remembrances and coverage of his funeral Mass.

# Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley Founding Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte dies at 92

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor



HIGH POINT — Bishop Michael J. Begley, bishop emeritus of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte died Saturday, Feb. 9 at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point, where he had lived since 1997. The retired bishop was 92.

"The Diocese of Charlotte was truly blessed with this good and holy man of God," said Bishop William G. Curlin. "All who knew him can testify to his deep love for Christ and his zealous dedication to his priestly ministry. Humility and simplicity of life were among his cardinal virtues," said Bishop Curlin.

Appointed by Pope Paul VI as the first bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte in 1971, Bishop Begley was ordained bishop of the 46-country diocese on Jan. 12, 1972. He served the diocese until his retirement on May 29, 1984.

As first bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, Begley took as his motto; Diligimus Fratres 'We Have Loved the Brethren.' During his tenure as bishop, he was a leader in the ecumenical movement in North Carolina, and his efforts earned praise from leaders of many denominations.

The spiritual leader of the Charlotte diocese (then considered missionary territory), Bishop Begley quickly earned a widespread reputation as a kind-hearted champion of the poor, a zealous preacher of the Scriptures, an enthusiastic bridge-builder in the ecumenical community, and a humble administrator who counted on the blessings and contributions of many.

Among his legacies to the Diocese of Charlotte was his openness in allowing the diocese to grow in many different directions.

However, foremost to the bishop were social concerns — especially the condition of the poor. As chairperson of the Commission on Religion in Appalachia, he led 26 bishops from 13 states in issuing a joint pastoral letter on the state of the powerless in the mountain region. "This Land Is Home To Me," attracted national attention for its forthright approach to the problems of the people in the economically depressed area.

"Bishop Begley provided great comfort and encouragement to many people across the Diocese of Charlotte throughout the years," said Bishop Curlin. "His leadership and kindness are to be treasured."

Bishop Begley was to lie in state Feb. 14 at St. Patrick's Cathedral. A vigil service for Bishop Begley was celebrated at 7 p.m. that evening. Mass of Christian Burial was Friday, Feb. 15 at St. Gabriel Church, with burial at Belmont Abbey in Belmont.

*Editor's note: The Feb. 22 edition of The Catholic News & Herald will contain a 16-page tribute to Bishop Michael J. Begley, including coverage of the funeral Mass.*

# Conference shortens Catholic and Islamic culture

"Planting Seeds of Hope"

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — To know thy enemy is to know thyself. And then, perhaps, you realize you're not all that different, after all.

Approximately 120 people gathered for "Catholic and Islamic Perspectives on War, Peace and Solidarity: Growing in Knowledge, Seeking Peace" at St. Thomas Aquinas Church Feb. 9. The conference, sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte Office of Justice and Peace and Catholic Social Services, was intended to deepen cultural understanding and to serve as a training module for the diocese.

"The Office of Justice and Peace believed that a teachable moment existed as a result of September 11," said Office of Justice and Peace Director Joseph Purello in his opening presentation. "Catholics ought to hear, we felt, what the church is saying about war, about peace, about Islam, about solidarity."

The conference's objectives included helping Catholics: develop an ethical response to war and peace; deepen their understanding of Islam and the Islamic world; and understand different aspects of solidarity.

"Today, we also gather in response to the signs of the times, and once again we are able to draw on church teachings put forth in response to the horrific acts of September 11," said Purello.

Joan Rosenhauer and Dr. Mumtaz Ahmad each gave two presentations at the conference.

"Many Catholics are not aware of our teachings on war and peace as they form opinions on what should and should not be done," said Rosenhauer, special projects coordinator for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop's Department of Social Development and World Peace.

"It's time to sit down and ... develop an understanding between Muslims and Catholics on these fundamental issues of war and peace," said Ahmad, a professor

See Conference, page 2

### Panelists at Senate hearing debate pros, cons of human cloning

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Panelists at a Senate hearing on human cloning agreed that the federal government should outlaw cloning for reproduction, but they split on the issue of cloning human embryos for research. Supporting a total ban was Jesuit Father Kevin FitzGerald, chairman of Catholic health care ethics at Georgetown University's Center for Clinical Bioethics. Government regulation of scientific experimentation on humans is nothing new, given "the wrongs done in the name of science," and is needed to safeguard respect for human life, he said. Other panelists argued that stem-cell experimentation using cloned human embryos held promise for major breakthroughs in curing diseases. The Feb. 5 hearing called by the Judiciary Committee was held as the Senate prepared to debate human cloning.

### Hungary's bishops back law granting citizenship to Hungarians abroad

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Hungary's bishops' conference said it supports a law that extends citizenship rights to ethnic Hungarians in neighboring countries. "We know Hungarians living abroad are very satisfied with this law," Auxiliary Bishop Andras Veres of Eger, secretary-general of the Hungarian bishops' conference, told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview Feb. 6. "The Catholic Church is an important source of identity for Hungarians everywhere. It's these people's views we're expressing, rather than the church's," he said. The bishop spoke amid continued reactions to a January bishops' conference statement, which said church leaders were "delighted" the law was implemented Jan. 1.

### Seattle Archdiocese starts project to gather women's oral history

SEATTLE (CNS) — A groundbreaking oral history project launched by the Seattle Archdiocese this year will enable the voices of local Catholic women to speak to future generations. The first goal of the five-year project is to conduct and record interviews with at least 100 women, religious and lay, who have contributed to the growth and development of the local church. The project is sponsored by the Archdiocesan Women's Commission and the archdiocesan archives. Its official title is: "Women's Voices, Women's Stories: The Catholic Women's Oral History Project of the Archdiocese of Seattle."

### Missouri residents struggle with high levels of lead in community

HERCULANEUM, Mo. (CNS) — The 2,800 residents of Herculaneum must make a series of difficult decisions as they cope with efforts to clean up lead contamination in their community, according to the Catholic pastor in town. "It's not an easy thing," said Father Robert Fleiter, pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish. The town, about 30 miles south of St. Louis, is home to Doe Run, the largest lead smelter in the country. On Dec. 21 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ordered Doe Run, which has been in operation for more than 100 years, to accelerate its cleanup of lead-contaminated residential properties in the city. Missouri Gov. Bob Holden and U.S. Rep. Richard Gephardt have asked the EPA to place the city on the Superfund national priority list.

### Bolivian bishops withdraw from talks between government, coca farmers

COCHABAMBA, Bolivia (CNS) — The Bolivian bishops' conference has pulled out of a dialogue between the government and coca growers because of the farmers' unwillingness to compromise, said the archbishop of Cochabamba. Archbishop Tito Solari of Cochabamba announced the decision after meeting with the farmers' lead negotiator, Evo Morales, a former congressman who demanded the government's commitment to stop coca eradication as a precondition to keep talking. "Any preconditions to the dialogue must be respectful to the Bolivian law and the fight against drug trafficking," Archbishop Solari said. Farmers said coca production is a "traditional activity connected to our ancestors," and should not be controlled by the government.

## CONFERENCE, from page1

of political science at Hampton University, Va.

One topic addressed by the speakers was the Catholic and Islamic criteria for a "just war."

"It was surprising how similar the teachings are on the just war, and how neither side has really followed them," said Sharon Hoilett. "Maybe it would cut down on the amount of killing if we both followed the criteria a little closer."

"Respect for human life is one thing that is common between Catholicism and Islam," noted Ahmad. "President Bush did a wonderful job in asking Americans to make the distinction between a few terrorists and the 1.6 billion Muslims who are peaceful."

"No cause, no past injustice, no religion can condone or justify the acts of people like Osama bin Laden," added Ahmad.

Another conference revelation was the true meaning of "jihad," believed by many to mean "holy war." "Jihad only means stirring to work very hard for some just cause," said Ahmad.

"If others were exposed to this information, it would change their minds," said Hoilett.

"Thank God the diocese gives us the opportunity to look at the situation from both sides," said Clint Hunsche. "We have such limited exposure to Islamic perspectives and ideals."

"I really think of the Diocese of Charlotte is taking a leadership role," said Rosenhauer. "I'm not aware of other conferences of this sort where people are given this opportunity."

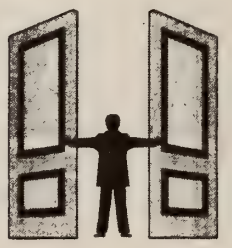
The conference was videotaped and will be used as a teaching tool for parishes and schools around the Diocese of Charlotte. Volunteers from each parish were asked to become teachers to "train the trainers," said Purello.

"As American Catholics, we have the opportunity to engage our fellow parishioners in the issues of justice," said Rosenhauer.

*The Office of Justice and Peace is one of 35 programs and ministries that receives funds from the Annual Diocesan Support Appeal.*


**"Prayer: Doorway to the Kingdom"**

*A Soup and Substance Lenten Series*



Featuring prayer traditions from four major Religious Orders: Franciscan, Carmelite, Benedictine, and Jesuit

**Wednesdays**
**Feb. 20 to March 20**
**St. Barnabas Catholic Church**
**Arden, NC**

**6:30 pm — Mass**
**7:00 pm — Vegetarian Soup Meal**
**7:30-8:30 pm — Presentation**

***Coming Soon:***
**Feb. 20: Fr. Ted Centala, O.C.D., Provincial Delegate, East Coast Province: Carmelite Spirituality**
**Feb. 27: Fr. David Brown O.S.B. , Professor of Theology, Belmont Abbey: Benedictine Spirituality**

**For information: 828-684-6098 or stbardre@bellsouth.net**



The Catholic News & Herald

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**March 1 — 7:30 a.m.**
First Friday Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**March 2 — 11 a.m.**
Recommitment Mass for permanent deacons
St. Gabriel, Charlotte

**7 p.m.**
Confirmation
Catholic Hispanic Center, Charlotte

**March 4**
Board meeting
St. Mary Seminary, Baltimore, Md.

**March 5 — 7:30 p.m.**
Reconciliation service
St. Patrick, Charlotte

## Diocesan planner

**February**

**20** ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., will be having a Lenten soup and substance series entitled "Prayer: Doorway to the Kingdom." Prayer traditions from the Franciscans, Carmelites, Jesuits and Benedictines will be presented at the 6:30 p.m. sessions held every Wednesday beginning tonight and continuing until March 20. For further information, call Sheryl Peyton at (828) 684-6098, Ext. 302 or e-mail stbardre@bellsouth.net.

**20** GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is having its annual mini-Lenten retreat at the Franciscan Center, 233 North Greene St., at the 12:10 p.m. Masses starting this afternoon and continuing Feb. 27 and March 6 and 13 with coffee and refreshments and a luncheon after the last gathering on March 20. Call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022 for more information.

**21** BELMONT — The Abbey Players/Belmont Community Theatre will be performing Shakespeare's "Hamlet" opening tonight at 8 p.m. in the Haid Theatre, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. The play will run Feb. 22, 23 and 28 and March 1 and 2. For tickets and other information, call the theatre at (704) 825-6787.

**24** CHARLOTTE — The American Harp Society invites all to St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., for a free concert and light refreshments this afternoon at 2 p.m. "Music for Two Harps" will feature the talents of Betsey Sesler and James Pinkerton. For further details, call Betsey Sesler at (704) 332-3400.

**24** HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

**25** CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and

# Diocesan doctor brings comfort to Jamaican children

By DIANNE M. A. RIGGS
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Dr. John Langlois, M.D., a member of St. Eugene Catholic Church, joined four others on a mission team to the Mustard Seed Communities in the Kingston area of Jamaica. The team' weeklong visit last fall quickly and pleasingly narrowed for Langlois, who acted as physician for the disabled children served by communities.

The four Mustard Seed Communities primarily serve over 200 children with disabilities. Two volunteer American nurses temporarily re-opened the medical clinic at the "Jerusalem" community. Langlois became the first international volunteer doctor to staff the clinic after its reopening.

A physician for 18 years, Langlois was shocked by the children's deformities and would not take pictures of some because he felt he would be violating them. Langlois said nothing could be done for the children's primary problems, including cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome, hydrocephalus, seizure disorders, HIV and others. Langlois said it was "down to basic caring" such as tending a rash or ear infection.

"You give them what you have," he said, indicating that just to be touched or smiled at was very important for the children. "(It gives the children) a new touch, feel, experiences, because caregivers, dedicated as they are, are stretched," Langlois said.

Langlois, who graduated from Johns Hopkins University Medical School and did his residency in Charleston, S.C., is currently director of the Division of Family Medicine at MAHEC (Mountain Area Health Education Center.) "I'm a physician-teacher by nature and it is within my nature to want to teach and train," said Langlois.

While in Kingston, he trained the staff in recognizing and treating malnutrition, pressure sores, respiratory care and doing stitches. "Providing skills, training, supplies or organizational techniques allow (a mission) to be more efficient and effective with the resources they have. And those things will last long after the visitor has returned to the States," he said.



**Dr. John Langlois, M.D., examines two of over 200 disabled children at the Mustard Seed's "Jerusalem Community" clinic in Spanishtown, just outside of Kingston, Jamaica.**

The St. Eugene volunteers were: Langlois; John Boff, a pharmacist, and his wife, Lisa; Chuck Taft, St. Eugene coordinator of Liturgy and Music Ministry; and Heather Gallagher, a University of North Carolina at Asheville student.

Their repertoire of activities was broad: feeding and playing with the children; moving dirt to make a garden; painting fences and gates; sorting medical donations; fixing a computer and television; coordinating a Christmas play; and even cleaning and grooming a horse.

"There are opportunities for everyone," said Langlois.

Langlois and the volunteers were hopeful that the clinic would remain open. They want to see medical personnel of all kinds utilizing the clinic as volunteers. With the clinic open, better care for the children and their staff can be achieved.

Mustard Seed was also hoping to serve people living near the communities, particularly the elderly, said Langlois. "They can take good care of volunteers as well. (There is) no way they can do it without a coordinator," he said.

Funding a Jamaican clinic volunteer coordinator was high on Langlois's priorities upon his return to the States. It would cost only $500 a month to provide a half-time Jamaican national, he said. Langlois and others were trying to raise the necessary funds through their church and other means. "If the clinic is locked up for a month, where is the equipment? You sort of have to start at ground zero each time."

St. Eugene Church has originated trips to Jamaica previously and has committed itself to two Jamaican mission visits per year. There is one slated for late spring of this year, Langlois said.

A priest from India started Mustard Seed communities 17 years ago, said Langlois. The four communities are: Sophie's Place, housing 25 severely disabled children; Our Father's House, with 75 children with disabilities; My Sister's House, a home for unwed mothers and their children; and Jerusalem, which has close to 100 children with disabilities and mental problems. Jerusalem also houses about 15 children with HIV.

Langlois said it is disorienting for the first-time volunteer. The challenge is "to behave differently, to keep some change from that experience going," he said.


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- An Overview of the Respect Life Ministry *(Session in English & Spanish)*
- Catholic Political Responsibility in Respect Life Initiatives
- Responding to Poverty, Racism and Violence *(Session in English & Spanish)*
- Embracing Life in the Third Age: Creative Aging
- How Natural Family Planning Supports Couples and Families *(Session in English & Spanish)*
- Embracing the Gospel of Life Within the Family

**Time: 9:30am — 2:30pm**
**Location: St. Mark's Catholic Church, Huntersville**
**Cost: $15 (includes continental breakfast and lunch)**
**Registration due by March 1st**
**For registration brochure, please call Marlo Wallace at (704) 370-3228**

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friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia will be held today and every fourth Monday from 10-11:30 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. With advanced notification, activities for the memory-impaired can be provided. For more information about the support group or the Shining Stars Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday at St. Gabriel from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and every Thursday at Sardis Presbyterian Church from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

**27** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**March**

**1** CHARLOTTE — All married couples are invited to participate in the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter this weekend at the Wyndham Garden Hotel. Marriage Encounter is a 44-hour period when couples can take time off from families, work and other responsibilities to focus on each other to grow spiritually and emotionally as one. For more information or reservations, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

**2** GREENSBORO — The St. Mary Church Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus-Council 8684 will host a prayer seminar after the 9 a.m. Mass until noon today at the parish center, 812 Duke St. Light refreshments will be served mid-morning. All women are invited to bring a friend. For reservations, call Sadie McConnell at (336) 851-5585.

**3** CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will be gathering today at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information please call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 545-8133.

**3** CHARLOTTE — The Mount St. Mary College choir will be presenting a concert at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, tonight at 7:30 p.m. This is the choir's second time traveling to Charlotte under the direction of Andy Rosenfeld. For more information about the free concert of sacred choral literature, call the church office at (704) 334-2283.

**3** SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**4** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight and every first Monday at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on March 5 and every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**4** CHARLOTTE — The bereavement support group will meet tonight from 6-7:30 p.m. and every first Monday in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. This support group is for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. For details, call Ruth Posey, CSS counselor, at (704) 370-3238.

**4** CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on April 1. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

# Asheville Catholic students make wishes come true

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — The television show "Touched By an Angel" has nothing on the fifth graders at Asheville Catholic School. Whether granting a wish or working with handicapped children, this class reaches out to help others.

They work with mentally and physically handicapped children at Estes Elementary School. A group of six fifth graders (different students each week) go to Estes to help the children learn simple skills and concepts.

"We take their hands and help them," Stephanie Lane said.

Recently, they helped the children understand "cold."

"Last time, we made slushies with ice and juice," Pearce Lebreque said, "but mine couldn't have liquids so I put ice in her hand."

Last year, the Asheville Catholic class tackled a project that brought joy to a seriously ill child and her family.

Linda Lamp, regional director for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central & Western North Carolina, visited the students when they were fourth graders to tell them about her program.

"The Make-A-Wish lady came to visit," Ronnie Hreha said. "She said it cost $5,000 to make a wish come true. She said tons and tons had their wishes come true."

"When she came, she thought the class would maybe raise a couple of hundred dollars to help make a wish come true, but she never thought they would raise that much," said Pamela Williams, their fifth-grade teacher.

The students were eager to raise the money.

"They're a real go-getter group," said Principal Veronica Berreen, Ph.D. "For about 30 seconds they were like, 'Can we do this?' but then they decided they could make it happen. But that's Pam. She's so enthusiastic. She had a big parent meeting first to see whether they would get that support, and they were extremely supportive."



Photo courtesy of Haynes family and R&D WebWorks.

**Skylar Haynes wears a mask to protect her weakened immune system.**



Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**Bishop William G. Curlin chats with fifth graders at Asheville Catholic School during a Catholic Schools Week visit. Last year the class raised $5,000 to grant a child's wish through the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central & Western North Carolina.**

"We started off by having a bowl-a-thon in the fourth grade in May," student Kelly Olesiuk said. "In the fifth grade we had a bake sale. We raised most of the money-we had a Mexican fiesta."

The money, Jacob Weidie said, would be for 3-year-old Skylar Haynes: "She made a wish to go to DisneyWorld. When she came to visit, her mom told us how happy she was that we were helping her."

Make-A-Wish has three criteria for granting wishes: the child must be under 18 years of age; must live within the Make-A-Wish chapter area; and a medical professional must certify that the child has a life-threatening illness. Once those conditions are met, a Make-A-Wish team visits the child to ascertain his or her wish.

Skylar, daughter of Roy and Marquette Haynes of Arden, had alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, a hereditary disease that affects about one of every 2,000 live births in the United States.

Skylar developed liver disease, which so damaged that organ that she required a liver transplant. She had the surgery in June. Her mother said the transplant corrected the alpha 1 antitrypsin deficiency, but Skylar has since had two surgeries to stop hemorrhaging and four to cut away a flesh-eating bacteria that keeps invading the incision. She was already on the Make-A-Wish list, and she and her family visited Disney World and Sea World in Orlando, Fla., Nov. 10-15. Make-A-Wish tries to grant the wish when it is best for the child and his or her family.

The fifth-grade class presented its $5,000 check to the foundation on Nov. 21, thus reimbursing the fund for the cost of Skylar's wish.

"It made me feel good," Paige Borden said, "and besides that it made me feel good that a fifth grader could do something this big."

"Once Skylar's wish was granted, the BB&T building lit one of its stars of light at Christmas in honor of our class," Elizabeth Keil said

"They're a phenomenal group of kids, that during an extremely difficult year-with our economy and all we've been through—they didn't let that stop them," Lamp said. "There's a tremendous lesson in that for all of us: that you can't give up."

"We think they're angels," Marquette Haynes said. "They were incredible. We've heard from them several times since. At Christmas, they sent cards."

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central & Western North Carolina includes 51 counties that encompass the Diocese of Charlotte. A chapter of the national Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Western North Carolina chapter has it headquarters in Charlotte and regional offices in Asheville and Greensboro. Volunteers are always needed. For more information, call the Charlotte office at (704) 339-0334, or call toll free (877) 677-9474 to be connected to the nearest office.

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*


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# The Redeemed bring "New Life" to Christian Coffeehouse

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — Candlelight, table linens, fresh flowers, a tempting variety of desserts and drinks — the stage is set for an evening of Christian entertainment at the St. Matthew Church Christian Coffeehouse.

The Redeemed, an 11-member Christian contemporary band, entertained over 80 people gathered for an evening of gospel sounds and a Christian message with socializing, food and drink at the Christian Coffeehouse Jan. 20. Attendees included singles, couples and families, predominately from St. Matthew Church.

"This is our first experience at the Christian Coffeehouse," said Kelly Ferkol. "We love the choir. This gives the kids good role models. It's another way to celebrate together."

Kelly, her husband Andrew and children Drew, 10, and Lindsey, 6, participated in the songs. Kelly and Andrew's son Luke, 3, was in the babysitting service, which was offered at the Coffeehouse for the first time this evening.

The Redeemed members are: Kathy Bartlett, lead singer and guitarist; David Shoff, band director at Charlotte Catholic High School, who plays the keyboard and sings; Andy Geppert, bass; Keith Sumerel, drummer; and vocalists Mark Adkins, Montressa Barbee, Aliceann Coon, Monte Coon, Cindy Geppert, Patty Heon, and Lori Sumerel.

Bartlett, director of music ministry at St. Matthew, often received feedback from parishioners on how much her choir's praise and worship has touched people. But with the constraints of Mass from a liturgical standpoint, there was little time or room for expansion.

"I wanted to provide a forum for individuals who are touched by music to get a little closer to Jesus Christ," said Bartlett. "We bring you closer to Jesus Christ by bringing Jesus Christ closer to you through spiritual song."

The format was simple for the evening's theme, "New Life, New Birth through Baptism," setting the tone for the many songs and the guest speaker, Father Duc Duong, parochial vicar at St. Matthew Church.

Father Duong presented an insight into the new life theme. "We receive many graces from God through baptism," he said. "One of these is the forgiveness of sin. We are all born in sinfulness, receiving a new life from God through baptism. At that time, we are born in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through baptism, we promise to live as God's children. God is willing to forgive our sins if we humble ourselves, recognize our sins, and ask for forgiveness."

"Baptism gives us the gift of a new birth, a new life to know the Father and the Son," read Bartlett from a catechism.





Photos by Mary Marshall

**The Redeemed, an 11-member Christian contemporary band, entertained over 80 people gathered for an evening of gospel sounds and a Christian message at St. Matthew's Christian Coffeehouse Jan. 20.**

As the music resumed, Father Duong joined Bartlett and the band singing, "Our God is an Awesome God." Adding hand gestures, people responded wholeheartedly, swaying to the music.

Other songs such as "Shout to the Lord," "Trading my Sorrows," "Creating Me," "If Today," and "Let Me See Your Face," all related to the new life theme.

Janet and Randy Ligon liked the fact that the entire family can attend. "It's very spiritual," said Janet. "We enjoy the music and active participation."

"My wife and I come regularly," said Nick Russo. "We enjoy the modern music and the energy generated by the music people and those gathered here."

"We've found that music moves people, touching the heart and soul sometimes more deeply than words," said Bartlett. "It's been said that spiritual music is praying twice. We hear from so many people how much this has touched their lives. For us, it has been a tremendous spiritual growth."

The Redeemers is a non-profit ministry that constantly searches for sponsors. They market through The Catholic News & Herald, the Charlotte Observer and bulletins throughout the diocese. Over the past two years, people have come from parishes in Gastonia, Mooresville, Asheville and York, S.C. Ministries within the parish help with set up, snacks, desserts, beer, wine, soda and coffee. The Piper Glen Emmanus groups assisted with that evening's Coffeehouse.

The next St. Matthew Coffeehouse is March 24.

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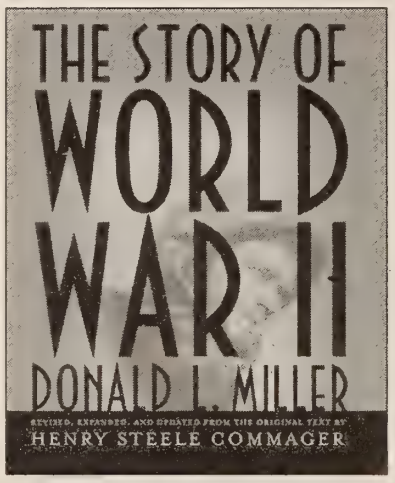
**Book Review**

# Revised book offers deeper insight into World War II

REVIEWED BY JOHN H. CARROLL
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

More than 60 years after the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, it is fitting that an updated version of a great American history of World War II is now available in bookstores. Donald L. Miller, a professor of history at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, has written a revised and expanded adaptation of "The Story of the Second World War" by the American scholar Henry Steele Commager. This work originally was published in 1945.

Commager had served as a U.S. War Department historian during the war. He based much of his work on published official records, news coverage and the public speeches of national leaders. At the time, of course, much of the information about military plans, strategies and campaigns still was classified.




Miller, on the other hand, received his early inspiration about the war from childhood contacts with his father, a veteran of the great struggle, who was active in the Catholic War Veterans in Pennsylvania. Now as a historian, Miller has had access to declassified official military reports, biographies on and memoirs of wartime leaders, and numerous personal stories of veterans who fought on the land and sea and in the air.

In the preface, Miller says that Commager's "assertive and dramatic style turns parts of the book into a prose hymn to the Allied war effort." With the benefit of 60 years of hindsight and the massive amount of documentation now available for research, Miller's revision and expansion of Commager's original work certainly has fulfilled what Miller described "as a modest effort to update an unjustly forgotten work."

Miller actually employs a novel technique to cover the war, from Nazi successes in September 1939 to the Japanese surrender in August 1945. He recounts developments in each major campaign within the varied theaters of operations chronologically and examines their relationship with the overall conduct of the war. World War II truly was a world war. Miller points that out clearly. Naval engagements, island-hopping invasions and air raids against Japan were going on in the Pacific simultaneously with the capture of Rome, D-Day and the aerial offensive over Germany in Europe.

Miller opens each chapter with an exposition of the military strategy involved in the operation or campaign. Then he goes on to look at developments from the point of view of the men actually involved in the action. Now, more than 50 years after the end of the war, readers obtain insights into what it was like.

Many of these "war stories" are revealed for the first time. The reactions of flyers over enemy territory may have varied from those of sailors on a carrier, Marines on a coral reef or GIs in forest foxholes. It was a grim business. Miller captures the atmosphere well in his presentations (take it from your reviewer, who spent some time on the line on the fringes of the Huertgen Forest and the Ardennes in the autumn of 1944).

The author expresses his thanks to Stephen E. Ambrose and other staff members at the Eisenhower Center in New Orleans for their assistance in providing information from the collection there of written memoirs and letters and oral histories of World War II veterans. Miller also has provided clear and helpful bibliographical notes.

This book is a fitting tribute to the veterans of an earlier national struggle in a period of uncertainty comparable in many ways to our own present situation.

*Carroll is a World War II veteran and retired civil servant living in Silver Spring, Md.*

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings:*
*Feb. 17, 2002*
**Cycle A Readings:**
**February 17, First Sunday of Lent**
1) Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Psalm 51:3-6a, 12-14, 17
2) Romans 5:12-19
3) Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My husband, Tommy, was trained and experienced as a journalist, but many years ago he had a brief foray into the "other side" of the political arena on the administrative staff of an elected public official. He soon learned that he didn't have the stomach for — and refused to adopt — some of the attitudes and practices required in that line of work. So it wasn't a disappointment when he was "let go," although it was still a blow to his ego. The timing added pressure, as we had two preschoolers, and the birth of our third child was a week away.

However, the job possibilities were intriguing. He interviewed with several large corporations for public relations positions — which he'd never been interested in, but were tempting because they carried high salaries we'd never dreamed of before, which was exciting. Then he got an offer to work on a newspaper editorial writing staff — a job he'd always wanted. But the temptation of those higher salaries caused hesitation. The salary being offered definitely was back down out of the stratosphere.

I was also wishing to move to a more exotic location than where this job would take us. By God's grace, though, I shared my misgivings with my cousin instead of Tommy. My cousin, an accountant, gently spoke today's Gospel to me when he said: "You know this is the kind of work Tommy loves and will be happy with — it's what he was meant to do. Besides that, when a person gets into those high-dollar positions, even if it is a job you don't like, it's hard to pull out of it. It's a trap."

Not on bread alone.

Thankfully, Tommy took the newspaper job, and the rest is history. He resisted the temptation of wealth and immediate gratification to follow a deeper call. Twenty years later he's still an editorial writer — and thriving in a place that has allowed him to spend his career working for justice. The family has thrived, as well.

The experience gave me a lifelong lesson in how the temptation of worldly desires can block one's way to the life God has prepared for us, and how that life is so much more than we, with our flawed and sinful view, could ever want.

**QUESTION:**
What are some specific temptations that draw you toward immediate gratification and away from God?

**SCRIPTURE TO ILLUSTRATE:**
"At that the devil left him, and angels came and waited on him" (Matthew 4:11).

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Feb. 17 - Feb. 23**

**Sunday (First Sunday of Lent),** Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7, Roman 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18, Matthew 25:31-46; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 11:29-32; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 or 4:17 (Esther's prayer), Matthew 7:7-12; **Friday (Chair of Peter),** 1 Peter 5:1-4, Matthew 16:13-19; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Matthew 5:43-48

**Scripture for the week of Feb. 24 - March 2**

**Sunday (Second Sunday of Lent),** Genesis 12:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:8-10, Matthew 17:1-9; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 9:4-10, Luke 6:36-38; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, Matthew 23:1-12; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-31; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28, Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46; Saturday (Lenten Weekday), Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

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## Movie Capsules

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

**"Big Fat Liar" (Universal)**

Lame comedy in which a grade school boy (Frankie Muniz) writes a school essay that ends up in the hands of a egomaniacal Hollywood producer (Paul Giamatti) who refuses to admit he stole it until he is forced to do so. Director Shawn Levy's unfunny fantasy about a teen-ager getting revenge ends up mocking truth instead of championing it, while the plodding story line, caricatured characters and mean-spirited escapades become increasingly disagreeable. A few crude expressions. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

**"Collateral Damage" (Warner Bros.)**

Over-the-top action movie in which an L.A. firefighter (Arnold Schwarzenegger) whose wife and son were killed by a terrorist bomb single-handedly takes on the terrorists in the Colombian jungles before rushing back to Washington to prevent a further terrorist attack. As directed by Andrew Davis, characterization and a credible plot are all but abandoned in depicting an indestructible hero whose pursuit of personal vengeance is tempered by the need to destroy murderous terrorists. Frequent violence, ethnic stereotyping, some profanity and a few instances of rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Hart's War" (MGM)**

Contrived drama set in a World War II German prisoner-of-war camp in which a young American lieutenant (Colin Farrell) is forced to defend an African-American pilot (Terrence Howard) falsely accused of murder while their colonel (Bruce Willis) uses the distraction to plan a daring escape. Well-intentioned lessons about racism in director Gregory Hoblit's film can't compensate for narrative inconsistencies and one-dimensional characterizations. Some strong war violence including grisly images, fleeting nudity and sporadic rough language with profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"How To Kill Your Neighbor's Dog" (Artistic License)**

Flat comedy about a chain-smoking L.A. playwright (Kenneth Branagh) who's had a recent string of flops but finds comfort and inspiration from an 8-year-old neighbor (Süzi Hofrichter) with a disability. Writer-director Michael Kalesniko's mildly entertaining film has some witty dialogue, but the sluggish pace and the soft writing outweigh it. An implied sexual encounter, recurring rough language and a few cutting remarks mocking Christianity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Last Orders" (Sony Classics)**

Slow-moving drama in which a group of old friends (including Bob Hoskins, David Hemmings and Ray Winstone) get together to honor the last wishes of their close friend (Michael Caine) who wanted them to spread his ashes across the sea. As directed by Fred Schepisi, the sentimental script has many flaws but the superb ensemble cast picks up the slack, giving the deliberately paced film about death, painful memories and new beginnings some vitality. A few sexual encounters, an extramarital affair, brief nudity and sporadic rough language with profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Rollerball" (MGM)**

Mindless remake set in 2018 in which the popular player (Chris Klein) of a brutal blood sport, which combines roller derby, motorcycle racing and hockey, discovers that the team's owner (Jean Reno) is behind the serious on-court accidents aimed at increasing TV viewership. Sci-fi action flick is relentlessly repetitive with an absurd plot that director John McTiernan doesn't even bother to develop, concentrating instead on the violent extreme-sports antics and lavish, bizarre costuming. Intermittent violence, an implied sexual encounter, fleeting drug abuse and recurring profanity and crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Lent offers opportunity for selfless giving and charity, pope says

By John Norton
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a world that is "often obsessed by profit," the church season of Lent offers believers an opportunity to promote selfless giving, Pope John Paul II said.

"Today's society has a great need to rediscover the value of selfless giving, especially because a logic of exclusive search for profit and gain at any cost often seems to triumph in our world," he said Feb. 13 at his weekly general audience.

"In the face of the widespread perception that every decision and action are dominated by market logic and the triumph of the law of the greatest gain possible, Christian faith re-proposes the ideal of selfless giving, based on the conscious liberty of persons animated by authentic love," he said.

The audience coincided with Ash Wednesday, the start in the Latin Church of the 44-day Lenten period of penance before Easter.

The pope said Lent reminds Christians to reach out generously to the needy in appreciation of the "wondrous mystery" of the love of God, who "expects from us a response that is similarly generous, free and conscious."

"Are not almsgiving and acts of charity, which we are invited to make especially in this penitential season, a possible response to the gratuitousness of divine grace?" he said.

In his homily at an evening Ash Wednesday Mass in Rome's Basilica of Santa Sabina, the pope said authentic spiritual conversion must translate into concrete decisions and actions, not simply "external forms and vague proposals."

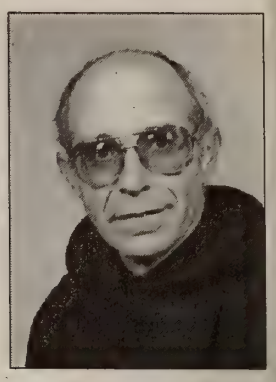
He invited Christians to join him in asking forgiveness "for us and for others."

"We, too, have before our eyes and carry impressed in our souls images of suffering and terrible tragedies, often the fruit of irresponsible egoism. We, too, feel the weight of the discouragement of so many men and women in the face of the pain of innocent (people) and the contradictions of humanity today," the pope said.

"We need the Lord's help to recover trust and the joy of life. We must return to him, who opens to us the door of his heart, rich in goodness and mercy," he said.

The pope presided over the Liturgy of the Word before blessing and distributing ashes. As in past years, he then sat to the side while Cardinal Jozef Tomko, former prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, presided over the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

## Guest Column



FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap
Guest Columnist

### Lent 2002: Is it a quick-fix?

Lent is here again, and it opens up with temptations again and I was wondering if there is a connection between Jesus' temptations and our own personal temptations. In fact, the situation in the Gospel seems to be uncommon to us. The stage is the desert, we don't seem to be desert-dwellers, probably desert does not appeal to us. Secondly, Jesus fasts for 40 days (only bread and water). Our fast is so mitigated that we can hardly notice. Thirdly, Jesus is tempted: are we tempted to command stones to turn into bread? If the Rocky Mountains and the Blue Ridge Mountains were turned into bread, we would be in trouble with EPA, but we would have all the hungry people living in the world been fed. Are we tempted to jump off a tall building and expect God to provide a few low flying angels to serve as parachutes and take us gently to the ground? Such an attitude would be suicidal, that not even the most fearless bungee-jumper would attempt. Are we ever tempted to accept ownership of all the kingdoms of the world in exchange for worshiping the devil? Sorry, Satan, you've got to be kidding. Most of the today's kingdoms have more problems, money management and what not....who wants them. Keep it. Thank you.

Going back to the original question: Is there a common denominator underlying all three temptations and what is really important for us? Yes, there is. I see very clearly the Temptations as a quick-fix. Jesus could have done everything in a split second or less, he did not. As we go through the season of Lent, let us be aware of the Temptations of the quick-fix. We live in a world that prizes fast relief, instant care, immediate gratification, quick results. Why not do Lent in 40 hours rather than 40 days? Well, it takes time to evaluate or re-evaluate our situation at home, at work, to refocus our values, to make U turns without burning the tires.

By reading the temptations of Jesus, the soccer game comes to mind. Jesus won the game, because he was following a life principle, which is defined as a basic commitment that runs through life no matter what, just like the theme in a piece of music. The principle was: God first. Satan offered our Lord 3 options for his life principle.

Pleasure "Command these stones to turn into bread," Jesus 1 – Devil 0.

Popularity "Throw yourself down." Jesus 2 — Devil 0.

Power "All these kingdoms will be yours." Penalty kick — Jesus 3 — Devil 0.

The devil quotes the Bible correctly, but not in its entirety (that's the trick), Jesus quotes the bible too in its entirety. So, by quoting the Bible you can prove anything. Something similar happened to Professor Hiram Corson. The freshmen at Cornell University decided that they were going to tackle Prof. H. Corson, who was a brilliant scholar, but who was also quite a character on the campus. When he needed to reflect, he would reach over and get his long black cape and stride about the campus plunged into the deepest thoughts. Some students, because of his beard, compared him to prophet Micah or Jeremiah and no one dared come near him. Well, these two fool hardy-freshmen, in their youthful conceit, decided to put Professor Corson in his place and blocked his path one morning. The first freshman bowed very low and said "Good morning, Father Abraham." The second freshman bowed low and said, "Good morning, Father Isaac." Professor Corson threw himself up to his full height and looked down at the two freshmen and said (quoting the Scripture): "I am neither Abraham nor Isaac, but I am Joel, the son of Kish, out looking for my father's donkeys and lo and behold, I have found them."



## Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

### Unrequited love

If all the love that abounded around you on Valentine's Day drove you crazy, don't worry. The rest of your life it will drive you crazy too, in one form or another, for love is mysterious, elusive and paradoxical.

And it's especially nerve-racking if it's not returned, isn't it?

Unrequited love is one of the great themes of literature, music and art. There's nothing that can bring out high drama more than a burning, yearning heart. Unfortunately, it's not so entertaining when it's happening to you.

Caring in a certain way about someone who doesn't seem to feel the same way is a constant, painful theme of teen life. It starts way before you hit adolescence, when you start sending little notes asking: "Do you like me? Check one: A. Yes, B. No, C. Sorta, D. Kinda."

You may get a little more sophisticated through the years, but the purpose is the same: Find out if someone "likes" you, and if the person doesn't, try to change his or her mind.

I'm here to tell you: Don't.

Sure, it looks cute and fun in the movies and television: Guy and girl meet in a cute, funny and maybe even disastrous way. Girl hates guy, thinks he's a dweeb. Guy spends the rest of the movie convincing the girl otherwise, sometimes making a fool of himself, but coming through in a probably heroic way at the end, letting girl see who he really is. True love and eternal happiness ensue.

News flash: Life is not like that.

Yes, relationships can grow out of an initial negative impression or even dislike, but if someone knows you and is not interested in anything more than friendship, you really, really need to respect that and, to put it bluntly, leave that person alone.

Sure, it's hard, and breaking hearts hurt badly, but if you've been told, "You're nice, but ...," leave it at that. Why?

Well, to try to force your affections on someone just isn't respectful. If you think about it honestly, you would probably not appreciate it either, if the roles were reversed.

Second, to bug a person and try to "get him (her) to like me" isn't loving at any level. How do we know this? By looking at our model for loving: God.

God does a lot of things to show how much he loves us, but the one thing he doesn't do is force himself on us. He doesn't try to manipulate us. He's not sneaky. He doesn't try to shove us in one direction when we're going in another.

It's just not the way he works. He offers us his love continually. He shows us in innumerable ways how much he loves us. But he always leaves us free to accept or reject him too.

Anything short of that wouldn't be real love, because a fundamental part of love involves respect for the other person's freedom.

Even when it hurts.

And God knows, it can hurt. It's true: God knows.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Rectory living

One of the last mysteries of life in the Church may concern the place priests live, the rectory. Unfortunately, because of the diminishing number of priests, many live alone. But in the popular imagination, we're still perceived like Bing Crosby's Father O'Malley in the classic film "Going My Way," where several priests share their living space. In fact, that's what my rectory is still like.

We are three priests, each with his own living room, bedroom and bathroom. We share a common kitchen, dining room and communal living room. On the first floor of the rectory are our parish offices. Each priest has an office for counseling, planning weddings with engaged couples and just meeting people to talk.

Also sharing space with us at the rectory from nine to five are the parish secretary and receptionist. These are the front line people who field the calls that come in, provide information, make sure the weekly bulletin is published and handle our parish website (www.stthomasapostle.org). More and more people join the parish or seek help online. It's a whole new approach, and opens our parish to a world of visitors.

Down one corridor is the bookkeeper's office. She works with a top-notch finance committee made up of parish laypeople who work in the financial field. It's amazing to think that pastors once made money decisions alone. What a blessing it is to have people who understand financial planning as principal collaborators.

In the basement are meeting rooms for every kind of group and organization. On different nights, you'll find the parish liturgy committee, the pastoral council or the local AA group using that space. Just down the hall is the Parish Social Services ministry. There, folks who are having a tough time can find practical and material help. We provide food, clothing, diapers or even a month's rent, depending on the need.

That's the basic layout. But let me talk about living there. Rectories are much like any home. Priests eat, talk and socialize together. In one of my earlier jobs, I had to travel to a different parish each weekend. I'd usually stay over on a Saturday night. Joining my brother priests for dinner was always revealing. In some places, conversation and laughter would flow and the meal would go on and on, making it like any enjoyable family supper. In other rectories, you sensed that the guys couldn't wait to finish eating. Depending on the group dynamics and individual personalities, you could feel the tension. Dinner would be over in a half hour or less, each priest quickly returning to his private quarters to watch television alone. Those rectories were sad to visit. When I became a pastor myself, I remembered those unhappy visits and promised myself that I'd try to create a happy home for the priests I was assigned to live with. How? Well, it's not unlike any family home.

First, there needs to be collaboration. No one member of the house has all the answers, so we need to be open to others and their ideas. Second, we are all different. We see truth in personal ways, but every point of view is worthy of respect and a fair hearing. People who are not listened to tend to become hurt and embittered. Third, it's important to have fun together. The guys in our home do more than just work together; we make time to go out as a group. It may just be to a movie or a dinner, but it's a sign that we enjoy relaxing as well as working together. Fourth, individual TV-watching can make a very solitary existence. We have a TV and VCR in our communal living room and watch occasional programs together. Finally, it's always important to pray together. It may be some-

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Is there salvation for those who do not believe in Jesus?

*Q. This is about your column some weeks ago concerning the spiritual condition of the Sept. 11 terrorists, and the possibility that they may be saved and go to heaven.*

*I must not understand correctly many verses in the Scripture that say anyone who does not believe in Jesus Christ as savior will be condemned. John (3:36) says, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life."*

*Please tell me where, in your opinion, I'm wrong in my interpretation. (Maryland)*

A. First of all, the response I gave was not simply my opinion. From the references and quotes I offered, including from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, it is clear that what I said about the possibility of salvation, even for people who do not explicitly believe in Jesus Christ, is the teaching of the Catholic Church.

Scripture makes absolutely clear that Jesus is the one and only savior of the world. All efforts by human beings anywhere, anytime, to do good and avoid evil, to reverence and serve the supreme Lord of the world under whatever name God may be known, are the work and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and are made possible through the redemptive merits of Jesus Christ.

This is and always has been Catholic doctrine; it has never changed. What has changed over the past several hundred years is the church's understanding of how that grace of salvation comes to individuals, especially in parts of the world and in cultures who have never even heard of God as we know him or of Jesus Christ.

Is explicit, conscious, formal knowledge of Christ and faith in him necessary for salvation? Or may that faith be somehow implicit, hidden in the pursuit of goodness and holiness manifested in lives of "unbelievers"?

In other words, can people be saved who faithfully try to live good lives but who honestly, for whatever reason, never have seen the embrace of Christ or the church as a personal religious obligation?

The church's answer is yes; and we believe they are saved by Jesus Christ through the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit.

This Catholic position can be found in many places. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, for example, quoting the Vatican II Constitution on the Church, says, "Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart and, moved by his grace, try in their actions to do his will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience — those too may achieve eternal salvation" (No. 847).

No one has been more insistent and consistent on this theme than Pope John Paul II. He writes in his book "Crossing the Threshold of Hope": "God the creator wants to save all humankind in Jesus Christ." He redeemed them all "and has his own ways of reaching them" (pp. 80-83).

In one of his general audiences he said, "Normally it will be in the sincere practice of what is good in their own religious traditions and by following the dictates of their own conscience that the members of other religions respond positively to God's invitation and receive salvation in Jesus Christ, even if they do not recognize or acknowledge him as their savior" (Sept. 9, 1998).

Countless other Catholic documents and teachings say the same, but you get the idea. No one is saved apart from the grace of Christ. But his saving desire and plan is not as narrow and exclusive as many of us think.

# Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

### Learning to trust in God's will

Matthew 5:3-11, the Beatitudes, reveal to us the language of God and offer us the keys to God's kingdom. They are probably the most read and discussed verses of the bible in our family. Our 16-year-old son, Marty gave a talk at his teen groups retreat a few weeks ago. His presentation was on "Thy will be done." It was a reflection on the Beatitudes that revealed both his understanding of the scripture's profundity and his application of it in his life.

He talked about how the Beatitudes are God's will, but go directly against human instincts. If we only aspired to our own human instincts—our will—we can't do God's will.

He gave a couple of examples that opened the Word to his listeners. When a person who can't swim is in water over his head, the natural instinct is to reach for the surface-to raise the hands above the head and grasp desperately for air. Yet, the only way to get one's head above the water is to put the hands down. It's against human instinct, yet it's the way to survive.

The other example was the common experience of every person whoever learned to ski. The idea of putting one's weight on the downhill ski for someone who is afraid of falling is also against human instinct. Yet, to do otherwise guarantees a tumble in the powder. To ski we must listen to and trust the wisdom of our instructor and do the very thing that doesn't make sense.

Both examples expressed the need to do the opposite of our human will. However, once we learn the skills our instincts change. What didn't make sense before we begin to understand. What we couldn't see before we can see. That's how we do God's will. And we can become good at it.

Wisdom for all ages. We think he's got the right idea. Huh?

Questions for Reflection:

- When have you gone against conventional wisdom to do God's will?
- When have the teachings of the Church and scripture not made sense to you?
- Did you aspire only to human wisdom? Divine wisdom?
- Read Matthew 5:1-12. Do you hear the language of God speaking to you?

Send your family stories to:
Family Reflections
P.O. Box 652
Matteson, IL 60443-0652

Or email them to
Family.Reflections@Lyke2Lyke.com

# Harambee Masses celebrate faith and heritage

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

*Harambee is a Kiswahili word meaning "pulling together." At two events in the diocese, people pulled together ideas and joined in song, worship, culture and fellowship in celebration of Black History Month. Every February since the late 1970s, when the weeklong celebration was expanded to a month, Americans celebrate the contributions and gifts that people of color have given to society. Many families of various backgrounds around the country commemorate the month with programs, forums and other events to recognize the achievements of African-Americans.*

### Children in celebration

Our Lady of Assumption School (OLA) students craned their necks and sat upright as they observed the procession down the aisle. They watched women dressed in colorful costumes dance to the beat of drums and saw women sweeping the aisle before they sprinkled water and burned incense. During the welcome before the start of the Mass held on Feb. 7, Alicia Verdun, one of the OLA Black History Month Committee members, read that the sweeping and water sprinkling symbolized preparing the sanctuary for worship. The incense, she said, carried the their prayers to God.

It was the inaugural celebration of the school's Black History Month observance. Principal Pat Murphy met with Bartina Edwards, Jolynn Mata, Yvette Mills, Cynthia Sims and Verdun to discuss what the school could do to observe Black History Month. Together, the women unearthed ideas that would be educational as well as cultural in their focus.

"We've always wanted to celebrate Black History Month, and the question is how do you do that effectively," said Murphy. "This is important because we have a number of families that want Catholic education and want their culture to be recognized and to feel comfortable in the expression of the culture."

Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated the Mass along with Father Gregg Littleton, OLA pastor, and Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor and vicar for the African American Affairs Mininstry , who served at the Mass. The bishop expressed the need for this type of celebration.

"We are people made up of diverse backgrounds. It is a mosaic, and all of the pieces fit together to create a picture of Jesus," said the bishop during his homily. "We are people of different shapes, sizes and colors, and Jesus draws us all into one body."

Along with the Mass, which included members from the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Church (OLC Choir), the children gathered for an assembly entitled "In Touch with History." The children listened as African-American students read a story about all of the inventions of African-Americans including the clothes dryer, ironing board, mop and other everyday items.

During announcements, a Black history fact is being read, and the students can see several displays of African and African-American artifacts, books and decorations in the school's main hall. Along with a storyteller presentation, students are doing class projects and playing educational games with African-American themes, and the school is planning to conduct field trips during the month.

"It is important for the children to

See HARAMBEE, Next Page



Photo by Aleshia M. Price


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## Harambee, from previous page

learn people's backgrounds and to know our heritage which isn't found in the history books," said Verdun. "We wanted to help the kids get a sense of Black History Month and to know that there are black people who have contributed to society."

**Dancing to the beat of a different drummer**

The sound of drums reverberated throughout the old church, while dancers covered in blues and blacks spun around in front of the altar in celebration and worship. Following the lead of the Gospel choir, the audience clapped to music not often heard in most parishes around the diocese. Those who attended the Harambee Mass at Belmont Abbey Basilica on Feb. 10 were treated to songs from the OLC Choir with drummers and an opening presentation from the Kabaka Dancers and Drummers of OLC.

Several of the Benedictine monks from Belmont Abbey Monastery, Belmont Abbey College students and parishioners from area churches joined Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor, as he celebrated the Mass filled with song and visible praise.

Members of Kabaka, including a grandmother and her granddaughter, danced in celebration of Black History Month and in praise of God.

"It is important for those who participated to be able to share their culture and heritage with others in order to create a better understanding of our differences," said Sandy Murdock, founder of Kabaka. "For those who attended, it is important for them to learn the diversity that is present within each group. In order for people to become better Christians, they need to know as much as they can about diversity"

During his homily, Father West stressed the importance of Black History Month observances for all people. "...We gather during Black History Month to recognize and celebrate the richness of the experiences and traditions of people of African descent. Remembering our history, we clearly see that we are blessed, that we are a great people," he said. "We acknowledge with great affection those who have gone before us strong in faith — our fathers and mothers who kept alive an unwavering commitment to Christ and his church throughout the bitter days of slavery and the troubled times of racial segregation... ."

The congregation ended the Mass by joining hands with the choir and singing, "As you go, tell the world about Jesus...and his love." This was the second year of the Mass, which brought people of various cultures and backgrounds together in faith.

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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# Deacon continues parents' spiritual legacy

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

MURPHY — Anthony Marini would stand on a footstool over the old, coal stove to cook dinner for his family. As the only child of two working parents, he had to assume many responsibilities at home. Cooking did not seem like a chore to the youngster who excelled at the domestic skill. "I still make a mean spaghetti sauce," joked Rev. Mr. Marini.

Pasta was a staple in the Marini household and was a welcomed end to the hard and long Depression-era days for his father, a construction worker, and his mother, a seamstress and factory worker. "I remember it was a hand-to-mouth existence for a long while, which is why my mother felt like she had to go to work."

Even though his parents worked constantly to make ends meet, their steadfast dedication to faith and the love and support of friends and extended family kept them close. Holidays and celebrations were the times when they could meet with others and share stories of the "old country" and how their dedication to Catholicism made them stronger.

"Theirs was a simple faith that wasn't based on theology but on personal experiences that they leaned on when they were in trouble," said Rev. Mr. Marini.

He modeled himself after his parents' pious example serving as an altar boy at the neighborhood church, which stood next door to his home. "Church was the center of my religious and social life," he said.

By the time he graduated from high school in 1948, his parents' dream of his attending college was realized; he was accepted to Jesuit-run Fordham College. Even though the pressure to become his family's first college graduate was always on his mind, he enjoyed his college years because of the exposure to philosophy and theology classes.

"They (the classes) strengthened my faith a lot because I knew what its basis was," said the math major.

A special woman in his life was the other reason he enjoyed his new world. Marini had known Maria for years through family functions and celebrations at his home in Brooklyn. Their parents had emigrated from the same city in Italy and had remained close after arriving in the U.S. The young adults visited one another via the Staten Island Ferry as much as possible. With the wind ruffling her hair while standing on the pier, Maria would wait patiently for her new love to arrive.



Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Marini

Marini was at the end of his college career with graduation waiting around the bend when tragedy struck. His father died in 1952 — three weeks prior to graduation. "It was a bittersweet time in my life. Your life changes because you feel that you have other obligations," said Rev. Mr. Marini. "It was very difficult at times because of Italian customs — the widows wore black for a year. It was a constant reminder that he had died, and we would go to the cemetery every other week."

In keeping with his and his father's dreams of higher education, he enrolled in graduate school to earn his master's degree of business administration in statistics. While attending night classes, he worked as a market analyst for Western Electric and American Can Co.

Marini's faith life was placed on the back burner while he juggled school, work and his developing relationship with Maria. "I became a weekend Catholic, but I was really still close to God."

The couple married in 1956 after Marini had graduated, and they settled in Staten Island, where their two children were born. Marini began working for Xerox Corporation in Rochester, N.Y., in 1965 — a move that he says changed his life.

After the children became involved in Catholic school and Mrs. Marini began teaching at their parish school, Marini's faith was rekindled. The couple taught faith formation and served on the parish council, and he served as eucharistic minister. In 1969, they both made Cursillo, and Marini's faith life exploded. Two years later, he became the lay director for the Diocese of Rochester. "We were really involved with bringing Jesus to anyone who would listen."

A transfer to Washington, D.C., doused his spiritual flame for a short while, but reading about the permanent diaconate program kept the embers glowing. After moving back to New York, the couple jumped back into parish life. In 1978, he was accepted into the first diaconate class in the Diocese of Rochester. "Maria attended classes with me for four years, and our spiritual lives grew stronger as we studied and prayed together," said Rev. Mr. Marini, ordained in 1982.

A year later, Rev. Mr. Marini was selected to participate in a company executive leave program, which allowed him to work for a non-profit organization while being kept on payroll. He helped a Hispanic company establish an investment company. "These experiences had a deep effect on my ministry later on."

Being transferred to Florida prompted him to take early retirement in 1987, and he began working full-time as a migrant minister with document translation, sacramental preparation and other ministerial and social work. Mrs. Marini taught English as a second language classes.

Summer trips to North Carolina led to a six-month commitment where he began assisting at St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville. The couple moved to Hendersonville in 1998 to help serve the Hispanic communities. Rev. Mr. Marini and his wife split their time between the mountain parishes and Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Ponte Verde, Fla. "We both had a good foundation in the faith. The diaconate has been like the crowning touch and has enhanced everything we have ever believed," he said.


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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

February 22, 2002
Volume 11 ▾ Number 23

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Humility always radiates the greatness and glory of God. Through humility we grow in love. Humility is the beginning of sanctity.
— Mother Teresa

# Tribute to the first bishop of the diocese



PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

**Msgr. Joseph Showfety, homilist for the funeral Mass of Bishop Michael J. Begley said, "He was really a man of prayer. He was focused on his work but always as the shepherd of the diocese. He wanted the diocese to go forward and initiated many programs for this purpose. Early on, he began pastoral planning for the diocese looking to include the laity more ... He formed all of the councils in the diocese and worked with the many groups giving them all the time that was needed. There was moderate growth in those days, and the aim was to open a new parish each year. I never understood how he found time for all that he did."**

# Program enABLEs economic development

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MURPHY — Todd Wood drives the pickup truck to the high pasture, stopping twice so his father, John, can get out to let down the wire barriers across the rutted dirt lane. They pull up near the site of the family's original home place, marked now by a chimney and two stone doorsteps. About 12 head of cattle come trotting up the hill to the trough Todd fills with protein feed.

The cattle pushing for places at the trough include the five gleaming black Angus-Gelbvieh heifers Todd Wood bought with money he saved through ABLE, a program sponsored by the Charlotte Diocese's Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) in Murphy. The heifers will help Wood build a better herd and a more promising economic future.

"See, there was no way I could have bought good quality ones without this program," Wood said. "I could have bought some sorry ones, but not that quality. I'm proud of them."

The ABLE (Assets Building Long-Term Equity) Matched Savings Program, administered by the OEO, is designed for low-income people in Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain counties who want to improve or start small businesses, buy homes, or obtain more education.

"These three areas are crucial in the overall economic development of this community," the ABLE brochure states. "This region is being forced to make an adjustment from a traditional wage labor economy to a service-oriented '9 to 5' career track. Without some assistance through this transition period, families are left behind."

The "adjustment" is "forced" by the fact that there is little industry in the four counties. There's even less since December, when VF Corp. in Andrews, in Cherokee County, closed and put more than 500 people out of work.

The OEO is trying to improve the situation. Located in the Bishop Begley Center for Economic Development, named for the first bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, OEO is a project of the diocese's Catholic Social Services' Office of Justice and Peace.

Melissa Block was OEO director when she initiated ABLE with help from Joanne Kennedy Frazer, former diocesan director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. "It's been very popular throughout the country," Block said of ABLE. "Joanne Frazer had read up on the concept and wanted to do it."

ABLE started with $10,000 from the diocese and a grant from the Duke Endowment. The program received $20,000 in Duke funds in 2001 and received another $30,000 this month. ABLE is slated for an additional $30,000 from the Duke

SEE ABLE, PAGE 7

### Hispanics must take lead in welcoming immigrants, says Cuban bishop

MIAMI (CNS) — A Cuban bishop in Miami for meetings with the Cuban exile community urged south Florida's Hispanics to be the first to embrace the thousands of immigrants from Cuba and the other nations of Latin America. "You can't ask the North American church, which has a different culture, to understand Hispanics if Hispanic Catholics themselves don't do it first," said Bishop Dionisio Garcia Ibanez. "Catholics must help each other," he said, "so that our brothers and sisters will find here a community that welcomes them, a church that understands them, that is open to their needs and also to their expectations. I think we, as Hispanics, have the foremost responsibility for doing this." The head of the Diocese of Santisimo Salvador de Bayamo y Manzanillo in eastern Cuba spoke with The Florida Catholic, newspaper of the Miami Archdiocese, in between early February meetings with Cuban exile priests and laity.

### Archbishop Tutu says human family is interlocked like Olympic rings

SALT LAKE CITY (CNS) — Half a world from South Africa, Utah's Episcopal community welcomed retired Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu to St. Mark's Cathedral Feb. 10. "We are more than 10,000 miles away from home, but we are home," he said. "That's the great thing about the children of God. I thank you for welcoming us as brothers and sisters." Winner of the 1984 Nobel Prize for Peace for his efforts to overcome apartheid, Archbishop Tutu was in Salt Lake City for the early days of the 2002 Winter Olympics. He was one of eight people to carry the Olympic flag in the opening ceremonies Feb. 8. The Nobel laureate said that, when apartheid was at its worst, people in the United States lifted up the people of South Africa. "That is very much why we are a free and democratic country today — largely because you supported us," he said. "It is very much like the rings of the Olympic flag — interlocked. We are bound together, we are family," the archbishop said. "Isn't that fantastic?"

### New film rekindles debate on Pope Pius XII's role during Holocaust

ROME (CNS) — The long-awaited debut of a film about the Vatican and World War II has rekindled an acrimonious debate over the role of Pope Pius XII during the Holocaust. The film, titled "Amen," opened at the Berlin Film Festival in mid-February. Directed by Constantin Costa-Gavras, the film tells the story of a Nazi officer who tries to alert the outside world to the mass killings of Jews. In this fictional account his appeal gets through to the Vatican, but the pope takes no action. Church officials strongly reject the film's implicit allegation that Pope Pius XII remained silent or did little to stop the Holocaust. They say the wartime pontiff worked behind the scenes to protect thousands of Jews and save them from deportation.

### Diocese names 14 priests accused of sexual abuse of minors

MANCHESTER, N.H. (CNS)— Saying no priest who has sexually abused a minor can be placed in active ministry, Bishop John B. McCormack of Manchester announced Feb. 15 that he has put one parish priest on leave and has barred six retired or sick priests from all ministry because of "credible allegations" against them. The bishop also released the names of seven suspended or retired priests who have been banned from active ministry since the time of sexual abuse allegations against them. He said the alleged occurrences date from 1963-87, but he did not release specific dates or details. Bishop McCormack — who also chairs the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse — was the third New England bishop in two weeks to follow the lead of Boston's Cardinal Bernard F. Law in tightening up diocesan rules against priests accused of having sexually abused minors.


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***Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of March:***

*Rev. John Huston* 1976
*Rev. Francis Gorham* 1981
*Rev. Robert A. Gibson* 1987
*Rev. Justin J. Pechulis* 1983

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**March 9 — 10 a.m.**
Keynote address
Gospel of Life Conference
St. Mark, Huntersville

**March 10 — 10 a.m.**
Boy Scouts Catholic Camporee Mass
Camp Ravensknob, Mount Airy

**3 p.m.**
Dedication of Sister L. John Meehan Center
Hayesville

**March 12 — 6 p.m.**
Grace Award Dinner
Belmont Abbey College, Belmont

**March 16 — 9 a.m.-noon**
Day of spiritual renewal
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

## Diocesan planner

**March**

**2** CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School Foundation will be hosting its 2002 Gala and Auction tonight from 6:30-11 p.m. at the Carmel Country Club, 4735 Carmel Rd. Parents, alumni and friends are invited to experience hors d'oeuvres, refreshments, auctions, dinner buffet, the Grand Spree trip drawing and entertainment. For advanced ticket and other information, call Jennifer Johnson at (704) 543-9118, visit the school's development office (Room 102) or check online at www.cchsfoundation.org.

**2** GREENSBORO — The St. Mary Church Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus-Council 8684 will host a prayer seminar after 9 a.m. Mass until noon today at the parish center, 812 Duke St. Light refreshments will be served mid-morning. All women are invited to bring a friend. For reservations, call Sadie McConnell at (336) 851-5585.

**3** GREENSBORO — There will be an informational meeting for those interested in the LIMEX program at St. Pius X Church, 2210 North Elm St., in the youth room of the parish hall at 3:30 p.m. Anyone interested in pursuing a master's degree or certificate in pastoral ministry or religious education from Loyola University of New Orleans is welcomed to attend. For further information, contact Connie Milligan at (704) 364-3344, Peg Ruble at (704) 391-0445 or Jacqueline Messick at (336) 286-0861.

**3** CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will be gathering today at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information please call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 545-8133.

**3** CHARLOTTE — The Mount St. Mary's College choir will be performing a concert at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621

# "Dead Man Walking" author brings crusade to diverse gathering

By Rev. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — Anti-death penalty advocate Sister of St. Joseph Helen Prejean spoke at Wake Forest University Feb. 12. A diverse crowd of over 300 including Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians and the Church of Christian Brethren Christians gathered from across the state to hear the Catholic nun give her personal experiences leading to a conversion of heart and living the "Sermon on the Mount."

Born in Baton Rouge, La., Sister Helen described herself as a poor little rich kid with a lawyer for a father. She received the privilege of a good education, which "puts you on that step of the ladder above the level of poverty and the violence associated with it," she said.

There were 10 housing developments near where she had lived, but she had never visited any of them. "It is in those areas that when a mother hears a gunshots, she immediately runs and checks on her children," she explained.

After joining the Sisters of St. Joseph, she lived among the poor to serve in whatever capacity God would lead her.

"Sister Helen's openness to the poor enabled her to widen her vision of the need to be with God's people where they are and to minister to them," said Sister of St. Joseph Geri Rogers.

"God is very sneaky," said Sister Helen of her anti-death penalty crusade. "My involvement came very innocently with a letter to death row inmate John Penn."

She soon became an advocate for several death row inmates up until the moments of their respective executions.

"Jesus was a radical who treated everyone with respect. The 'Early Church' took the preaching of Jesus to heart because none was excluded from the community," explained Sister Helen. "What kind of society brings healing to its people with the government killing the perpetrators of violent crimes? What the victims and their families need more is a compassionate community to help support them in their sorrow."

With that concept in mind, Sister Helen brought victim support groups into existence in the New Orleans area.

"The death penalty is reserved for the poor who cannot afford good lawyers, and it is racist," she said. "When white people are killed, the death penalty is always sought. Yet, when black people are killed, nothing is normally done."

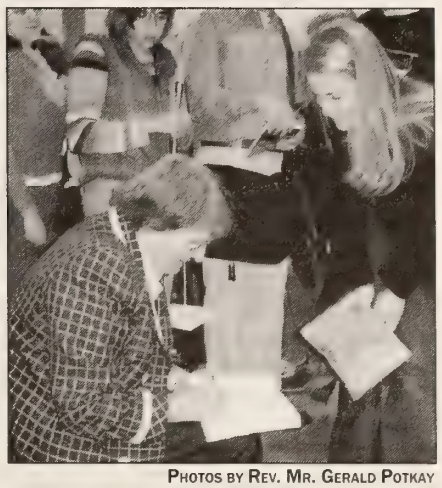
Death row inmates have similar, reoccurring nightmares. And because there are innocent people on death row, Sister Helen encouraged everyone to oppose the killing of these "beloved of God."

"Christians cannot let these children of God become dehumanized just because they have committed violent crimes," she added. "We need to oppose the taking of the lives of all human beings, to become the critical mass of consciousness to overcome the death penalty."

Death row inmates aren't the only ones suffering. Sister Helen spoke of guilt driving many executioners away from their jobs. One death row supervisor had to quit his job after witnessing five executions because he simply couldn't take it anymore. She also noted that there are prison psychologists to counsel the guards who are just doing their job.



**Sister Helen Prejean with Ashley Larson of the Wake Forest University Student Union. Larson is responsible for bringing Sister Helen to speak about her book "Dead Man Walking."**



Photos by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**Sister Helen Prejean signed copies of her book "Dead Man Walking" and responded to questions at Wake Forest University Feb. 12.**

Many who look at Christianity to justify their pro-death stance refer to the Crusades, to the Inquisition and even to the Bible. To those people Sister Helen responds, "The Old Testament has 37 areas that promote execution." However, when she asked if we should follow those tenets of execution for crimes such as adultery, the vast majority of people avoided the answer.

Placing the onus squarely on the listener, Sister Helen asked, "If it is us who are called to be the agents of justice, am I able to do this?"

The truth is, "Jesus challenges us to love all people," said Sister Helen. "Jesus, who was put to death at the hand of the state, does not promote the death penalty to anyone as evidenced by his complete forgiveness to those who put him to death."

The alternative, of course, is life in prison. "3,700 death row inmates will not solve the overpopulation of prison problem," Sister Helen said.

The United States is a minority when it comes to the death penalty; even Cuba and Russia have outlawed it, said Sister Helen.

Relating the argument to the War on Terror, Sister Helen indicated that there are over 1,000 prisoners overseas who are not going to be deported to America because of our stance of the death penalty.

As Christians, we need to move away from the concept of "justice that demands death" to one of the complete mercy and compassion of Jesus. That is why, said Sister Helen, "I wrote 'Dead Man Walking'."

"She expressed her experience of God's love for the victim as well as the perpetrator," said Sister Geri. "Sister Helen heightened our awareness to do something to end the violence."

"My opinion about the death penalty will never be the same after listening to Sister Helen. She was absolutely mesmerizing to hear," said Jennifer Thompson. "She is an incredibly beautiful person who truly encompasses the teachings of Jesus and tries to live them out in her daily life. The world is and will continue to be richer for having Sister Helen take her brave and frightening journey."

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Dilworth Rd. East, tonight at 7:30 p.m. This is the choir's second time traveling to Charlotte under the direction of Andy Rosenfeld. For more information about the free concert of sacred choral literature, call the church office at (704) 334-2283.

**3** SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**4** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight and every first Monday at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on March 5 and every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**4** CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on April 1. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

**4** CHARLOTTE — The bereavement support group will meet tonight from 6-7:30 p.m. and every first Monday in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. This support group is for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. For details, call Ruth Posey, CSS counselor, at (704) 370-3238.

**5** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Arthritis Support and Education Group in association with the Arthritis Foundation will be sponsoring a free seminar on osteo and rheumatoid arthritis tonight from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 3016 Providence Rd. Drs. Ahmad Kashif and Gary Maniloff, rheumatologists, will be conducting the session. For required pre-registration and other information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

**6** CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will be having a meeting with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center. The Rince Na h'Eireann Irish Dancers will be performing at today's meeting. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information about the group or bingo held every Monday night at 7:30 p.m., call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**7** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Ladies' Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

**9** CHARLOTTE — The Emerald Ball is being held at the Adams Mark Hotel tonight from 8-11 p.m. Bagpipers, the Federals Irish and Blues Band, hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be featured. For further information, call Lynda Dyer Hart at (704) 542-6846.

**9** GREENSBORO — All are invited to the Shamrock Social to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Our Lady of Grace School Gym, 2205 W. Market St., from 7:30-11:30 p.m. tonight. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be included. For more details about this opportunity for fun, fellowship and dancing, call Laurie Benko at (336) 294-0520.

**10** CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# Catechists refresh their faith at Oasis retreat

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

LAKE JUNALUSKA — An oasis invites travelers to rest and refresh themselves from their journey. That was the idea for the Oasis Catechist Retreat 2002: "Remember Who You Are: the Water, the Word, and the Future."

The Asheville Vicariate Leadership Team held the retreat Feb. 8 and 9. It was "an oasis experience to reflect on your ministry," Father Francis T. Cancro, pastor of St. Eugene in Asheville, told the more than 80 catechists from the Asheville and Smoky Mountain vicariates. Father Cancro's talks — "O Healing River," "Deserts and Dry Land" and "Seeds of Freedom" — focused on baptism's history, healing, and power, and its implication for catechists and their ministry.

**"O Healing River"**

"Never do ministry because the pastor needs help," Father Cancro said. "You do ministry because your baptism calls you to it."

Ritual purification didn't begin with Christians. The Hebrews also had purification rites with flowing water as an important symbol. "For the Jews," Father Cancro said, "purification in water was a very important symbol, so that one could be closer to fulfilling the covenant."

Christianity adapted other traditions for its own use.

"...Our (baptismal) tradition comes from Judaism and Hellenistic mystery religions. It comes from the richness of those two traditions," Father Cancro explained.

Baptism is also about conversion, which is a lifelong process. The retreatants were invited to consider three questions: Who are you? What do you want? Why do you want it?

"We are constantly called to conversion," Father Cancro said. "As we grow, the answers to these questions change. Conversion allows us to give answers to those questions. In baptism, the water invites us to those questions."

Laura Ganson, 12, who works with 4- and 5-year-olds at St. Eugene, took this new insight to heart. "I learned what baptism really is, that you're not just baptized. It's your whole life," she said.

**"Deserts and Dry Land"**

"Once we look at baptism, that has tremendous implications for the way we live our lives of faith," Father Cancro said at the second session.

He illustrated the desert concept with "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day," Judith Viorst's children's story about a little boy for whom everything goes wrong, but "the love of his family ends up as a net that catches him."

"Deserts are any place that lacks nourishment," Father Cancro said. "They're part of the baptismal journey we take. We are caught in the great net of God's heart."

He added that two important things compose God's love—that we are never alone and that we are treasured.

"I think a lot of people feel that God's love is something we earn, but God's love is not something we earn," he said. "It's a free gift."

What does it mean to be treasured? Father Cancro recalled helping his mother clean out closets at her home. She disposed of some things but kept mementos, such as cards she had received and things her children had made.

"I realized in that experience what treasure really is," he said. "Treasure is about what is in the heart. We're worthy because even in our worst times we remain God's treasure. Whenever we are willing to admit that through baptism we touch the heart of God, we have to admit that we're changed, whether we want it or not."

In this change and in being God's treasure, there are responsibilities, especially to prayer: private prayer, which changes the individual; and communal prayer, which changes the community.

"Prayer is not about changing God," Father Cancro said. "Prayer opens us. It's an exercise in trust. Prayer is a pregnant experience, an experience of being intimately connected with God."

God, Father Cancro said, is not fair, but rather is merciful.

"That was a light-bulb moment for me," said Karen Daley, a nurse and a catechist at St. Joan of Arc in Asheville. "We pray, and it doesn't happen, and we say, 'Oh, that's not fair.' But it's God in his mercy that helps us deal with it, and it helps our friends deal with it."

**"Seeds of Freedom"**

Baptism sends the baptized on a journey, on which they are prophets calling people back to the covenant.

"Prophets don't predict the future, they clarify the present, they clarify the truth for the community," Father Cancro said. "We're called to build up, not tear down. Our work is sustaining the community—that openness to seeing the presence of God in every person."

That idea of community struck a chord with Muriel Grabel of St. Joan of Arc in Asheville. "You have to have a great deal of knowledge and love for people. You can't be judgmental," she said. "You have to let God take you where you need to go. It's the idea that I don't have to do this alone."

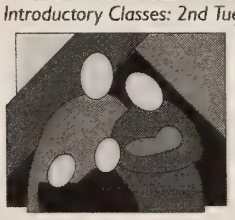
Along with prophecy is the call to be in union—communion—since the sacraments are about community.

"Communion is not a private moment between you and God," Father Cancro said. "The procession is a sign of our denominational unity, a ritual sign of community."

And there's the hope that the baptized carry with them.

"We celebrate Easter every year," Father Cancro said, "not because Jesus keeps popping up all the time. We sing, 'Jesus is risen.' He's here. We celebrate Easter as a sign of hope. No matter how far ground down we get, there is someone inside of us who keeps standing up. That's a pledge of God's faithfulness to us."

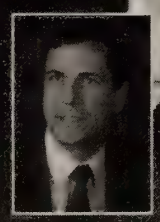
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# Sister of Christian Charity enriches Triad area

By Rev. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — Sister of Christian Charity Josita Marks has brought her wisdom and spirituality to the Triad area.

Sister Josita has been assigned for a two-year commitment as director of the justice and peace component of the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center. While awaiting construction of the center, which has been delayed due to architecture and funding reasons, Sister Josita has joined the Franciscan Center.

"This place is like a well where people come to be energized," said Sister Josita of the Franciscan Center. "It seems like they've got to keep coming back."

Sister Josita expressed her love for being at the center. She couldn't get over the "spirit of life" and the "living faith" of the "community of regulars," she said.

Born in Waterbury, Conn., as a child of an army officer, Sister Josita spent her childhood moving around the United States. She attributed her "spirit of fidelity" to her father, military life and especially her mother, whom Sister Josita said followed her father without question wherever he was ordered to go. Sister Josita added that the military lifestyle and the dedication of her mother prepared her for the religious life.



**Sister Josita Marks at Mass on Ash Wednesday hands hearts with pertinent scripture verses on the back in preparation for Valentine's Day.**



Photos by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**Sister Josita Marks discusses Lenten activities with Bridget Johnson, coordinator of Catholic Social Services, in Greensboro.**

Sister Josita entered religious life as a Sister of Christian Charity 36 years ago and soon after became a junior high school teacher, a position that lasted 11 years. During this time, she received a bachelor's degree from Marillac College in St. Louis and a master's in theology from Villanova in Pennsylvania. She has also served and received spiritual direction at the Mercy Center in Madison, Conn.

Armed with these new credentials, Sister Josita became the director of religious education for St. Mary's and then Holy Family Church, both in the Paterson Diocese of New Jersey.

It was on a retreat in 1984 that sister Josita first met Franciscan Father Louis Canino, who became and still is her friend and spiritual advisor. Sister Josita felt as though God was calling her into spiritual direction and retreat work. In 1996, she became involved full time in this work in her own community and in the local parishes.

While at the Franciscan Center, sister Josita helps with the bookstore and hospitality. She has given several talks on "Stress and Spirituality" and "God of Surprise" to a variety of parish groups in and around Greensboro. Sister Josita has also assisted Father Canino with two separate retreats in the area. She facilitates prayer services and in March will accompany Father Canino to St. Francis of Assisi Church in Rocky Mount, Va., for a three-day mission.

The St. Francis Springs Prayer Center had been a dream of Father Canino. Sister Josita attended the new center's groundbreaking ceremony Aug. 18, 2001. Her appointment as justice and peace director will begin once the center is completed. As part of her commitment to the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, Sister Josita will spend one week each year on a justice and peace trip to El Salvador.

Sister Josita and the community of believers throughout the Triad are anxiously looking forward to the opening of the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center. Sister Josita asked that the community "pray with us for the success of the center."




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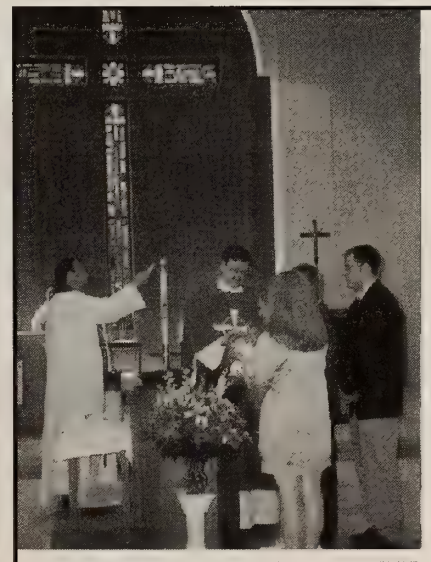
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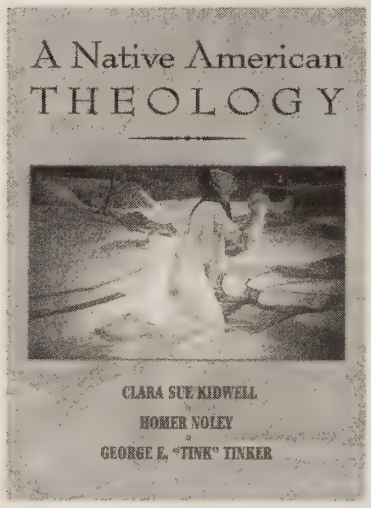
**Book Review**

# Native American religion evolves with Christianity

REVIEWED BY WAYNE A. HOLST
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Traditional Native American religion did not focus on a creed or dogma. Rather, like Shinto and other Asian faiths, it was primarily a religion of ritual observance. Even today Native religion is not so much focused on individual salvation but on the life, health and continuance of community.

Native writer Robert Warrior in his 1995 book "Tribal Secrets" says, "Our struggle at the moment is to continue to survive and work toward a time when we can replace the need for being preoccupied with survival with a more responsible and peaceful way of living within communities and with the ever-changing landscape that will be our only home."




Whatever form or expression modern Native religion takes, non-Native Christians must come to understand it in new ways. The spiritual children of the traditional missionary church are coming of age and the rest of us need to respect that.

"A Native American Theology" reflects the current maturation of Native religion and provides significant insight into forms and expressions it will assume in the future.

The stated purpose of the three Indian authors — Clara Sue Kidwell, Homer Noley and George E. "Tink" Tinker — is to create a dialogue in which Native Americans can speak as equals to Christians, resulting in "a creative, new envisioning process for Native people where they can recognize the uniqueness of their practices with regard to Christianity." They anticipate a better understanding by non-Natives of Native practices and perceptions as well as renewed health for Indian cultures and communities.

One major benefit of this book is that Native Americans are taking responsibility for interpreting the Gospel to their own people in the context of their own cultures and sets of values. A challenge inherent to the presentation is to present Native spiritual understandings in ways non-Natives may find accessible.

This systematic theology begins with creation, discusses sin, ethics, incarnation, and ends with the end time. Included also are the themes of "land" and "trickster" — two aspects of Native worldviews. Adding these uniquely Native insights challenges the traditional categories of Christian theology.

The study communicates both anger and hopefulness: anger in that the culturally oppressive relationship between non-Native and Native-American communities is never far from the surface, and hopefulness in the evidence of growing Indian self-confidence, the desire for mutual respect and a just and egalitarian future.

The book is aptly titled "A Native American Theology" because it is representative of but one stream of theological thought in the modern Indian community. It will cause discomfort in some quarters and celebration in others.

Indian Christians must balance their cultural values with their Christian doctrines. This balancing act has been necessary throughout the historical encounter with Europeans on North American soil. There were times when it seemed that traditional ways were all but obliterated. Those times are changing.

People of good will from both sides of the racial divide will need to become much more aware of the strengths and weaknesses of their respective spiritual traditions and work to create new understanding and collaboration.

That this book has appeared at all is a milestone in ecumenical/interfaith dialogue. For that reason alone it should be taken seriously.

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings:*
*Feb. 24, 2002*
**Cycle A Readings:**
**February 24, Second Sunday of Lent**
1) Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22
2) 2 Timothy 1:8b-10
3) Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

We had a large conference coming up that weekend at St. Andrew's, and I had a narrow window of time to pick up a videotape we would use in its bookstore. It was a tape of Pope John Paul II addressing members of the charismatic renewal, and it was waiting for me 35 miles away in Dallas.

I set out in our little Ford Fiesta, knowing my tires were practically treadless, but what could I do? There wasn't time to get new ones before my trip, so I set out. Made the trip safely enough, and once back in Fort Worth I turned onto a major shopping thoroughfare. A large sign proclaimed a sale on the brand tires we'd had good luck with, so, with a literal sigh of relief, I turned into the parking lot to purchase a couple of new tires.

When I got out of the car, one of my tires was fully flat.

I suppose the probabilities of my tire remaining inflated until precisely that moment could be calculated, but I prefer another explanation that I find support for in the Scriptures for this Sunday.

The idea that God is actively involved in the world is central to a belief in the God who is revealed in the Bible.

The Psalms reading says, in part: "The eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear [respect or reverence] him, upon those who hope for his kindness." (I was certainly hoping that those Mickey Mouse balloon tires would hold up.)

And lest I or any others benefiting from God's intervention on their behalf should be proud, the Timothy reading has a remedy for that: "God has saved us and has called us to a holy life, not because of any merit of ours but according to his own design — the grace held out to us in Christ Jesus before the world began but now made manifest through the appearance of our Savior."

The Genesis and Matthew Scriptures speak of major events in salvation history: Abram sent out by God from his people on a mission to benefit all the peoples of the earth; Jesus transfigured, speaking with Moses and Elijah to the astonishment of Peter, James and John — acts of God, furthering his purposes in human history.

To believe that God always is going to protect us when we're involved in working for him with our whole hearts can lead to foolish acts that result in accidents and physical harm.

But sometimes, we perceive the will of God and attempt to act on it, and all the while, underneath us, sustaining us, is the supernatural help of the hand of God.

**QUESTION:**
*Can you remember times when God came to your aid?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Feb. 24 - March 2**

**Sunday (Second Sunday of Lent),** Genesis 12:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:8-10, Matthew 17:1-9; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 9:4-10, Luke 6:36-38; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, Matthew 23:1-12; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-31; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28, Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

**Scripture for the week of March 3 - March 9**

**Sunday (Third Sunday of Lent),** Exodus 17:3-7, Romans 5:1-2, 5-8, John 4:5-42; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** 2 Kings 5:1-15, Luke 4:24-30; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 3:25, 34-43, Matthew 18:21-35; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 7:23-28, Luke 11:14-23; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Hosea 14:2-10, Mark 12:28-34; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Hosea 6:1-6, Luke 18:9-14

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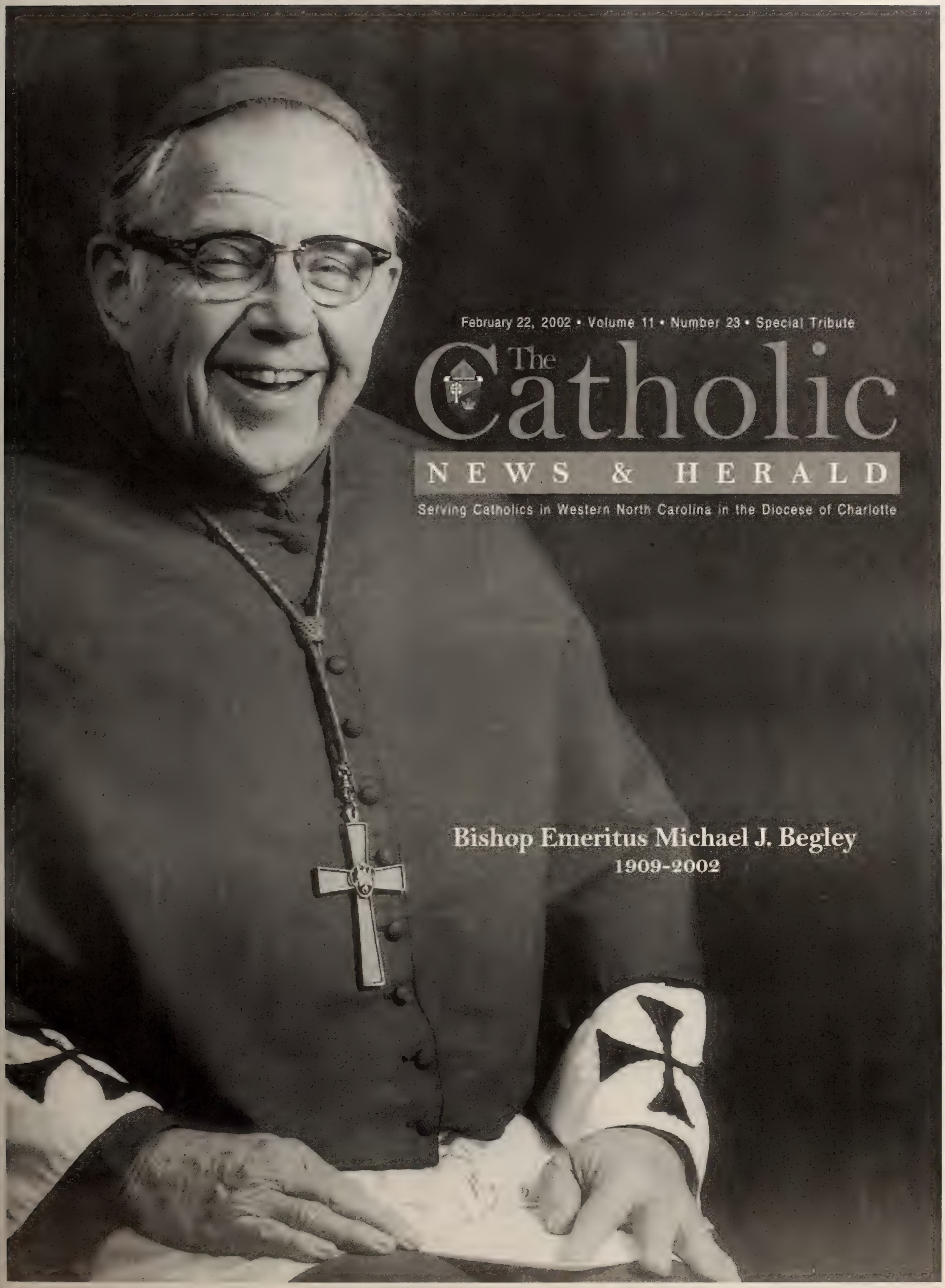
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February 22, 2002 • Volume 11 • Number 23 • Special Tribute

# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte



**Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley**
**1909-2002**

IN TRIBUTE

# Homily — Funeral Mass for The Most Reverend Michael Begley

**Most Reverend Archbishop and Bishops, my brother priests, deacons, sisters, members of the laity, and family of Bishop Begley,**

In today's second reading from St. Peter's first letter, we read: "God's flock is in your midst. Give it a shepherd's care. Watch over it willingly as God would have you do, not under constraint and not for shameful profit either, but generously." Those inspired words apply so very well to Michael Joseph Begley, first bishop of Charlotte and priest of the diocese of Raleigh for almost 38 years. Now as we gather to express our farewell, we honor a good man, a holy priest, and a most generous bishop. We admire him for his more than 67 years of priesthood. I want to give a little insight into the man whom so many of us admired and loved. It will include a little humor, for Bishop Begley enjoyed himself and used humor to enhance his life.

In December 1971, just three days after the announcement of the establishment of the Diocese of Charlotte and his selection as the first bishop, he called me. Earlier in the week I had twice called Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro seeking to offer my congratulations. On both occasions he was out of the rectory, and I could not contact him. With his call, we exchanged pleasantries, and then he mentioned that he wanted me to be his chancellor. When I mentioned that I wanted to build a church in Hendersonville, his answer was direct: "The church will be built but not by you! I want you in Charlotte!" Then I was told to begin the process of setting up the diocese in conjunction with the chancellor of Raleigh, Monsignor Louis Morton. Thus began almost eight years for me to work in close collaboration with a priest whom I deeply admired and respected.

Regardless of his assignments — superintendent of the Catholic orphanage, pastor of several parishes in the diocese of Raleigh, bishop of Charlotte — he loved and cared for his flock and served them with the dedication of the Good Shepherd. It was always amazing how people in the parishes of the diocese related to him and respected him. His appointment by Pope Paul VI was an excellent one, and to me, a surprising one considering his age at the time. How the Holy Spirit works!

He was a bridge who brought unity to his priests and much happiness to his new diocese and its people. It was a new beginning for a new diocese but always with respect for the diocese of Raleigh and the three bishops whom he had served for almost 38 years. The spirit that began then still continues today reflecting his spirit and that of his two successors, Archbishop Donoghue and Bishop Curlin. "Watch over God's flock willingly as God would have you do."

As I look back, his residence was a relaxed and happy home. He, Father Joseph Tobin, a Benedictine monk, and I lived together. A couple of years later, Sister Mary Aquinas Makin, a Franciscan sister from Tiffin, Ohio, came as our housekeeper and remained throughout the bishop's stay as ordinary and administrator of the diocese. With Sister Aquinas, the house changed as we were spoiled by her cooking and care. It was a close family, a happy one. Monsignor Michael O'Keefe joined us in 1975 for a year or so. How many times would Bishop Begley speak about his love for desserts saying that he ate only so that he could have dessert!

The residence was filled with warmth and friendship. On some occasions, the laugh would be on him — and he joined us in laughing at himself. Those of you who knew him knew that he was not overly concerned about externals. This incident shows how he reacted to a humorous situation. He always attended the yearly bishops' meeting in Washington. One year he had just returned and was talking with Sister Aquinas and Father Tobin in the kitchen. I arrived home from the chancery and immediately noticed him standing by the refrigerator with trousers that were very short, several inches above his ankles. I mentioned this to him and he responded that he had noticed this in Washington. He would pull his trousers down but they kept coming up! The riddle was soon solved! Sister had sent two identical suits to the dry cleaner with the cleaners placing the wrong trousers with his coat. The bishop ended up wearing Monsignor O'Keefe's trousers — and O'Keefe was several inches shorter! We had a good laugh as he did too; a man at peace could laugh at himself and enjoy it!

Bishop Begley was a simple and humble man, and these words are spoken in the best sense. His first office as bishop of Charlotte was his bedroom in St. Patrick's rectory. His residence was not bought until late January, and it took several months to restore the house. In the meantime, the new diocese of Charlotte worked out of two rooms in the rectory. The house that was to become our first chancery was also bought in late January and had to be remodeled. No complaints, just the necessary adjustment that was needed. If he needed to dictate correspondence, he would come downstairs to his secretary, Aloha Torrents (at that time, Linhares) for the work. Aloha had been his part-time secretary in Charlotte while he was director of Raleigh Catholic Social Services. She remained throughout his tenure and still works in our chancery.

During my years as chancellor, I never heard a word of complaint from him, just the adjustments that were necessary for the living out his appointment as shepherd of the diocese. What a joy it was to work with him and to see him spend so many hours at his work. His early priesthood had tempered him for he mentioned on several occasions the difficulties that he, along with the other priests of Raleigh, underwent. After all, in 1924 there were only 6,500 Catholics in the entire state; in 1945, there were only 13,000. We do not have the figures for 1934, but the numbers given are some indication. The pioneers had great difficulties, but their work and sacrifices laid the foundation that both dioceses still build on.

He traveled the diocese each year to administer the sacrament of confimation in the different parishes. On one occasion, the eve of the Ascension, we had dinner with the parish council members in the rectory. We arrived back in Charlotte about 11 that night. I became very sick during the night; the next day he followed with both of us ending up in Mercy Hospital. Jokingly, the pastor attempted to poison us — we both had severe cases of food poisoning, necessitating hospitalization, seven days for him and six days for me. Don't eat Polish sausage in a rectory and drink well water!

He was really a man of prayer. With strength from his divine office, his daily Mass, his rosary and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, he worked hard and long hours. He was focused on his work but always as the Shepherd of the diocese. He wanted the diocese to go forward and initiated many programs for this purpose. Early on, he began pastoral planning for the diocese looking to involve the laity more as also pointing to the future. He formed all of the councils in the diocese and worked with the many groups giving them all the time that was needed. There was moderate growth in those days, and the aim was to open a new parish each year. In addition, several parishes built additional buildings to meet their needs. I never understood how he found time for all that he did.

As a priest of the diocese of Raleigh, he was tapped by Bishop Vincent Waters to head the Cursillo movement in the diocese. With gusto he embraced this appointment, and that movement continues to this day in both dioceses. When enough laity had been trained, he took a different role — he became a member of the kitchen crew, leaving the presentations to the trained laity. His closeness to the cursillistas continued during his years.

Bishop Waters gave names to him and Monsignor O'Keefe years before the diocese of Charlotte was established — Big Mike and Little Mike. Those names stuck with them for years. Little Mike was never one to mince his words, yet they were very close friends. Big Mike had become Little Mike's mentor. Little Mike had a name for cursillistas — "Spanish Boy Scouts" — and Bishop Begley would always laugh. Neither Little Mike nor I ever made a cursillo but there was never any pressure to make us do so.

He so much enjoyed ordaining men to the priesthood. I remember, especially, two other occasions of happiness and joy for him — the appointment of the then Father Joseph Howze, pastor of St. Lawrence Church in Asheville, as auxiliary bishop of Jackson, Miss., and the appointment of four priests as Reverend Monsignori in 1976. He never knew that, through a mistake, I had known of the appointments hours before he announced them! I did not have the heart to dampen his joy!

In December 1984, Bishop Begley retired as bishop of Charlotte when Archbishop Donoghue was ordained as the second bishop of Charlotte. Over the next 17 years, he lived in Charlotte and Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point. He learned to love Maryfield as he realized that the move had been the proper one for him. He received good care from all and do I dare say that he was spoiled by his caretakers! After a while, he began to tell me that the move had been the right one, and he was very happy there. For the past few years, he had a difficult time as he was unable to walk. And then came serious sickness which necessitated hospital stays. In the hospital, on one visit there, with his door closed and being bathed by two aides, I could hear him clearly almost ordering the aides to do certain things. I heard him say, "But remember, I am a bishop!" The soul of this good man was at peace although his body was suffering much.

As I look back, I am the only surviving member of that original household. It was a joy for me to have been a member. I treasure the years of work in the chancery, the home life and the close association with Bishop Begley and the others. As we bid a farewell to him, there is joy and happiness that he fought the good fight and won the battle. A good priest, a good bishop, a good friend has left this life — and many have been enriched by his friendship and company. How he spent his years contributing so very much to the building up of the kingdom of God on earth by his priesthood and episcopacy. He left his mark on the diocese of Charlotte and will never be forgotten. His rightful place in the history of this diocese is more than assured. May he now be enjoying the happiness and fulfillment that he worked so hard for here on earth.

One last comment. As I visited him last Friday, he was heavily sedated and in a deep sleep. I had visited just two days before, but during my Friday Mass I realized that his condition was so serious that I might not see him again. Thus, back to Maryfield I went. I recited the prayers for the dying and just spent very quiet time rubbing and holding his hand.

May he always be close to God whom he loved and served so faithfully in this life. My last words last Friday and today are: "Good-bye, Partner!"

**Monsignor Joseph S. Showfety**
**February 15, 2002**

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# In Tribute

THE MOST REV.
WILLIAM G. CURLIN
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

### Bishop Begley

I was privileged to know Bishop Begley only during the "twilight years" of his life. Yet, during those few years, I found Bishop Begley to be among the kindest people I have ever known. The Diocese of Charlotte was truly blessed with this good and holy man of God. Charity, humility and simplicity of life were among his cardinal virtues.

When he began his ministry as a young, newly ordained priest in 1934, Bishop Begley faced many challenges in a state where Catholics were few in number. He knew that there is no short cut to holiness or success in priestly ministry; both require a lifetime of loving God in the service of one's neighbors. Bishop Begley spent his life doing this!

When chosen in 1971 by His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, to serve as the first bishop of the newly created Diocese of Charlotte, Bishop Begley was able to draw upon years of rich experience as a hard working parish priest, as a caring and devoted champion of the poor and victims of injustice, and as the director of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Raleigh. He used his many talents and priestly zeal in establishing parishes, schools and ministries of service throughout Western North Carolina. He will long be remembered for his dedication to Catholic education. He opened his heart and the heart of our diocese in welcome to the children and families of many nations and cultures. Leaders in the ecumenical community honored him as a "brother in Christ." He was in truth "The Father of the Diocese of Charlotte."

I recall with special sentiment my first meeting with Bishop Begley on the eve of the public announcement of my appointment as the third bishop of Charlotte. He recognized my concern in facing the responsibilities that lay before me. "Don't worry, Bishop. I'll be here to help you." His kindness and encouragement never wavered. They were special gifts from God.

During the final days of his life, Bishop Begley spoke of his life as "a journey to heaven." He asked for prayers to complete his journey. His journey is now ended. Let us pray that wherever there is nobility of character, wherever there is a gentleness of spirit, wherever there are those things that make for goodness and light, there may Bishop Begley find his home with God.



# Founding Bishop Michael J. Begley laid to rest

BY JOANN S. KEANE
AND JOHN STRANGE

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Michael J. Begley, a bridge between the dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh, died Feb. 9 in High Point. He was 92.

He was the first bishop of Charlotte, and bishop emeritus of the western North Carolina diocese. In Raleigh, he was a longtime priest, filling many roles: pastor, superintendent of the Nazareth Orphanage in Raleigh, and director of the statewide Family Life Bureau and Catholic Social Services.

"The Diocese of Charlotte was truly blessed with this good and holy man of God," said Bishop William G. Curlin. "All who knew him can testify to his deep love for Christ and his zealous dedication to his priestly ministry. Humility and simplicity of life were among his cardinal virtues."

Among the bishops who celebrated Bishop Begley's funeral Mass in Charlotte Feb. 15 was Raleigh Bishop F. Joseph Gossman. "He was a man of God who was down to earth, who didn't get caught up in the intricacies of things," he said. "In the best terms, he was a simple man of the Gospel."

Appointed by Pope Paul VI as the first bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte in 1971, Bishop Begley was ordained bishop of the 46-county diocese on Jan. 12, 1972. He served the diocese until his retirement on May 29, 1984.

During his tenure as bishop, he was a leader in the ecumenical movement in North Carolina and his efforts earned praise from leaders of many denominations.

"What a warm and caring person he was, and active in community affairs," said retired Methodist Bishop L. Bevel Jones. "He was respected and admired by all denominations. All of my predecessors loved and respected him tremendously."

The spiritual leader of the Charlotte diocese, then considered missionary territory, Bishop Begley quickly earned a widespread reputation as a kind-hearted champion of the poor, a zealous preacher of the Scriptures, an enthusiastic bridge-builder in the ecumenical community, and a humble administrator who counted on the blessings and contributions of many.

Among his legacies to the Diocese of Charlotte was his openness in allowing the diocese to grow in many different directions.

However, foremost to the bishop were social concerns — especially the condition of the poor. As chairperson of the Commission on Religion in Appalachia, he led 26 bishops from 13 states in issuing a joint pastoral letter on the state of the powerless in the mountain region. "This Land Is Home To Me," attracted national attention for its forthright approach to the problems of the people in the economically depressed area.

"He was just a really special man who truly put his heart out for everyone to see; he always acted on his principles," said Elizabeth Thurbee, executive director of the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic Social Services.

"With his being the first bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte at a time when Catholics were perhaps still looked at a little strangely by the strong Protestant coalition here, he was exactly the kind of person who was needed to allow the Catholic Church to take its place, and to begin to grow positively and have it be perceived in a very positive light by other denominations," Thurbee said.

"Bishop Begley provided great comfort and encouragement to many people across the Diocese of Charlotte throughout the years," said Bishop Curlin. "His leadership and kindness are to be treasured."

He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Raleigh May 26, 1934.

His priestly career in the Raleigh carried him throughout the state. His first assignment was to the east as assistant pastor at St. Mary in Wilmington. Next he was sent west to St. Edward in High Point, again as assistant pastor.

He served as pastor at St. Therese in Wrightsville Beach, Immaculate Conception in Carolina Beach, and St. Leo in Winston-Salem. He was founding pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte.



In 1947 he was named as superintendent of the diocese's Catholic Orphanage, and he stayed there for eight years.

John Fields, a former resident of the orphanage, now retired and living in Garner, credits the bishop with his college education.

Fields said that he was one of three in the orphanage's 1953 graduating class; then-Father Begley gave the commencement speech. Fields recalls that he spoke with the priest briefly after the graduation, and Father Begley told Fields something he would never forget.

"He said, 'I bet you do not finish your education,'" Fields said.

For a while, it appeared that the priest had spoken true. Fields was drafted into the Korean War, and served the country for two years. But when he was discharged, Fields still remembered the comment, and thought he would prove the priest wrong.

He went to Eastern Carolina University and received a degree in business administration. After his graduation he and Father Begley spoke. "I thanked him for making that statement. "He said, 'I'm glad you took it in the way I intended.'

I give him credit for steering me straight," Fields said. "My heart and my blood are at Nazareth."

Fields worked for the North Carolina Department of Transportation for 31 years, retiring in 1988.

Bishop Begley was also director of the Family Life Bureau and Catholic Social Services, and was serving the Diocese of Raleigh as pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro when he was named the bishop of the new Diocese of Charlotte in 1971.

"When he was named bishop it pleased all the priests of the diocese," said Msgr. Gerald L. Lewis, vicar general of the Diocese of Raleigh. "Universally, it was a happy choice."

Because the orphanage also served as an assembly grounds for the Diocese of Raleigh, Msgr. Lewis said, "All the priests of the diocese knew him. He was a mentor to young priests, and he was a distinguished priest of the diocese."

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*John Strange is editor of the NC Catholic, diocesan newspaper of the Diocese of Raleigh.*

# Remembering Charlotte's first shepherd

"Along with the Catholics of the Diocese of Charlotte, and all who knew him, I mourn today the death of our friend and mentor, Bishop Michael J. Begley. He was the first bishop of Charlotte, from 1972 till 1983, and during that time became the friend of thousands, who feel with me now, the sadness of his passing. When I was named Bishop Begley's successor in Charlotte, it was his hand that ordained me to the office of bishop of the Church, and his friendship that guided me as bishop of Charlotte, a most happy and well-remembered time in my life. For those years, and many afterwards, Bishop Begley was always at hand, to lend me and his brother bishops advice and counsel. More endearing, he remained a constant friend, readily dispensing encouragement and support, with never-failing ease and a charm that all will remember. We will miss him, but let us thank God for sharing with us this kind and affectionate man over the impressive span of 92 years — years spent mostly doing what he loved to do: helping people, serving the church, and praising God."

**— Most Reverend John F. Donoghue**
**Archbishop of Atlanta**

"He was a man of God who was down to earth, who didn't get caught up in the intricacies of things," he said. "In the best terms, he was a simple man of the Gospel. He was well loved and respected in the diocese. (With Bishop Begley) was no pretense, what you saw was what you got. I am confident he is with the Lord."

**— Bishop F. Joseph Gossman**
**Bishop of Raleigh**

"Bishop Begley had been retired for five years when I got here to Charleston in 1984. He was most gracious to me as a new bishop. He was most gracious to everybody. His greeting was always, 'Hi, Partner,' and he meant it. By that I mean he was very approachable, had time to listen, and was very pastoral."

**— Retired Bishop David Thompson**
**Diocese of Charleston**

"I join Bishop Thompson, the priests, religious and laity of the Diocese of Charleston in extending to Bishop Curlin and the good people of the Charlotte Diocese our condolences and prayerful support on the occasion of the death of Bishop Begley. We know how blessed the Diocese of Charlotte was by the leadership of its first bishop and the great example he gave to all by his legendary concern for the poor. May he now enjoy in eternity the blessings the Lord holds in store for his faithful and devoted servants."

**— Bishop Robert J. Baker**
**Bishop of Charleston**

"One of the inestimable graces granted me when I was bishop of Savannah was my association with our beloved Bishop Michael Begley. Through his many years as founding bishop of Charlotte and continuing on into his retirement, he always stood out as a shining example of the good shepherd, filled as he was with a loving concern for the people entrusted to his care, yet always ready and willing to share his wisdom, his counsel, his wit with those of us who were blessed to know and to work with him. May the Good Shepherd welcome this faithful servant into eternal life, and comfort us who remain to mourn the death of a dear friend, this humble giant of a co-worker in the vineyard of the Lord."

**— Retired Bishop Raymond W. Lessard**
**Diocese of Savannah**

"One of my best memories of Bishop Begley was on the occasion when he celebrated his 25th anniversary as bishop. He had already entered into retirement but it was apparent from the great outpouring of love and affection from priests, religious and laity that this was a man who was greatly loved. "One of his most endearing characteristics was his down to earth approach to his ministry and to his relationship with his people. "In God's providence, he was the ideal selection to be the founding bishop-pastor of the Diocese of Charlotte. His legacy is the spiritual foundation on which succeeding bishops have built and will build. May his soul rest in peace."

**— Bishop J. Kevin Boland**
**Bishop of Savannah**

"For us at the Abbey, we were delighted with his appointment as bishop. He was a long time friend of the monastic community as a Raleigh priest. He was frequently here for retreats, and was friends with many of the monks. His genuine humility, pastoral sensitivity and ecumenical openness made him an ideal first bishop for Charlotte and gave a firm foundation to the new diocese. For us, in 1977, the territory nulius was incorporated into the Diocese of Charlotte under Begley. He was most gracious, and working with us to insure a smooth transition to welcome Belmont Abbey into the Diocese—for that, we were most grateful. And we have the warmest and fondest memories of Bishop Begley. We are happy he will be buried here in our cemetery. We feel it's particularly fitting that Begley will be in the section reserved for the abbots."

**— Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B.**
**Belmont Abbey**



**Bishop Begley with Archbishop Donoghue of Atlanta.**

*"I remember a warm person who always had a smile and a twinkle in his eye, who could always be counted on to speak out for the poor and vulnerable. When I think about what St. Peter must have looked like and the kind of person he had been, I think that about Bishop Begley. He was just a really special man who truly put his heart out for everyone to see and always acted on his principals. He strongly respected the beliefs of other people, but believed we all worshiped the same God, and therefore needed to find a way for us all to interact together positively. With his being the first bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte at a time when Catholics were perhaps still looked at a little strangely by the strong Protestant coalition here, he was exactly the kind of person who was needed to allow the Catholic church to take its place, and to begin to grow positively and have it be perceived in a very positive light by other denominations."*

**— Elizabeth Thurbee**
executive director of Catholic Social Services

*"He was a very prayerful person; a gentle man who was always so grateful for everything no matter how small. At Maryfield, even though it's a Catholic nursing home and a Catholic environment, we still have many people who are not Catholic and it just didn't matter to him - he was ready to bless anybody who asked for a blessing. They often said, 'This is a holy man.' I think his gentleness is what probably touched a lot of people's lives, and probably improved relationships with other denominations."*

**— Poor Servant of the Mother of God Sister Lucy Hennessy**
Maryfield Nursing Home

*"I founded St. Gabriel's when Bishop Begley was a monsignor and pastor of St. Ann's. We all remember that he was a very pastoral man. He was wonderful with the orphanage people; wonderful as a pastor here. The other day a friend was telling me that she took her child for a music lesson at the convent at St. Ann's. She had to go in through the kitchen, and in the kitchen under the sink was Monsignor Begley fixing the plumbing. He was already an eminent man - the kind of man who would fix anything."*

**— Father Paul Byron**
Diocese of Raleigh priest

*"He was a Catholic Daughters man in and out - he really helped us grow in numbers and in courts. He was always there, his door was always open whenever we needed him, and he was very well liked on the national level of the Catholic Daughters."*

**— Ruth Carlisle**
treasurer of the Catholic Daughters of North Carolina

*"I've known him all my life, and he was probably the last priest in the diocese who knew my mother. He is one of the all-around best priests I have ever known. (I admired) his friendly attitude; he was the same with everyone, no matter who he or she was. He was always open to whomever he was talking to at the time. We will sorely miss him."*

**— Judge Robert Potter**
retired federal judge of the Western District of North Carolina

*"We knew him as our pastor, and we made a couple of trips with him. We accompanied him when he went to Rome to report to Pope Paul VI on the state of the diocese in 1974, and we were honored to go. He was a very gentle and deeply spiritual person, and his spirit and patience were the hallmarks of our trip."*

**— Dr. and Mrs. Bill Rabil**
St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem

*My husband was co-chairman of the planning committee for Bishop Begley's ordination, and I handled some public relations issues for him. He was our pastor for 11 years at St. Ann, and he was wonderful, a very humble and warm man to whom most everyone responded. He had a tremendous faith and was as solid as he could be. He was a great example, and even after he retired, he was still working, ready to pitch in. He was a friend to humankind. His light has gone out, but it's on upstairs, and I feel that it is shining down now as he prays for us."*

**— Nancy West**
St. Ann Church in Charlotte

*"My best association with him was meeting with him every Monday night for 20 years as part of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He was a genuine person; appearances didn't bother him. He was at home in any situation and was down-to-earth. He was positive and friendly to everyone and made people feel as if they were a part of his priesthood.*

*The memory that will always stand out in my mind was when my daughter developed hepatitis while attending college in New Mexico. Bishop Begley called the archbishop of New Mexico to find a priest to administer last rites. He also had a private funeral service for her and my family. We always appreciated that; men like that don't come along very often."*

**— Frank Gulli**
diocesan pastoral chairman, 1974-80

*"I often traveled with him across the country and overseas as the regional and national secretariat of the Cursillo movement. If we weren't near a church wherever we were, he would say Mass right in his hotel room. He was very comfortable, religious and folksy.*

*He invited four of us to go with him to the first National Charismatic Conference at Notre Dame University. We were sitting on the lawn*

*eating box lunches when a young boy and his father came up to us, in awe because they had never been that close to a bishop. Bishop Begley invited them over and welcomed them; that was the type of man he was. He was big and friendly and loved everyone and didn't want to be put on a pedestal."*

**— Dorothy King**

diocesan laywoman director of Cursillo for seven years

*"The thing that I think of most about Bishop Begley is that no one was a stranger, no matter who he met; that person was important to him at the time. He had a great capacity for listening, and no matter what social class you came from, whether you were poor or rich, child or adult, he was attentive while you were in his presence.*

*I will always remember him as a down-to-earth person, simple and yet sophisticated, always there for you in good times and bad times. He was always an approachable person and a great advocate for the poor and disabled. He did things around Charlotte that people never knew about."*

**— Mercy Sister Bessie McCarthy**

first president of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of North Carolina Synod, 1972-74; pastoral associate of St. Patrick Cathedral, 1973-79

*"I knew Bishop Begley before he became bishop. I was stationed with him when was superintendent of the orphanage in Raleigh. When I was president of the college, he was supportive of my efforts and encouraged me in my work. I especially loved the way he had to admonish me one time when I was president for something I had done wrong.... He patted my hands very gently and was very wonderful and understanding, but at the same time, I knew that I had been corrected in a most gentle way.*

*I knew him as a wonderful bishop, a most gentle and wonderful man. He was a people priest, and I think he was much loved. We were very fortunate to have him as our first bishop because he set the pace of the church in North Carolina in the Charlotte Diocese."*

**— Mercy Sister Mary Michel Boulus**

president of Sacred Heart College in Belmont, 1974-87

*"He was my first boss and was bishop of the diocese at the time when the paper decided to open another office in Charlotte. I was a one-person office for seven years. I realized at his memorial service that he was a grandfather figure for me. He always cared about me personally and always worried about my traveling and putting in long hours. He would always ask me if I were taking care of myself.*

*He was a very smart man, but he had such a down-to-earth attitude about himself that one would be misled into thinking that he wasn't as sharp as he was. When he needed to make his point, he did. He always had time for everyone, including me. I never had to hunt him down; he always had time to 'share,' as he put it. He had a real charm about him."*

**— Mary Coyne Wessling**

first assistant editor of the North Carolina Catholic, Charlotte Office, 1979-85

*"I met Bishop Begley in 1975 when our community was considering missioning myself and two other sisters to Charlotte. The bishop met with us, looked us over and said he would pray to the Holy Spirit. Then, we later learned that he had called the Motherhouse and said we could come. We continued the work that had already started to expand under his guidance into Winston-Salem and Asheville with the different ministries that had opened. He was wonderful, friendly, supportive and gregarious, a very good man and priest. He was easy to work with. He blessed our ministries, and they have continued to grow. The one story that struck me is when we had an office party, and he came dressed in a shawl with an empty glass dish with a lid. He said, 'They told me to bring a covered dish.' He had his own humor."*



**Bishop Begley with his secretary, Aloha Linhares Torrents.**

**— Trinitarian Sister Frances Sheridan**

current director of Catholic Social Services in the Archdiocese of Mobile, Ala., and former co-administrator and diocesan director of Catholic Social Services, 1975-93

*"I knew the bishop, and I admired him and I loved him. What a warm and caring person he was, and active in community affairs. He was so ecumenical-he reached out across denominational lines. He was respected and admired by all denominations. All of my predecessors loved and respected him tremendously. He was a blessing and genuinely spiritual."*

**— Methodist Bishop L. Bevel Jones, retired**

*"I considered him a dear friend. He was one of the first priests I've ever met, and he would have end-of-the-summer barbeques for the seminarians to let us know we were appreciated. I was touched by the warmth of the man. I loved his simplicity. He was never pompous. He was the same man before as after he was ordained a bishop. Nothing was beneath his dignity."*

**— Monsignor Tim O'Connor**

rector of Raleigh Cathedral and ordained by Bishop Begley

*"He was very affable, very easy to relate to and get along with in spirit and attitude. He was a real pioneer in Catholic charities and he had strong economic justice commitments. He was an outstanding spokesman and leader. He was clearly very much an ecumenical spirit. Most significantly, in my opinion, was that under his leadership the Charlotte Diocese joined the Council of Churches, which was for years a Protestant organization. It was a great day in the Council of Churches when the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte joined."*

**— Collins Kilburn**

former executive director of the Council of Churches

*"While I have recently arrived on the scene, long after his retirement, I didn't have to look for to find his fingerprints on the Council. He was the bishop when the Diocese of Charlotte requested membership in the North Carolina Council of Churches, a significant step for which I am grateful. And the Council presented him with our Distinguished Service Award in 1985, in recognition of his powerful contributions to the work of ecumenism and social justice. I've also learned a great deal this week about his efforts to build bridges to those of other Christian denominations and his life-long commitment to the least of Jesus' brothers and sisters. His impact on our state was significant and will continue to touch people, I suspect, even after his death. We will be remembering Bishop Begley in our prayers..."*

**— J. George Reed**

North Carolina Council of Churches

"I first met Bishop Begley in 1965 as the new pastor of St. Ann Church. My first impression of him was that he was a kind, gentle and happy person. I became acquainted with him as I was taking instruction to convert to Catholicism. He became close to my family and me as time went on. When he became director of Catholic Charities, he asked me to be his secretary part time so I could stay at home to raise my young son.

I remember when he called us in 1971 and said that there would be a new diocese and that he was asked to be the bishop. He asked me to be his personal secretary, and I said to him, 'I like working for a monsignor, but I don't know about working for a bishop.' He replied, 'Only the title has changed, not the man.' I began working full-time for him on Jan. 12, 1972, and his personality never changed. I was his secretary until he retired in 1984.

He was very family-oriented and accepted us — his staff and his parishioners — as his extended family. He was just as comfortable sitting down at an informal dinner of cornbread and beans with coal miners in Kentucky as he was with bishops, cardinals and other men of the church hierarchy. I always kept black thread and shoe polish to touch him up before he went anywhere just in case his suit needed mending or his shoes were a little dusty. He did all of the things that were expected of him but never lost his sense of humor. A person couldn't be around him without feeling like he cared, and I admired his spirit of love for everyone and his overflowing generosity."

**— Aloha Torrents,**

Bishop Begley's secretary

"He knew me before I knew him — he baptized me when I was a few weeks old; he was pastor of St. Ann in Charlotte. I had the honor of being baptized by the future bishop of the diocese. My grandparents—they were beginning members of St. Ann's in Charlotte—always spoke so highly and in such glowing terms of Monsignor Begley. When I was growing up I had always heard about Monsignor Begley and what a wonderful pastor he was and what a wonderful person he was. One thing I especially remember was when I applied to the diocese to be a seminarian...in 1979. I went for my interview with Bishop Begley; I was just a candidate for seminarian. I remember his great concern for the many unchurched people in North Carolina—those people who just didn't have any church at all; they had no practice of religion—and I remember him saying to me there's a lot of work we have to do in North Carolina. He was inviting me to study for the priesthood and to join him, I think, in the mission of the Catholic Church in North Carolina. I received from him a missionary spirit. He had a missionary spirit. Serving since the early '30s in North Carolina, that was part of Catholic life in North Carolina - he had to had the spirit of a missionary since the Catholics were such a minority. He definitely imparted that to me as a young seminarian—to have a missionary spirit in your work in the diocese. It definitely still influences me even to this day. I would describe him as a man of God, who had zeal for the salvation of souls, and whose enthusiasm for his ministry was catching; you were drawn into that enthusiasm and that zeal for his work. On the human scale, his affableness helped to draw a person into that work of ministry, in which he was involved as our shepard. He had the tremendous advantage of having known North Carolina inside and out for almost 40 years before he was named bishop, so he knew all of the people, all of the parishes, and deep roots in North Carolina. He had a tremendous amount of personal friendships and relationships that had been established over the years to draw upon immediately in establishing the diocese and in building up his programs and offices and ministries."

**— Father Peter Jugis**

Judicial Vicar



**Father Peter Jugis with Bishop Begley.**

# Friends and family gather to celebrate end of an era

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE—An altar adorned with red roses, and a cathedral filled with friends: A bittersweet celebration of life on Valentine's Day.

At the vigil liturgy at St. Patrick Cathedral, Bishop Michael J. Begley lay in state within the church he established as the Cathedral of the Diocese of Charlotte. Knights of Columbus, four abreast, stood still with reverent attention.

Tonight, said Monsignor John J. McSweeney, "we gather here to celebrate the end of an era." Bishop Begley, said Msgr. McSweeney "was a man of love, he was a man who was loved."

Msgr. McSweeney spoke words that many attending the vigil—those who knew Bishop Begley—knew by rote. Bishop Begley was a simple man of faith, loved and revered by many, but perhaps he is most endeared by the priests and laity who worked side-by-side with the bishop during the early '70s; the formative years for the Diocese.

Bishop Begley had time for everyone, said Msgr. McSweeney. No matter how busy he may have been, to Bishop Begley, you would matter most.

Msgr. McSweeney had a special bond with Bishop Begley. Msgr. McSweeney was the first priest ordained for the Diocese of Charlotte, ordained by Bishop Begley. Moreover, in the early years of the bishop's retirement, Msgr. McSweeney shared a residence with the bishop on several occasions.

In the more recent past, Bishop Begley lived at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point, where the impeccable care for the bishop was second to none. During his homily, Msgr. McSweeney specifically offered gratitude to those who tenderly cared for Bishop Begley in those final years. "He was a man, a priest, a bishop who would never hesitate to say thank you," said Msgr. McSweeney.

"Bishop Begley was a man of suffering," said Msgr. McSweeney. "He had some serious problems health wise, but you did not hear about them."

"Just before Christmas, I had a talk with the bishop about the doctor's recommendation. It was about the (possible) amputation of his feet," said Msgr. McSweeney. "And (the bishop) looked at me (refusing the surgery) and said 'I will walk to heaven.'"

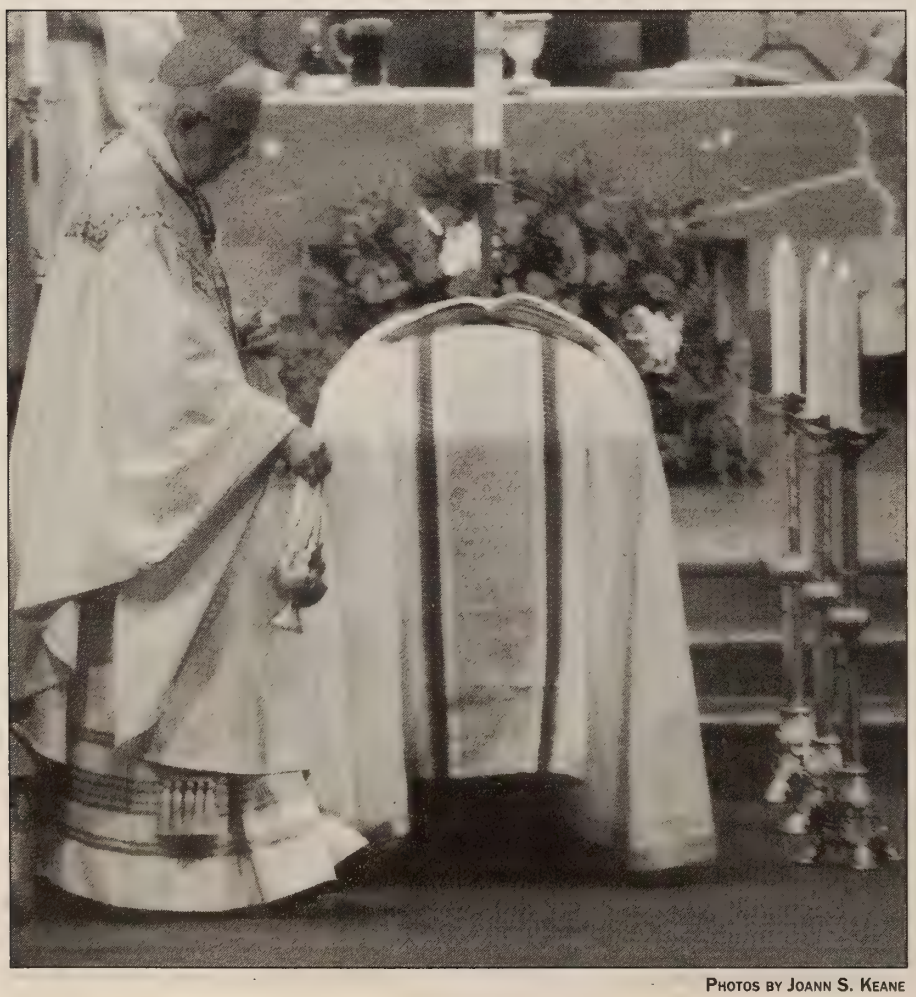
"Everyone here thinks of Bishop Begley as a friend—he treated people that way," said Monsignor Joseph Kerin, who also shared reflections during the vigil service.

"Many people referred to him correctly as a humble person. I would say (he) was a simple and genuine person," said Msgr. Kerin. "His evenness of personality was amazing. He was what you saw."

Bishop Begley, said Msgr. Kerin, "brought a relaxed, dedicated attitude to the priests and laity of the diocese. He helped steer it from a small missionary diocese to the beginning of the population explosion and still kept the missionary spirit."

"He was a joy to know, a joy to work for and a wonderful bishop and gentle leader," said Msgr. Kerin.

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Photos by Joann S. Keane

# The flock pays tribute to their beloved shepherd

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — With swords sheathed at their sides, the Knights of Columbus flanked the open casket positioned before the altar. They stood vigilant as St. Gabriel Church filled with people, many tearful as they approached the casket to pay their personal respects.

Some mourners returned from the vigil liturgy at St. Patrick Cathedral the night before, but the gathering more than doubled in size for the Feb. 15 funeral mass of the Bishop Michael J. Begley, bishop emeritus of Charlotte. It was a Mass for celebrating the life of a leader; a missionary; a man who was fondly remembered as the first shepherd of the Diocese of Charlotte.

As the opening hymn "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" played, a procession of bishops, priests, deacons, and seminarians stretched the length of the church. Bishop William G. Curlin, bishop of Charlotte, concelebrated the Mass with an array of concelebrants, including the Most Reverend John F. Donoghue, archbishop of Atlanta and Bishop Begley's successor in Charlotte.

Monsignor Joseph Showfety, who had served as Bishop Begley's chancellor, gave a homily filled with insight into "the man whom so many of us admired and loved," Msgr. Showfety said. "Now as we gather to express our farewell, we honor a good man, a holy priest and a most generous bishop. We admire him for his more than 67 years of priesthood."

Msgr. Showfety said he worked closely with Bishop Begley for nearly eight years. "Regardless of (Begley's) assignments—superintendent of the Catholic orphanage, pastor of several parishes in the diocese of Raleigh, bishop of Charlotte—he loved and cared for his flock and served them with the dedication of the Good Shepherd," he said.

Judith Crowley, niece of Bishop Begley, spoke on behalf of the family. She reflected on the man affectionately referred to as "Uncle Mike."

"In the Irish language, 'Begley' means 'the little hero,'" she told the church. "There is nothing little about the hero we are celebrating today."

She offered the fond memories her family had of the "loving, selfless brother," "the great uncle" and "the understanding priest" who had touched so many lives.

Bishop Curlin made a point to thank Bishop Begley's family during the final commendation. "You have given us a wonderful bishop," he said. "I knew him for a few years, and he certainly touched my heart in many, many ways."

Bishop Curlin noted that many people touched Bishop Begley's coffin during Communion. "Like touching something holy," said Bishop Curlin. "Your love is very tangible here. Please pray for him...everyday whisper his name to God in your prayers...you know he will be praying for us."

Concelebrants included: Bishop Joseph Gossman, bishop of Raleigh; Bishop J. Kevin Boland, bishop of Savannah; Bishop Robert J. Baker, bishop of Charleston; Bishop David B. Thompson, bishop emeritus of Charleston; Bishop Martin Lohmuller, retired auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia; Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B., of Belmont Abbey; Monsignor John J. McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew; and Father Mauricio W. West, chancellor and vicar general of Charlotte.

Other concelebrants included: priests serving the Diocese of Charlotte; visiting priests from the Diocese of Raleigh: permanent deacons and seminarians of the Diocese of Charlotte; the Knights and Dames of Malta; the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulcher; and the Catholic Daughters of America.

At the end of the Mass, the procession made its way outside to the steps of the church, with Bishop Begley's pallbearers being priests that he had ordained. Bishop Begley was then taken for burial in the cemetery of the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians at Belmont Abbey, Belmont.

"He left his mark on the Diocese of Charlotte," said Msgr. Showfety, "and he will not be forgotten."

"He will always be part of our lives," said Bishop Curlin.

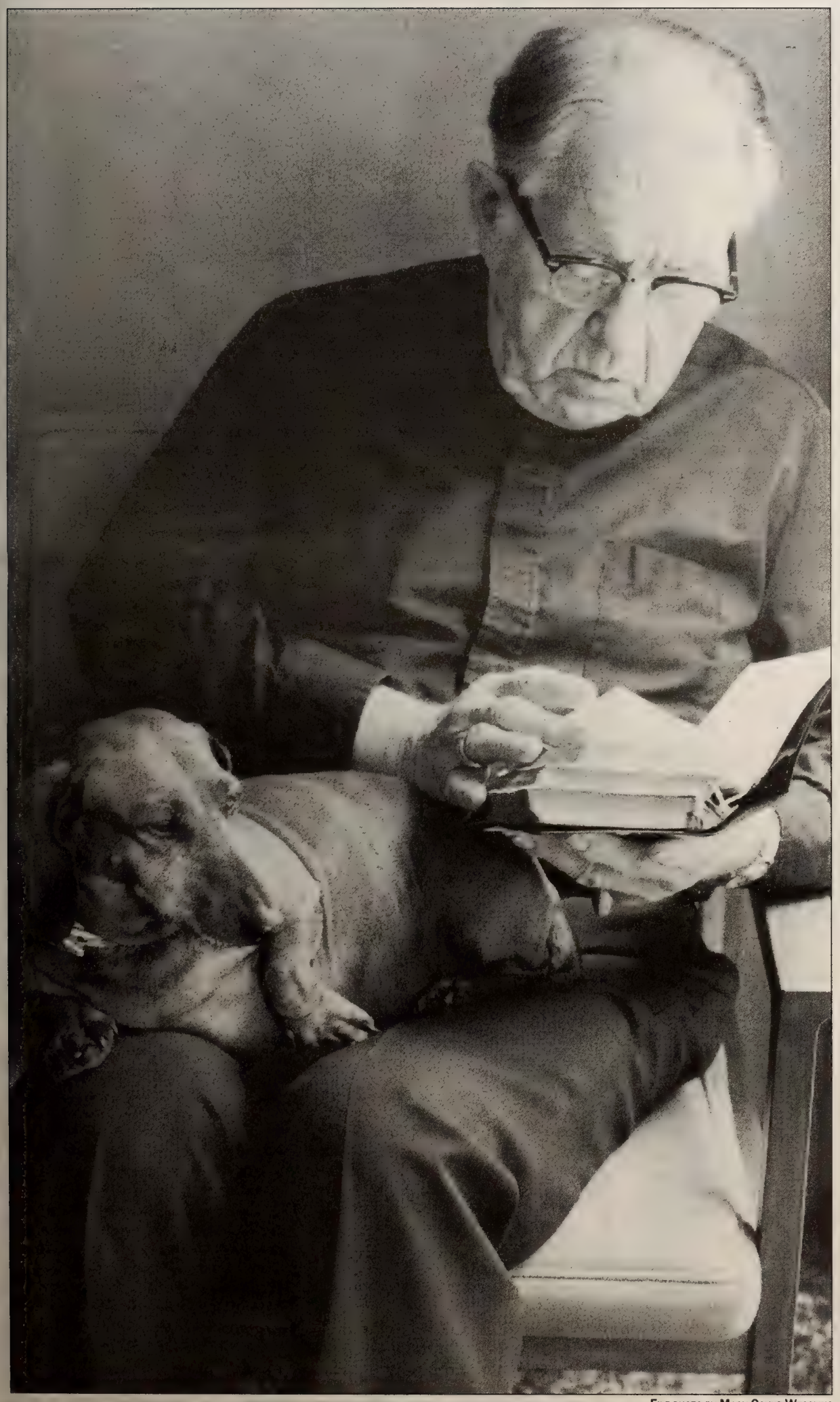
Speaking in Gaelic, Crowley bid her beloved uncle farewell. "Safe home, Michael Begley," she said.

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334, or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*



# Reflections

*in his own words*



File photo by Mary Coyne Wessling

## My early years of priesthood

Nowadays, it may seem a bit premature for a youth of 17 or 18 to set his career goals, but in 1927, times were different. It was not unusual for Catholic boys to consider a life in the priesthood and to enter the seminary upon graduation from high school. I was one of those young men.

I was privileged to attend Cathedral High School, a Catholic school in Springfield, Mass., after attending public grade school. In my senior year, we had an opportunity to talk about vocations, and that is when I first gave it some serious thought. Then one evening, I was asked to assist a priest in setting up for confirmation in our church.

He asked me to retrieve a small table inside the altar rail. I'm not sure what happened when I stepped inside the altar area for that first time, but I remember it had a profound and lasting effect on me. I guess you could say the seeds of my vocation began to take root that night. Exhilarated as I was, I still had some serious decisions to make about my chosen vocation. I talked about it one evening with a priest. I told him I was interested in becoming a priest. I was expecting him to be impressed and delighted with my decision, but instead, he asked me, "What do you hope to achieve in the priesthood?" That stopped me.

I wanted to be a priest, but I had no idea where or how I would like to minister to God's people. He made many suggestions — teaching, missionary work, parish work. Then he did something that would set the course of my life; he made an appointment for me to meet with a bishop who was visiting in the area and was looking for men to serve in his diocese. That man was Bishop William Hafey, the first bishop of Raleigh. I was impressed with Bishop Hafey and the story of a very young Catholic Church taking root in the Southeastern United States. Without another moment of hesitation, I knew that being a priest in a mission area in my own country would be my life's calling.

After completing my seminary studies at Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, Md., I was ordained to the priesthood on May 26, 1934. I arrived in Raleigh on June 20, 1934, to serve as an assistant at St. Mary Church in Wilmington. Although that assignment was brief, it proved to be a good experience for me.

One side note: when I left my home in Massachusetts to serve as a priest in North Carolina, my parents thought I may as well have left for China — both places seemed as distant to them. But despite their reservations, they supported my decision to be a priest and gave me all the love and understanding any young man could hope for from his parents. They have always been the first and greatest inspiration for me in my life as a priest.

Prior to arriving in the Diocese of Raleigh, I received a note from Bishop Hafey that said simply: "Bring a car with you." I had no idea how important a vehicle would be to me. In those early years, I spent a good deal of time on the rural roads of Eastern North Carolina. All the priests back then spent a lot of time away from their parishes because there were many people who needed a priest and did not live within driving distance of the churches. We were on

See REFLECTIONS, pages 8,9,10

**Reflections**
*in his own words*

# Pastor, social worker and more

the road three weeks out of four almost every month. We would stay in people's homes who lived in the missionary sections of the diocese. I have fond memories of those times and of the true Southern hospitality that was shown to me, a young Yankee from New England.

I barely had my feet wet as a priest when, three months later, I was made pastor of St. Therese Church in Wilson and its mission in Farmville. It came as both a shock and a challenge for me. I told my pastor of St. Mary that I was hesitant about the assignment, but he told me that if the bishop had confidence in me as a pastor, I must go. He also assured me that he would give me any support I might need in my new assignment. "The door to my house is always open to you," he said.

It was the first of many appointments that I would fill at the request of my bishops and the first of many moments over the next 50 years that I would feel a bit hesitant in carrying out the important duties that were charged to me. But that priest gave me the key to my success in ministry: to depend on others, especially my fellow priests for support and encouragement. It was the same advice that, years later, I would find myself giving to the young men who came to my diocese to serve. Like that priest, I would make it a point to leave my door open to all who sought my help.

For the next dozen years, I served as pastor at St. Edward in High Point, St. Therese in Wrightsville Beach and St. Leo in Winston-Salem. In addition, I was appointed superintendent of schools and director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, now called religious education.

Those early years in the Diocese of Raleigh brought many people into my life who showed me how important the Catholic faith was to them: from the parents who scraped together their pennies to send their children to parochial schools; to the farm families who managed to find an extra helping of dinner for a tired, traveling priest; to the dedicated sisters who faced many miles and challenges to bring God's word to children and adults. All of them served as daily reminders that our faith was alive and growing. I was glad to be a part of the church of North Carolina and looking forward to more rewarding years.

As I related in my last column, there were always people along the way who inspired me with their devotion to their faith. I remember one man who would come to our weekly Mass at St. Edward on Tuesdays. In order to do that, he had to leave work and take a cut in pay. It was a real sacrifice for this man to lose pay and come to Mass but instead of his boss being angry, he was impressed and said that the man could continue to attend Mass and have his pay reinstated. I thought that was a tremendous statement for evangelization.

Another true inspiration for me was my spiritual director and friend, Father Patrick Darrah. Father Darrah was a Passionist priest stationed in Greensboro when I met him. My salvation often depended spiritually with Father Darrah. He stayed by me in the rough times all the way up to 1954 when he died.

During my years as a parish priest I had the opportunity to serve under three bishops. In 1938 Bishop Hafey was transferred to Scranton, Pa., and Bishop Eugene McGinnis came in. Each man had his own style of leadership and I, as well as the other priests, had to adjust to the new styles of leadership. That took some doing, especially since there was a misunderstanding that took place shortly after Bishop McGinnis' installation. I was transferred to Wrightsville Beach and told there would be a home at Carolina Beach with a room for a chapel. Unfortunately, the man who owned the home had no intention of selling it and I was forced to live in a summer cottage without heat for part of that winter. I stayed there only on the weekends, returning to Greensboro during the week to teach catechism at a black Catholic school.

That was an interesting experience as well. I had almost no contact with Negroes when I was growing up in Massachusetts. When I met black people in North Carolina, I was struck with the way some people treated them. I never did understand why one priest told me I couldn't converse with the black man who was his housekeeper. When the civil rights movement began to take effect in North Carolina, I welcomed the changes it would bring for these people, for all of us.

It seemed I was learning a lot about people in those years when I served as a parish priest. I remember one incident when Bishop McGinnis came to Carolina Beach with me to meet a man who had donated land to the church. When we arrived at his home I was appalled at how filthy the place was and how dirty he looked. I was embarrassed but Bishop McGinnis never said a word about the appearance of the man or his home. He simply treated the man with graciousness and thanked him for his donation.

In 1946 Bishop McGinnis departed for Salt Lake City and the Diocese of Raleigh welcomed Bishop Vincent Waters. Bishop Waters was barely settled in when he came to me and asked me to be either chancellor for the diocese or director of Catholic Charities. I wanted to be a pastor, period. (I was stationed by then at St. Leo in Winston-Salem.) I thought the discussion was closed but a few weeks later he had a replacement for me at St. Leo and I was on the road for the next six weeks traveling to dioceses up north to gather collections for our diocese.





**The eucharistic Prayer of the ordination Mass. From left: Father Christopher Kirchgessner, O.S.B., Father David Brown, O.S.B., (Master of Ceremonies), Bishop Michael Begley and then-Father Placid Solari, O.S.B.**





When I arrived home Bishop Waters had more plans for me. I was set to attend the University of North Carolina to obtain a degree in social work. I began those studies in 1947 and during those two years I was also superintendent of the Catholic orphanage in Raleigh. Needless to say, it was a busy time for me but a rewarding one, too.

One of the proudest moments I shared at the orphanage was when we received a state license for adoption. Up until that time we could not place the children in homes. We were also granted permission to find foster homes for the children. Both of these licenses brought a profound and blessed change to many children's lives.

In 1955 I was appointed pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte. Bishop Waters had faith that I would build up that new parish and school. I don't know if I had as much confidence in myself as he did. I admired him for how much he knew about mission work and his dream of building up the diocese.

My final pastorates included St. Leo and Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro. On Thanksgiving Day, 1971, I was made the first bishop of the newly established Diocese of Charlotte. I will share those recollections and my years as acting bishop with you in my next column. Before I end this, however, I would like to say that serving under my three bishops was at times a challenge and always a learning experience. I feel blessed to have served under each of them.

---

## The call to lead as bishop

November 1971 — The Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Bishop Waters arrived in Greensboro for an unexpected visit. I was truly surprised when he asked me if I would accept the office of bishop. I wanted time to think. "If you are wondering about whether you merit being bishop, don't. No one merits being called." I accepted.

Now I was challenged to begin a new role in leadership and set up the newly established Diocese of Charlotte. I had many tasks like finding a cathedral, vicar general, chancellor, diocesan consultors and a bishop's residence and adjusting to my sudden popularity, especially with the bankers in Charlotte.

But the details of being a bishop were not nearly as challenging as the transformation of my attitudes. Where once I was a peer among my priests, now I was their leader. Where once I was charged with caring for the spiritual lives of my parishioners, now I must care for an entire diocese, but I had much help in my new role.

I started by building a team of people to help me. I had an advantage in choosing people because I had been a priest in North Carolina for 37 years. I knew all the priests, many of the sisters and lay leaders, and they knew me. I also knew the organizations and movements and where they stood. I was on the inside track, and I was grateful for that edge.

It was not long after I was made bishop that people outside the diocese began seeking my assistance. I was asked to join committees of the National Council of Catholic Bishops, local civic organizations and regional groups. One of the most important committees I joined and chaired was the Catholic Committee on Appalachia (CCA). Bish-

## Achievements

*Here are just a few of the achievements and honors bestowed upon Bishop Michael J. Begley over the years:*

Ordained to the priesthood on May 26, 1934.

Honored by Pope Pius XII as a domestic prelate and given the title of monsignor in 1955.

Honorary doctorate of letters (LL.D) were bestowed by his alma mater. Mount Saint Mary College in Emmitsburg, Md.; Belmont Abbey College, Belmont; Allentown College, Allentown, Pa.; and the former Sacred Heart College, Belmont.

Among the boards he served were: Mercy Hospital Advisory Board, Johnson C. Smith University Board of Visitors, TO LIFE Advisory Board, Boys Town of North Carolina Board of Directors, Sacred Heart College Board of Directors and the Land Stewardship Council of North Carolina Board of Directors.

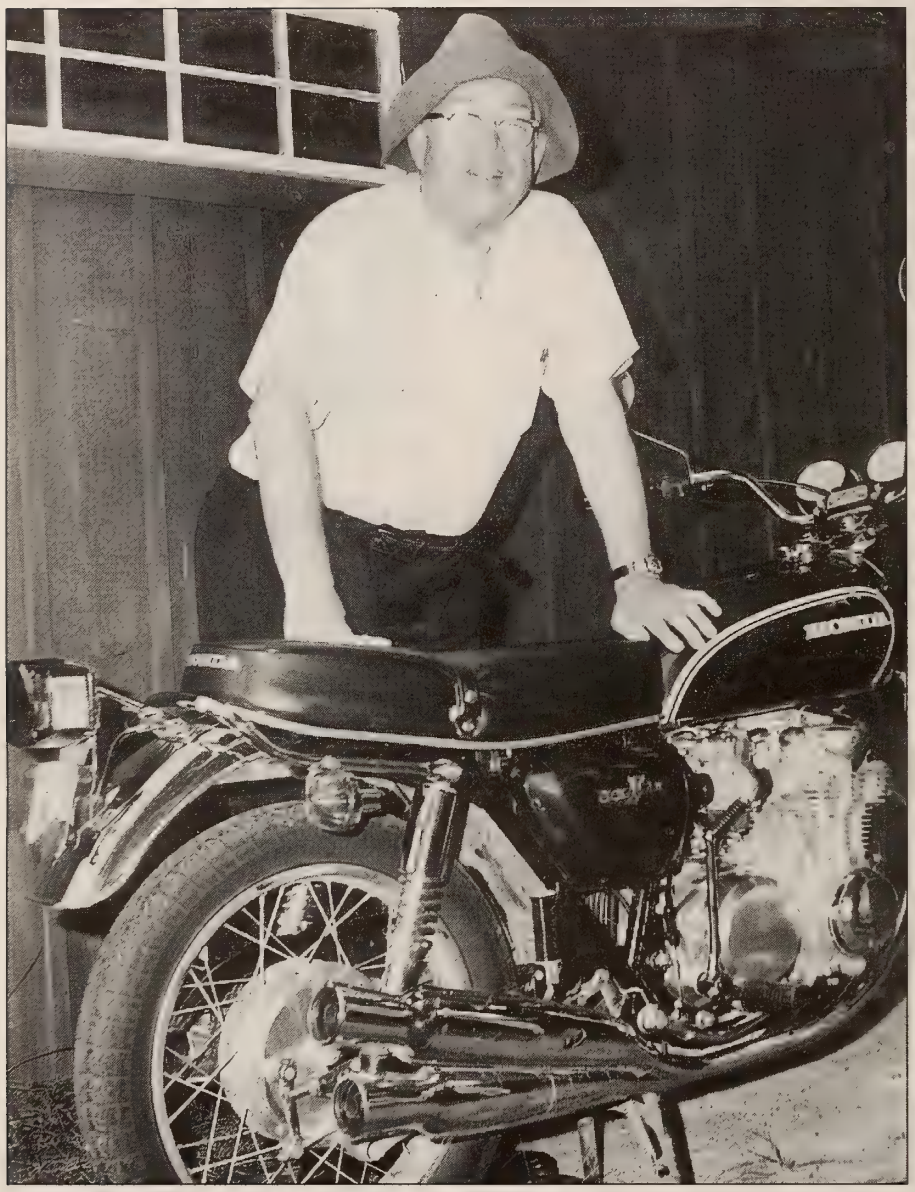
He also served as co-publisher of The North Carolina Catholic, chairperson of the Catholic Committee on Appalachia, a member of the Bishop's Committee on Priestly Formation, and Episcopal advisor for Cursillo; he initiated a dialogue between church, labor and management that resulted in the document "The Workbench of Life" and he appointed a taskforce to study the role of women in the Church.

Bishop Begley was honored by numerous organizations and groups both in this diocese and throughout the state of North Carolina.

*Series was written by Mary Coyne Wessling and originally appeared in the North Carolina Catholic.*

# Reflections

*in his own words*







ops, religious, clergy and lay people of several southeastern states sought solutions to the abject poverty that prevailed in this region of the country. Through the work I did on CCA, I came to know Appalachian families and the struggles they faced. I was moved by their spirit and humbled by their poor existence. I had a clearer understanding of the need for the church to reach out to all people but especially the poor.

There were other highlights in my years as diocesan bishop: the fight for unions at J.P. Stevens, the growth of many movements born out of Vatican II, the formation of new parishes, and the emergence of lay leadership are a few I recall.

There were struggles, too. I was privy to more information about people. Sometimes it was hard to know that when people shared their confidences with me, however harmful that information was to them or people they loved, it had to be retained. That was my duty, but it was also my burden. It was also difficult to know that some of the priests, with whom I felt close as a priest, distanced themselves when I was made bishop. I was also disappointed with people who never came forward to share their gifts with the others. Even now I feel disappointment in that. As a leader, I came to appreciate the need for all of us to share our talents to make this diocese prosper. I also learned that leaders must learn to ask for help.

What I learned as a priest, I passed on as bishop. I told the seminarians who wished to serve our diocese that they must be willing to make sacrifices, financially and personally. They would live in an area where Catholicism is not a major religion and much depends on ecumenical efforts. They would travel great distances, attend many meetings, be open and sharing with their lay people, and promote the church in every community they visited through their example.

Though it was a new diocese growing rapidly, though Vatican II breathed new life into our church, and though four decades had passed since I was ordained, I knew as I spoke to these young men that the more things changed, the more they stayed the same.

## Busier than ever in retirement

Just prior to my retirement in 1984, I asked a fellow bishop what to expect as a gentleman of leisure. He said I would do more than ever before. He was right. I've been fortunate to be succeeded by Bishop Donoghue who graciously extends many opportunities to me to serve as the bishop representative throughout the diocese.

I was also told that more of my priests would open up to me, share more with me once I was no longer their "boss." That has been a good experience for me. I'm glad to know they can confide in me and share their lives with me. I have found many priests, sisters and laity ready to help me in any way they can, and I am grateful for that, too.

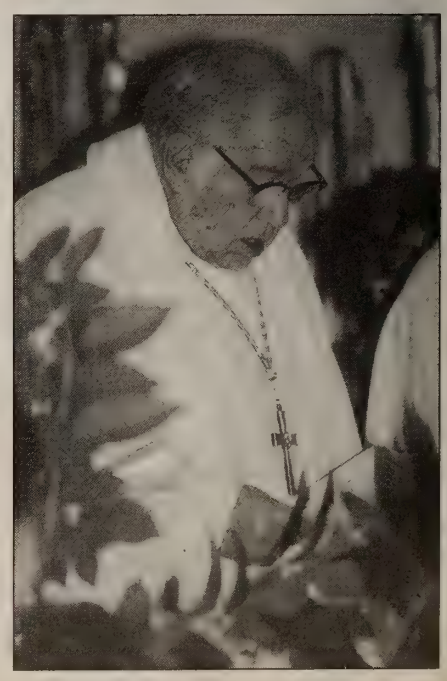
I realize that my age prevents me from doing everything I wish to do but I've learned to adjust. I have found some grace-filled moments in the slower pace of life.

Since my retirement, I've had time to reflect on my life as priest, pastor and bishop. Looking back over this 55-year vocation, I can honestly say I have few regrets. Of course there were struggles, frustrations and disappointments but God did not promise roses to those who believe in him. He asked us to take up our cross and follow him. Times may be difficult but it is in those times when your spiritual life becomes your security.

I am pleased that I had a hand in helping the Diocese of Charlotte grow. But I have often thought over the years: what could I have done without the help of others? I feel deeply blessed by the number of good people that came into my life, especially so many young people. I may not have been their natural father but they would tell me that I was certainly there as a "father" to them. It was not only the highest of compliments but also a sign that we were truly sharing our lives.

I was glad, too, that a good man like Bishop Donoghue was succeeding me. I remember offering this soon-to-be consecrated bishop some advice in overseeing the diocese. I told him it was a mission diocese and he would need to get accustomed to the distances in travel. I also told him to get accustomed to making decisions and sticking by them even if he's criticized for it. "Sometimes when you make decisions, you will gain a different title," I said. And I added that there would be nights he would go to bed being concerned but that was just part of the job.

I know that not everyone can enter retirement feeling fulfilled in their career and life. I realize I am among the chosen few to be graced with answering the call to serve through the priestly ministry and again serve as a bishop. I have never taken either role for granted nor have I assumed I was worthy to have them. But I accepted the plans God laid before me. Though the road was sometimes twisting and covered in fog, the journey has been exciting and fruitful. And what more could I ask?



## Thirty Years

# Looking back helps shape the future

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

Before the formation of the Diocese of Charlotte in 1972, the late Bishop Vincent S. Waters would regularly travel 2,400 miles throughout North Carolina to visit the parishes and missions in his far-flung Diocese of Raleigh. Between the two farthest points in the state — Murphy (in the westernmost corner) to Manteo (on the Outer Banks) — the span is 450 miles.

With the exception of the area under the jurisdiction of the Benedictine abbot of Belmont Abbey, North Carolina was one diocese. By the early 1970s, that jurisdiction of the Benedictines — which had once covered most of the state — had diminished to cover only Gaston County.

North and South Carolina originally were part of the Diocese of Charleston, serving 5,000 Catholics with 17 churches and 16 priests. The Second Council of Baltimore in 1866 proposed to the Holy See the designation of North Carolina as a vicariate. It remained a vicariate for almost 60 years.

It was the consecration of William Joseph Hafey on Dec. 5, 1925, as first bishop of Raleigh that began the journey to the future of the Catholic Church in North Carolina. The youngest bishop in the United States at the time, Bishop Hafey served as bishop for the state until 1937, when he became the bishop of Scranton, Pa.

Bishop Eugene J. McGuinness was appointed as his successor, and served the state from 1937 until his taking over the Oklahoma-Tulsa diocese in 1944.

In 1945, Bishop Waters was installed third bishop of Raleigh. It was under his direction that the formation of a second North Carolina diocese was accomplished.

Shortly before the bishops met in Rome for the 1971 Synod, Pope Paul VI said it was his intention to divide the larger dioceses of the world into smaller units, "on human scale." Pope Paul VI's desire was to make the office of the bishop more pastoral than administrative.

On Nov. 30, 1971, Bishop Waters wrote a letter to Catholics in North Carolina announcing, "Our Holy Father, Pope Paul VI, through the Most Reverend Apostolic Delegate, has made known to us that he has in mind very soon to erect from the territory of the Diocese of Raleigh, a new Diocese of Charlotte. He has chosen, the first bishop of the prospective Diocese of Charlotte, our own Reverend Monsignor Michael J. Begley, pastor of Our Lady of Grace parish, Greensboro, North Carolina."

The new diocese would encompass the 46 western counties of North Carolina from Reidsville and Hamlet in the east to the Tennessee state line in the west. It would also include the territory formerly under the jurisdiction of Belmont Abbey.

And so, on Jan. 12, 1972, the Diocese of Charlotte was born. Bishop Michael J. Begley was ordained as the first bishop for the new diocese. By coincidence, Bishop Begley was a cousin of Bishop Hafey, first bishop of Raleigh.

At the formation of the Diocese of Charlotte in 1972, statistics showed a Catholic population of 35,585 with 39 diocesan priests. 27 religious priests and 249 sisters, which included Sacred Heart Motherhouse of the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont. There were 53 parishes and 22 missions.

In 2001, the Catholic population had swelled to 128,775. Sixty-five diocesan priests, 62 religious priests, 108 sisters and 73 permanent deacons served the area. In the same time span, the diocese grew to 68 parishes and 23 missions.

Bishop Begley served the diocese until his retirement in 1984. Bishop John F. Donoghue was consecrated and installed as second bishop in 1984, serving until his elevation to archbishop of Atlanta in 1993. Bishop William G. Curlin was installed as third bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte on April 13, 1994.

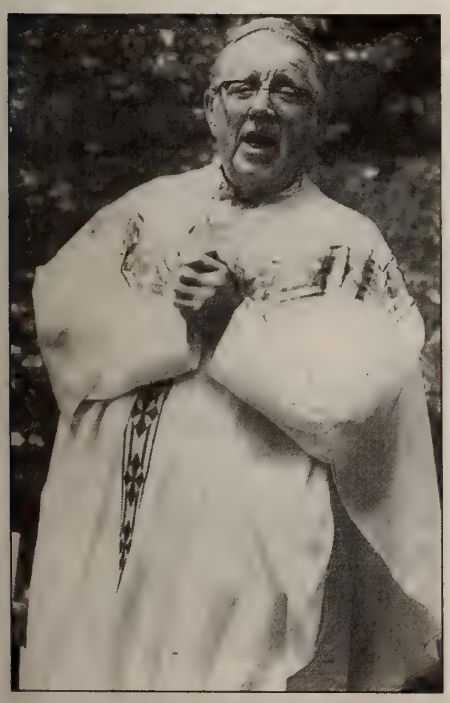
*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org*



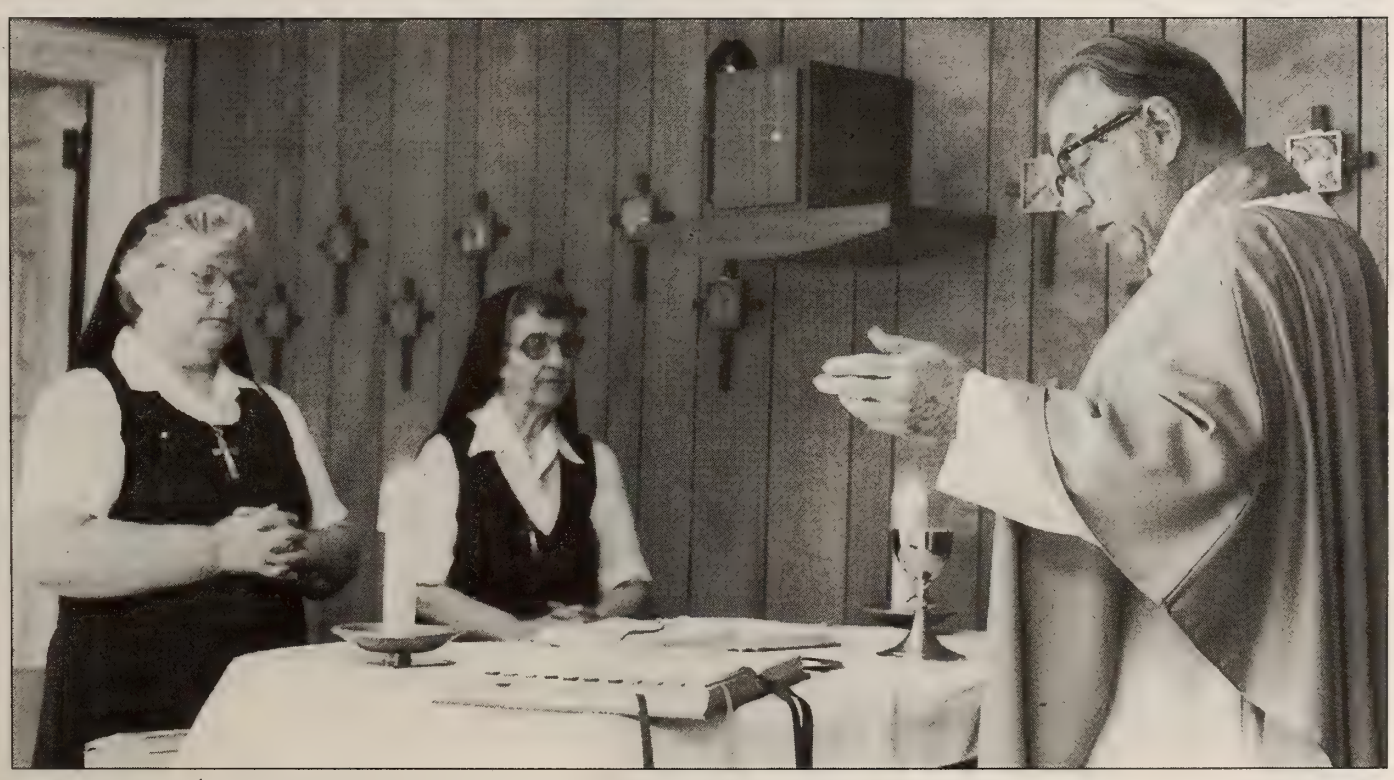
**Mary Coyne Wessling, first assistant editor for the North Carolina Catholic newspaper's Charlotte office shows Bishop Begley the newspaper's computer system.**



**In this file photo, Bishop Begley reads to students at All Saints School in Charlotte.**



**Pictured above: Bishop Begley during a Mass at the former Our Lady of the Hills Camp in Hendersonville.**



**Pictured right: Bishop Begley celebrates Mass in the chapel of the bishops' residence with Franciscan Sisters Mary Aquinas Makin and Miriam Miller.**

# Behind the coat-of-arms

By NANCY WEST
Guest Columnist

The afternoon I heard the future bishop's motto was a good time and will remain a warm memory for me.

As I was making a bed for one of our homecoming college students, the doorbell rang and there he was, our large bishop-elect, our former pastor at St. Ann. As always he radiated strength but not as always, he was definitely excited about something. I soon discovered what.

First I teased him about being on retreat and still on the go. "Never mind," he shot back, "I am on retreat at Belmont Abbey, and I am living the Benedictine motto, 'Work and Pray.'"

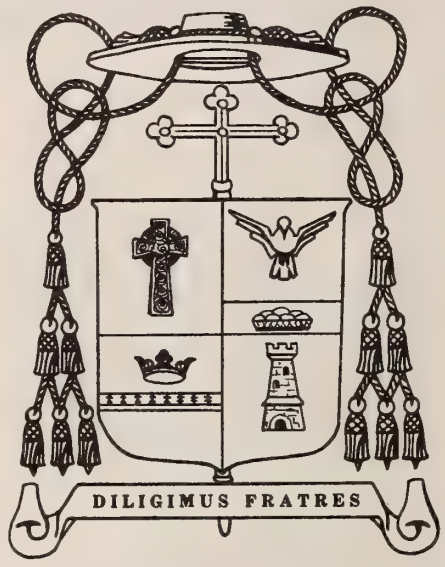
He said he had just come from the Mint Museum. I listened, ready to believe anything.

"This nice lady, Mrs. Kortheur, Katherine, the curator, was most helpful. We must come up with a coat-of-arms, you know, and want to have some authentic symbol relating to Charlotte. She got out Queen Charlotte's coat-of-arms for me, and there seemed to be several possibilities in it. I noticed a cross on a red square with a crown on top. Anyway, Mrs. Kortheur is having the Queen's photographed for me. You could pick it up tomorrow and take it out to Sister Theophane, if you don't mind."

I didn't mind.

He continued with the details about the insignia, which I would see several days later. But now the bishop-elect told me what his motto would be, and my heart was glad.

He said, "We have chosen a phrase from St. John's first epistle, 3rd chapter,




14th verse. In Latin, 'Diligimus Fratres." The New American Bible translation, "We have loved the brethren."

He explained, "This is partly because of my connection with Catholic Social Services and partly because of my association with Cursillo."

But his being there telling me about it contained part of the reason too, for his motto. He does love the brethren — and "sistren." For example, what reason other than his interest in my writing avocation, could he have for asking me, Grandma Moses of the Typewriter, to "cover" his ordination to the Bishopric? In the midst of the great happenings and the multiple details, he had remembered his friend, the perpetual aspiring writer. He remembers the needs of others: his fellow priests, parishioners, ailing housekeepers, Hungarian and Cuban refugees, orphaned children.

If loving is caring about the well-being of others and doing something about it, the new Bishop of Charlotte has aptly chosen his motto. "We Have Loved the Brothers." He has lived it for many years.

Chapter two of the making of the coat-of-arms, was a visit to Kortheur's office in the Mint Museum. The beaming little grey-haired curator was still under the influence of the bishop-elect's charisma. He was even surprised I knew who he was! And he invited me to the ceremony! I never thought I would see a bishop ordained!

As she paused for breath, I injected, "I know just how you feel, Mrs. Kortheur. Now what about this photocopy I am to take to Sister Theophane?"

"Oh yes, the picture of the Queen's coat-of-arms." She drew it out of an envelope on her desk. The ornate designs were guarded by fierce-looking lions and unicorns. "Here's the one the Monsignor thought Sister might use," she said, pointing to the cross and crown he'd mentioned. "Aren't you glad Sister Theophane is doing this for him? She's very talented. Oh, he is so nice."

Leaving with the copy, I looked back to see her sitting at her desk smiling.

In Belmont, Sister Theophane was waiting in the lobby of her convent when we came in out of the rain. She took us to a guest dining room where we sat around the table to feast on her designs. Sister, a well-known painter and art instructor at Sacred Heart College, has a disarming smile. She said she was really glad to have some outside opinion. "After all, I have never really done anything like this. (I know just how you feel, Sister, I thought.) But you can't refuse him." (Yes, I know.)

The coat of arms chosen by Bishop Michael J. Begley expresses his love, service and dedication to the people of the Diocese of Charlotte.

His motto, "Diligimus Fratres," symbolizes his love for others. The New American Bible translation of the phrase is "We have loved the brethren."

The shield itself is divided into quarters: two blue and two green, each containing a silver symbol. The upper left quarter shows a Celtic cross to symbolize the bishop's Irish ancestry.

The upper right quarter holds a bird designed by Mercy Sister Theophane, who constructed the coat of arms. The animal is a composite of three different kinds of birds: the dove to represent the Holy Spirit; the raven, a symbol for St. Benedict; and the eagle for St. John the Evangelist. A red band at the base of the quarter contains a bread basket and rolls to signify Catholic Social Services.

The lower right quarter shows a tower with a parapet, a symbol found in the Begley family's coat of arms and also found on the old orphanage building of Nazareth, where the bishop once served as director. The tower also represents the Virgin Mary's titles "Tower of David" and "Tower of Ivory."

The fourth quarter on the lower left holds a crown that signifies the Queen City of Charlotte, the see city of the diocese. A band of silver below the crown shows eight ermine marks which, according to the Manual of Heraldry, signifies dignity. For Bishop Begley those marks also signify his eight years of involvement in the Cursillo movement.

Across the bottom of the coat of arms is a scroll upon which his motto appears. Bishop Begley retains his seal. A new bishop for the diocese will designate his own seal at the time of his installation.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

February 14, 2002

Most Reverend William G. Curlin, DD
Pastoral Center
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Dear Bishop Curlin,

Please extend my condolences on the passing of Bishop Michael J. Begley to your entire diocese. You have not only lost your founding Bishop, but you have lost one of your strongest missionaries.

Bishop Begley was a true pioneer of the Catholic Church. He displayed the courage of his convictions as he spread the word of the Church in North Carolina. Under his leadership and guidance, the Catholic Church is growing as a strong religious presence in our State.

Throughout his fifty years of service to the Church, he served as an ecumenical missionary – reaching out to people of all faith who were in need of guidance and assistance. He will be remembered by all as a tireless servant and a true visionary. He was committed to his faith and to the people he served.

In deepest sympathy, I remain

Very truly yours,

Michael F. Easley

# "Return to Never Land"

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Nearly 50 years after the original animated "Peter Pan" appeared on screen, Disney flies back into the theaters with "Return to Never Land." The release of this mildly amusing sequel is well-timed, as it will have little competition at the box office from other family fare.

However, while the animation in "Return to Never Land" is up to Disney standards, the film has a straight-to-video quality that is hard to ignore. The story takes pains to pick up about where the original left off, allowing the audience to revisit the old characters and locales as new ones are introduced. But it lacks the delightful charm of similar animated films, chugging along more as a rote exercise than a creative endeavor. Nonetheless, young ones are likely to be entertained, if not exactly inspired.

Set in World War II London, the sequel finds Wendy (voiced by Kath Soucie and drawn in a very similar fashion to the star of "Beauty and the Beast") all grown up. She remains in London with her two young children, Jane (voiced by Harriet Owen) and baby Danny (voiced by Andrew McDonough), while husband Edward (voiced by Roger Rees) fights the Nazis.

Jane is a sensible girl who thinks that stories about a flying boy named Peter Pan (voiced by Blayne Weaver) and his friends, the Lost Boys, are just plain silly. Then one night Jane is kidnapped by Captain Hook (voiced by Corey Burton), who mistakes her for Wendy and takes her back to Never Never Land.

The crocodile has been replaced by an octopus as Captain Hook's other nemesis (besides Peter Pan), but it is not as interesting a character as the old croc was. And the songs are generic little tunes that are instantly forgettable.

The sequel promotes getting in touch with that inner-child imagination, which Jane somehow has lost. Only by flying can Jane return home. And in order to fly, she'll need to believe in "faith, trust and pixie dust."

Like most Disney films, there is a happy ending.

The film's beginning has a few mildly menacing moments as London is bombed by the enemy and Jane tries to make her way home.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

*Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

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# ABLE, from page 1

Endowment in 2003. For home ownership, the North Carolina Department of Labor (DOL) has provided a $26,000 grant — $13,000 each from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency and the Federal Assets for Independence Act.

OEO information states that ABLE is open to "individuals who are at or below 80 percent of the area median income." That means $23,250 for a one-person household, on up to $43,800 for an eight-person family. OEO verifies ABLE candidates' income using paycheck stubs or previous-year income tax returns.

A participant opens an ABLE individual matched savings account at his or her local Carolina Community Bank. "It's a regular savings account but marked for ABLE," said Kim Crisp, ABLE program manager.

ABLE accounts are not assessed any service fees. OEO receives copies of participants' savings statements each month to ensure that they are saving regularly.

Individuals and families can participate in ABLE for three years and can save a maximum of $1,000 toward purchase of a "productive asset," which ABLE defined as "something of value that is likely to return substantial long-term benefits to its owner."

Participants must save at least $20 a month. They also attend free OEO classes to help them learn about personal finance and money management, as well as a program to prepare them to make the best use of the asset they are saving for.

"If they wanted to save over $1,000, they could," Crisp said. "We will only match $1,000. The idea is to get them on a regular program of savings."

After saving for six months, participants can withdraw some of their savings for emergencies or for business expenses; OEO must approve the withdrawal but doesn't match the withdrawn funds. Participants who leave the program before they've saved the required amount get back what they've saved but, again, with no matching funds.

Those who stick with the program accumulate enough to purchase those assets. When the person or family is ready, ABLE matches the savings two to one. Catholic Social Services issues the check to the asset provider, not to the ABLE participant.

"Through the economic literacy courses, we can look at their income and expenses and see ways they can save," said Joan Furst, full-time director of the Bishop Begley Center. "Some people can't save $5 a week, but others can. John Carswell told me he tells everyone he can about the program, and many of them think it's too good to be true."

Wood, 31, and John Carswell, 57, among the first to enter the program, each saved $1,000 in 10 months. Wood started ABLE in January 2001 and bought his cattle in October. "See, the sale was coming up," he said, "and (without ABLE) I'd have had to wait another year."

The Woods raise cattle and goats near Murphy on land that has been in their family since the 1850s. His plan is to build his herd, keeping the heifers and selling the steers.

Carswell lives in Robbinsville. A retired police officer, he and his wife started John and Priscilla's Lawn Service last year, but the family's total income was still below the $26,550 family-of-two minimum for ABLE participation. He started ABLE in March 2001 and completed the program in December.

To save the money he needed, Carswell said, "I just designated what I made off of one (lawn-care) job and put it in the bank."

He owned a riding mower, and used his ABLE funds to purchase a weed eater and a "walk-behind" mower that he needed to mow small yards. He also took advantage of additional help available at the Bishop Begley Center.

ABLE partners with two nondiocesan organizations: the Mountain MicroEnterprise Fund (MMF), which concentrates on business ownership, and the Self-Help Credit Union, which educates people about home ownership.

"If people want to save money for their business, that still doesn't ensure them success," said Kelly Long, MMF coordinator. "We walk you through every step of owning your own business."

MMF offers a $50, seven-week course called Foundations, which teaches valuable business skills. The Carswells took the course. "It taught me how to keep track of my money and about taxes and things like that," Carswell said.

"One of the things he realized was that he wasn't charging enough," Long said. "His wife went through the program because she wanted to learn to do the bookkeeping. They even have a cash-flow plan for next year."

Carswell started with 12-15 customers and has added another 15. Now that he has additional equipment, he can serve even more customers. "If business increases as it did last year," he said, "I'll have to hire somebody."

*For more information about ABLE, call Joan Furst or Kim Crisp at (828) 835-3535 at the Office of Economic Opportunity, Bishop Begley Center for Economic Development, in Murphy.*

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

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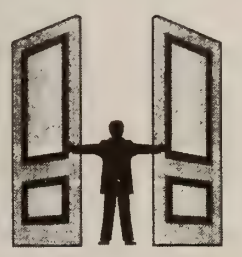
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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Pope says obedience to church teaching lets theologians serve truth

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said obedience to church teaching does not limit theological work but opens theologians to authentically innovative service to the truth.

"More than a limit, church communion is in reality the place that enlivens theological reflection, supporting its audaciousness and pushing it to prophecy," the pope said Feb. 16 to members of the Pontifical Theological Academy.

The 300-year-old academy was holding an international forum on "Dominus Iesus," a 2000 Vatican document that reasserted the uniqueness and universality of Christ to salvation.

The pope said theology today was called to explore "the ever-new horizons of understanding of the mystery of God and man."

"This intrinsic impulse of newness does not mean relativism or historicism but supreme concentration of the truth, whose understanding implies a path and above all a following: that of Christ — way, truth and life," he said.

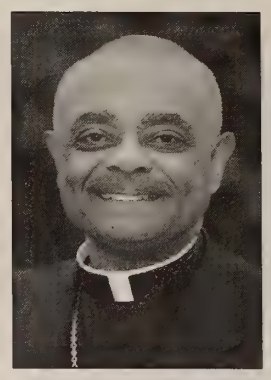
The pope said the relationship between theology and church teaching should be guided by "the principle of harmony."

"Since both are in service to divine revelation, both rediscover new aspects and deeper (understanding) of revealed truth," the pope said. On questions that are fundamental to the faith, the two should be guided by "unity in truth"; on other questions, legitimate divergence of opinion should be guided by "unity in charity," he said.

## Pope says Satan still at work in world dominated by evil, sin

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Before beginning a weeklong Lenten retreat, Pope John Paul II warned that Satan is still at work in a world often "dominated by evil and sin." At a Sunday blessing Feb. 17, the pope said, "The devil, the 'prince of this world,' continues his deceitful action even today. Every person, beyond his own desires and the bad example of others, is tempted by the devil — all the more when he notices it least." The pope was commenting on the Gospel reading on the first Sunday of Lent, which described Christ's temptation by Satan in the desert. He said the spiritual tools against evil are ancient and effective ones: prayer, the sacraments, penitence, vigilance, fasting and attentive listening to the Word of God.

# Guest Column



BISHOP WILTON GREGORY
President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

## USCCB president expresses 'profound sorrow' for clergy sex abuse

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The president of the of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops expressed "profound sorrow" for the sexual abuse of children by priests.

In a statement on behalf of the bishops Feb. 19, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., said such abuse "is a reality against which we must be ceaselessly on guard."

"We understand that your children are your most precious gift," he said. "They are our children as well, and we continue to apologize to the victims and to their parents and their loved ones for this failure in our pastoral responsibilities."

He acknowledged that there were "cases of priest abusers that were not dealt with appropriately in the past" but said the bishops have been working hard to take corrective measures and protect children.

"I am very heartened by the professionals who work with both victims and abusers who encourage us in this work because, they tell us, there is not another institution in the United States that is doing more to understand and address the horror of sexual abuse of minors," he said.

*Here is the text of a Feb. 19 statement by Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, on sexual abuse of minors by priests.*

In recent weeks our attention has again been turned to the issue of sexual abuse of minors by priests. Though the renewed focus on this issue is due largely to cases of priest abusers that were not dealt with appropriately in the past, it gives me the occasion as a pastor and a teacher of faith and morals to express, on behalf of all of the bishops, our profound sorrow that some of our priests were responsible for this abuse under our watch. We understand that your children are your most precious gift. They are our children as well, and we continue to apologize to the victims and to their parents and their loved ones for this failure in our pastoral responsibilities.

The attention to this issue also gives me the opportunity to renew the promise of our bishops that we will continue to take all the steps necessary to protect our youth from this kind of abuse in society and in the church. While we still have much for which we need to be forgiven — and much to learn — I am very heartened by the professionals who work with both victims and abusers who encourage us in this work because, they tell us, there is not another institution in the United States that is doing more to understand and address the horror of sexual abuse of minors.

As a church, we have met with those who are victims of sexual abuse by priests. We have heard their sorrow, confusion, anger and fear. We have tried to reach out pastorally and sensitively not only to victims of this outrageous behavior, but to their families and the communities devastated by this crime. We have confronted priests accused of abuse and removed them from public ministry.

Over the past two decades, the bishops of the United States have worked diligently to learn all we can about sexual abuse. Our conference has encouraged the development of policies in every diocese to address this issue. Bishops have developed procedures whereby priests moving from one diocese to another must have certification of their good standing. Bishops have also revised seminary screening and have mandated in-service programs for priests, teachers, parish ministers and volunteers to emphasize their responsibility to protect the innocent and vulnerable from such abuse. Dioceses have implemented programs to ensure safe environments in parishes and schools. While we have made some tragic mistakes, we have attempted to be as honest and open about these cases as we can, especially in following the law on these matters and cooperating with civil authorities. We remain committed to seeing these initiatives implemented fully, because the church must be a place of refuge and security, not a place of denial and distress. Sadly, we are faced with the fact that evil does harm the innocent, something which human life has faced since the beginning of time. This is a reality against which we must be ceaselessly on guard.

I want to say a word about the more than 40,000 wonderful priests in our country who get up every morning to give their lives in full service to the church as witnesses to Jesus Christ in our midst. I am very saddened that the crimes of a few have cast a shadow over the grace-filled and necessary work that they do day in and day out for society and for the church. The priesthood is a unique treasure of our church, and I give you my assurance that we are doing everything to ensure that we have worthy and healthy candidates for the priesthood and to strengthen the many priests who faithfully fulfill their ministry on behalf of all of us.

While we deplore the sexual abuse of young people, especially that committed by a cleric, we are confident that the numbers of priests involved in such criminal activity are few. The damage, however, has been immeasurable. The toll this phenomenon has taken on our people and our ministry is tremendous. This is a time for Catholic people, bishops, clergy, religious and laity, to resolve anew to work together to assure the safety of our children. These events serve to remind us all that the cost of preventing these terrible misdeeds in the future is a careful watch that cannot and will not be relaxed. We bishops intend to maintain that watch together with and on behalf of our people.

As we pursue this common work for the safety of our children and for the good of society and the church we love, let us continue to remember one another before the Lord in prayer and in charity.



# Guest Column

GINA M. RHODES
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Five reasons to die without a will

There must be powerful reasons to avoid having a will because so many people die without one. In case you happen to be one of the seven out of 10 who will depart without a will, here are five reasons to buttress your position. You can use these to help you sleep tonight.

1. The court can do a better job deciding how to disburse your assets than you can.

2. The court can choose a better personal representative to handle your estate during probate than you can.

3. The court can choose a more caring guardian for your minor children than you can.

4. The government will use your estate tax dollars more efficiently than your favorite charity would use a charitable bequest.

5. Your grieving loved ones will be better off looking after your affairs without your will. Powerful reasons? Hardly. Nonetheless, people unwittingly affirm these reasons year after year as they continue to put off the minor inconvenience of making a will.

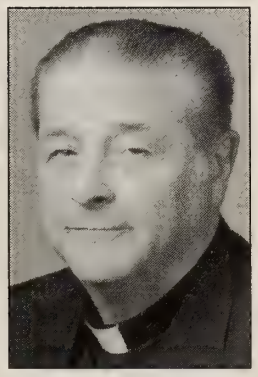
Here at the Diocese of Charlotte, we urge you to take action now. Your family will appreciate it. The charities you support will appreciate it. And you will appreciate the peace of mind you get from fulfilling one of your most important stewardship responsibilities.

Like many people, you may be uneasy about going to an attorney. Yet, an attorney who specializes in estate planning knows the right questions to ask and the best ways to help you accomplish your goals. These professionals are well-trained and normally well worth the time and expense they require.

Caring for the disposition of your assets is too important to delay. It's important for you, for your loved ones and for charities you choose to support like your parish, the Diocese, the Foundation, catholic school or agency.

Would you like to learn more about making a will? Please write to me at 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203. Or call me direct at 704-370-3320. I'll be happy to send you a free informational brochure that will help guide you through this process. And while you're at it, please let me know whether you have included (or intend to include) the church in your estate plans so I can add you as a member of the Catholic Heritage Society. The Catholic Heritage Society is Bishop Curlin's way of recognizing those people who continue stewardship beyond their living years.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Is there salvation for those who do not believe in Jesus?

*Q. This is about your column some weeks ago concerning the spiritual condition of the Sept. 11 terrorists, and the possibility that they may be saved and go to heaven.*

*I must not understand correctly many verses in the Scripture that say anyone who does not believe in Jesus Christ as savior will be condemned. John (3:36) says, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life."*

*Please tell me where, in your opinion, I'm wrong in my interpretation. (Maryland)*

A. First of all, the response I gave was not simply my opinion. From the references and quotes I offered, including from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, it is clear that what I said about the possibility of salvation, even for people who do not explicitly believe in Jesus Christ, is the teaching of the Catholic Church.

Scripture makes absolutely clear that Jesus is the one and only savior of the world. All efforts by human beings anywhere, anytime, to do good and avoid evil, to reverence and serve the supreme Lord of the world under whatever name God may be known, are the work and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and are made possible through the redemptive merits of Jesus Christ.

This is and always has been Catholic doctrine; it has never changed. What has changed over the past several hundred years is the church's understanding of how that grace of salvation comes to individuals, especially in parts of the world and in cultures who have never even heard of God as we know him or of Jesus Christ.

Is explicit, conscious, formal knowledge of Christ and faith in him necessary for salvation? Or may that faith be somehow implicit, hidden in the pursuit of goodness and holiness manifested in lives of "unbelievers"?

In other words, can people be saved who faithfully try to live good lives but who honestly, for whatever reason, never have seen the embrace of Christ or the church as a personal religious obligation?

The church's answer is yes; and we believe they are saved by Jesus Christ through the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit.

This Catholic position can be found in many places. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, for example, quoting the Vatican II Constitution on the Church, says, "Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart and, moved by his grace, try in their actions to do his will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience — those too may achieve eternal salvation" (No. 847).

No one has been more insistent and consistent on this theme than Pope John Paul II. He writes in his book "Crossing the Threshold of Hope": "God the creator wants to save all humankind in Jesus Christ." He redeemed them all "and has his own ways of reaching them" (pp. 80-83).

In one of his general audiences he said, "Normally it will be in the sincere practice of what is good in their own religious traditions and by following the dictates of their own conscience that the members of other religions respond positively to God's invitation and receive salvation in Jesus Christ, even if they do not recognize or acknowledge him as their savior" (Sept. 9, 1998).

Countless other Catholic documents and teachings say the same, but you get the idea. No one is saved apart from the grace of Christ. But his saving desire and plan is not as narrow and exclusive as many of us think.

# Guest Column

FATHER JOSEPH
LONG DINH
GUEST COLUMNIST

### For the sake of God's kingdom

As Christians, we are convinced that religious freedom is absolutely a basic and spiritual need for people and society. We always pray for all people to be truly free to choose and exercise their faith. It is unfortunate for the Vietnamese people that what is happening in this country increasingly proves that religious freedom and human rights are trembled on by the Vietnamese Communist Government. Religion, indeed, is at risk of being used as an instrument by the government and enslaved by it to the point of dying away in the end.

At present:

-The Vietnamese Communist Government still keeps strict control on church life: appointment of bishops, selection of priesthood candidates, assigning of pastoral positions, opening of religious houses for religious orders, contact with other churches.

-Father Nguyen Van Ly, a non-violent priest struggling for religious freedom and human rights in Vietnam, has sent testimony to the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom to denounce the policy of religious repression and of systematic religious extermination waged by the Hanoi government. In retaliation, the Vietnamese government sentenced Father Ly to 13 years imprisonment and five years under house arrest.

-Venerable Thich Quang Do, deputy head of the banned Unified Buddhist Church and Le Quang Liem, leader of the banned Hoa Hao Buddhist Church were detained by the Vietnamese government.

-The Vietnamese government used closed trial to impose harsh prison terms on 14 members of the ethnic minority Montagnards from the Central Highlands of Vietnam because of their protest against ethnic discrimination and religious persecution.

This fall, by a vote of 410 to 1, the House passed the Vietnam Human Rights Act, HR-2833. This legislation recognized the plights of Father Ly and other religious leaders who have been repeatedly harassed and detained by the Vietnamese government. The Vietnam Human Rights Act called upon the Vietnamese to honor its international commitments in respecting human rights, including its obligations as a signatory to the UN Declaration of Human Rights, and the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights. This bill, however, is still pending in the Senate.

For the sake of 80 million oppressed Vietnamese, we ask you to be inventive, persuasive and persistent in pushing this important legislation to be enacted. For the sake of God's kingdom, we ask you to pray for our brothers and sisters in Vietnam and to sign a petition supporting this legislation or by writing directly to a U.S. senator.

We are grateful for your efforts to work for the kingdom of God. May God bless you and your loved ones always.

# Participants develop strategy for black Catholics

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — People from all parts of the diocese, including the Piedmont-Triad and Asheville areas, gathered at Our Lady of Consolation Church (OLC) on Feb. 16 to discuss and develop recommendations for the National Black Catholic Congress' (NBCC) Pastoral Plan of Action. In preparation for Congress IX, to be held in Chicago Aug. 29 through Sept. 1, the NBCC asked diocesan officials, clergy, women religious and lay persons from dioceses around the country to come together for a day of reflection. This gathering combined the celebrations of the Annual Diocesan Memorial Celebration for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month for the first time in the diocese.

Over 50 participants, divided into eight groups, collaborated on priority areas of concern identified by the NBCC including spirituality, parish life, youth and young adults, Catholic education, social justice, racism, Africa and HIV/AIDS. They were asked to develop action plans based on short-, mid- and long-range goals that can be reached within one year, three years and five years. The eight areas of discussion were taken from the NBCC Declaration of Principles, which will work in conjunction with the Pastoral Plan through implementation and action steps, said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor and vicar for African American Affairs.

"The Declaration of Principles is a set of eight statements that Congress feels sums up what most black Catholics feel to be the greatest need in their relationship to the church and the community of faith," said Rev. Mr. Todd in a letter of invitation to parishioners who had previously attended events sponsored by the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry.

The NBCC, headquartered in Baltimore, is an organization promoting the evangelization and ministerial and spiritual development of African-American Catholics around the country. Since the first Congress held in 1889 in Washington, D.C., the fuel of the organization has been steeped in the remembrance and embrace of African-American history and culture while preserving the tradition of Catholicism. Promotion of this idea of solidarity and oneness sparked the recent development of the NBCC Declaration and Pastoral Plan. This year, Congress IX will focus on the two documents.

With facilitators from various parishes around the diocese, the attendants discussed their particular issue and created the action plans to be combined with the input from similar gatherings in other dioceses to be presented at Congress IX.

Dr. James McGhee, a family practitioner in Charlotte from OLC, discussed the importance of educating the community about HIV/AIDS in his session. "We believe that education should begin in the home, and that one thing many people need to do is to come back to church to reopen Jesus in their lives," said McGhee. "We talked about what we can do to better educate people in an effort to control and get this horrible disease out of our lives."

The individual groups presented their summaries and action plans to the large group. Their findings are based on supplemental information from the NBCC and what they felt were areas that needed to be highlighted, broken down into short-, mid- and long-range goals with subgroups:

**Youth and young adults:**

- Implementation of Web page for Black Catholic youth and young adults linked to diocesan, NBCC and parish Web pages with content from black youth and young adults, maintainance from each parish and funding from Diocesan Support Appeal
- Development of NBCC-sponsored, annual national youth and young adult conference with representative from each parish
- Every diocesan priest, particularly those assigned to black parishes, should rotate through the Xavier University Na-

See NBCC, next page

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**Director of Religious Education:** Full-time position available July 1. To inquire, contact Parish Administrator, St. Stephen Catholic Church, 2402 Wicker Street, Sanford, NC 27330.

**Elementary Principal:** The Archdiocese of Atlanta anticipates openings for the position of elementary school principal effective July 1, 2002. Qualified candidates may send a letter of interest and current resume to: Superintendent of Schools, 680 W. Peachtree St., NW, Atlanta, GA 30308.

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**Teachers:** Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, located in Fairburn, Georgia, is seeking teachers in all disciplines for the 2002-2003 school year. Mercy offers an excellent teaching environment and well as competitive salary and benefits. Interested individuals should send resume and cover letter to: John Cobis, Our Lady of Mercy High School, 861 Highway 279, Fairburn, GA 30213.

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# NBCC, from previous page

tional Institute for Black Catholic Studies in New Orleans using diocesan funds

**Parish life:**

- By 2003, every bishop will mandate that every parish will develop a plan, including African-American culture, and budget for education and leadership training with progress monitored by NBCC

- By 2006, parishes will provide training for African-American catechists and catechetical leaders with extension of RCIA process to new and old parishioners to develop ongoing personal contacts

* Racism:

- Development of a curriculum in ethnic diversity training for seminarians

- Ethnic diversity programs for existing priests monitored by local and diocesan officials

- Petition Pope John Paul II for an African-American cardinal

**Catholic education:**

- Creation of permanent Black Catholic Education Commission composed of religious and laity whose first goal is to develop a survey on Catholic school education to be distributed to black communities throughout U.S.

- This same commission will provide funding sources to assist black families with Catholic education

- Enrollment of black Americans in Catholic schools to increase by 30 percent through the building of new schools and increase of recruitment of black students, faculty and campus ministers



PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

**Attendees listen intently at the NBCC Day of Reflection at Our Lady of Consolation Church Feb. 16. Over 50 people gathered for the day of sessions.**

**Africa:**

- Development of commission to promote health care and education with U.S. bishops assuming responsibility

- Development of strategies after commission has been set up to make recommendations with bishops for diocesan financial support

- Implementation stage will involve local bishops and individual parishes

**Social Justice:**

- The NBCC will form a national committee, including religious and lay persons, to evaluate existing programs as they relate to social injustices in the church

- Committee will ensure that information is distributed from national level to local parishes with emphasis on individuals

- A national report on social, economic and political injustices as they apply to black Catholics in the U.S.

**HIV/AIDS**

- Faith-based family values and moral information with bishops with support groups, role-playing and fund raising

- Increase number of missionaries in Africa with programs that address issue; getting people to change lifestyle or behavior modification

- Global message in encouraging people to be more responsible, one which involves the family and the community with increase of research funds

**Spirituality**

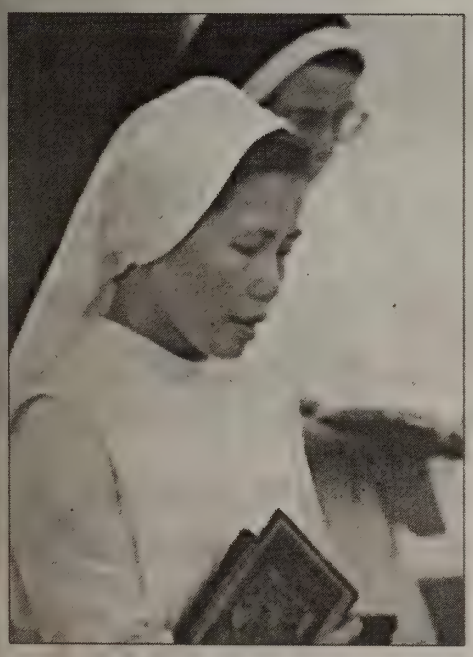
- The U.S. Council of Bishops (USCCB) will develop a curriculum of study to educate Catholics on black spirituality and ancestors in the faith by September 2003 including information of the start of the church in Alexandria, Egypt, the African eucharistic prayer, the presence of black saints and popes

- Training and workshops for catechists and catechetical leaders for implementation of NBCC curriculum

- NBCC will publish an anthology of black writings, films, videos and other educational material by 2008; USCCB will direct their dioceses to instruct parish pastors to develop and submit plans to incorporate aspects of African spirituality into parish life

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*


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# Deacon turns obstacles and roadblocks into blessings

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Mark Nash did not expect to meet his wife at the first faculty meeting he attended at the May Sands Exceptional Student Center for Exceptional Children in Florida, but it was a fulfillment of one aspect of his destiny. Heidi, also a teacher at the special education school, was also not prepared to meet him, but she knew he was the one at first sight. "He walked into the faculty meeting, and I thought he was the most handsome man I had ever seen. We became friends and eventually started dating. We were engaged two months after we began dating and married in 1985 in Orlando, Fla.," said Mrs. Nash.

She was not raised Catholic but agreed to raise their children Catholic and converted to her husband's childhood faith. Her RCIA experience, which led to her entering the church in 1986, was positive and reinforced her decision to become Catholic. "I had not been part of a formal religion and had preconceived notions of Catholicism," she said. "As I went through RCIA, I believed the things I was hearing, and it fit right into my lifestyle."

Rev. Mr. Nash, a cradle Catholic from Ormond Beach, Fla., had wanted to continue to live guided by the faith tradition of his youth. Although he was not raised in what he calls a "Catholic household," he attended Mass with friends. Nash benefited from 12 years of Catholic school and becoming the youngest altar server in his church at the age of eight after learning the required Latin prayers. He became the only youth lector when he was a high school sophomore.

"My mother was a great supporter of Catholic education, and I enjoyed Catholic school," said Rev. Mr. Nash.

His dedication to his faith continued after high school graduation in 1978 and during his two years of service as a hospital corpsman in the Navy. His work in cancer wards exposed him to death on a regular basis and kept his Mass attendance and visits with clergymen occurring at a steady pace.

"After a while, it (working in cancer wards) wears on you, especially when you are 18 or 19. I didn't completely understand all of it," he remembered. "But, my faith life was quite strong. When I needed to, I would call a priest friend of mine or go to see the Navy chaplain."

He worked his way through college at the University of South Florida at Tampa and earned his special education degree in 1984. His interest in special education had developed from what he witnessed during his time in the service. "I thought of it as a way I could help people," he said. "College was a means to an end so I could get a job."


Rev. Mr. Mark Nash

After finding a job and meeting his wife, the couple relocated to Mrs. Nash's birthplace, Dallas, Texas, for a fresh start. "We realized that Key West was a great place to visit but not a place to raise children, and it was a chance for Heidi to reconnect with family," he said.

Unable to find a teaching position because of the sagging economy, Nash found himself selling pool cleaners and working as a delivery driver until he found work in the banking industry.

While Mrs. Nash worked as a special education teacher, Nash worked as a vice-president in capital management in the corporate trust area in Dallas. He accepted a job as a vice president for compliance for First Union and relocated to Charlotte in 1998. He also continued with the diaconate program that he had begun in Dallas.

Many months earlier, he had read an article about the diaconate in the diocesan newspaper in Dallas. He said that he "knew in an instant" that applying to the diaconate was what he was being called to do. He had become involved in his parish as a eucharistic minister and with his son's and daughter's educations, and his wife had been teaching and leading vacation bible school. In their minds, it was time for the next step.

"It was our decision (to become involved with the permanent diaconate) because it affected all of us," said Rev. Mr. Nash. "The agreement was if she decided that this was not for us, I would stop."

"While the journey was not easy for either of us," said Mrs. Nash. "Our children encouraged us to continue. It was a spiritual journey for all of us."

After relocating and settling in at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, he was ordained in 2001. The move to North Carolina was not easy at times, but he says that through the support of Father Ignatius Zampino, pastor, the other priests and the parish family, his time in Charlotte has been rewarding. Being downsized from First Union could have led Rev. Mr. Nash to depression, but it has been a blessing for the now full-time pastoral associate at St. Thomas and full-time deacon.

"Deacons are called to serve and not to be served. Being the youngest deacon in the diocese, I am still experiencing a lot of things that the other deacons have already experienced. I look forward to the changes that the diaconate will bring to my life," he said. "It is very humbling to me in that I am called to serve God and his community."


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- Catholic Political Responsibility in Respect Life Initiatives
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- Embracing Life in the Third Age: Creative Aging
- How Natural Family Planning Supports Couples and Families *(Session in English & Spanish)*
- Embracing the Gospel of Life Within the Family

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The Catholic
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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

March 1, 2002
Volume 11 ▾ Number 24

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Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

— John 4:42, 15

# Fresco falls, fragments form puzzle

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — On the morning of Feb. 20, one hour shy of midday Mass, the central portion of a fresco in St. Peter Church fell, leaving the parish community in mourning. Though saddened by the accident, the parish has been quick to rally and begin to pick up the pieces.

"We have lost our fresco," said Jesuit Father Joseph Sobierajski, pastor of the uptown parish of approximately 750 families. "It's like an old friend that you see every time you come to church, and we are going to truly miss its presence."

Completed in 1989, the fresco has become known well beyond its parish walls and is considered by many as an integral artistic contribution to the Charlotte community.

"As far as the greater Charlotte community goes, it has become a landmark on the southern end of Tryon Street for visitors," said Father Sobierajski.

A little over a year from preparation to unveiling, the fresco was set up in triptych fashion. With scenes depicting Jesus' Agony in the Garden, the Resurrection of Christ and Pentecost, the parish with its fresco provided a place of solace against the backdrop of the vibrant city streets.

Individual parts of the triptych took about a month each to complete. While the work was done on site, the preparatory work was done in the artist's Paris studio. In France, individual pieces were created and transferred to a thin paper, and pictures were perforated. The patterns were then transferred to the walls with a dry substance and painted into fresh plaster.

The classic art of fresco dates to the earliest forms of cave wall drawings. In the traditional process, paint is applied upon damp plaster. "Fresco" is the Italian word for "fresh," indicating that a lime and sand mixture must be made fresh every day, with the surface just damp enough for the pigmented mixture to actually become a part of the wall.

Cleanup started with painstaking efforts to preserve some of the larger images. Hopes are high to recover faces encased in the fallen plaster. A team was assembled on Feb. 26 to begin moving pieces of the downed fresco, carefully placing fresco fragments on makeshift tables — special boarding placed over the tops of the church pews.

The fallen fresco may hold many secrets on the cause of its demise, and the diocese is in the throes of an investigation into what caused the fresco to break from the back altar wall. The diocese continues to operate in a "fact-finding mode," pulling in experts to help crack the mystery with specialists from structural engineers to architects.

"We need to let the experts find the facts and come to their best conclusions," said Father Sobierajski. "In the meantime, we are still a community of men, women and children who love our parish and will continue to give it life."

*Contact Editor Joann S. Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.*



Photos by Joann S. Keane



**Pictured above, the central portion of a fresco at St. Peter Church in uptown Charlotte lay in pieces on Feb. 20. Nearly a third of the fresco fell to the floor on Feb. 20.**

**Pictured left, a piece of the fresco from St. Peter Church in Charlotte is saved from the fallen work of art. Cleanup efforts have started to preserve some of the larger images.**

### U.N. conferences said to show church's broad approach to life issues

NEW YORK (CNS) — Four international conferences set for this year provide an opportunity for showing the comprehensive approach of the church to issues affecting human life, the Vatican nuncio to the United Nations said Feb. 21. Archbishop Renato R. Martino said Vatican participation in upcoming conferences on financing for development, aging, children and sustainable development would demonstrate the "essential connection" the church sees "between the social and the economic." In an interview at the Vatican's U.N. mission in New York, he told Catholic News Service that he would participate in all four conferences and lead the Vatican delegation to the first, the International Conference on Financing for Development, meeting in Monterrey, Mexico, March 18-22. Along with other members of the mission staff and a participant from Mexico, the delegation will include Msgr. Frank J. Dewane, undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, the nuncio said.

### Vatican investigating claims of sex abuse against Polish archbishop

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said it was looking into accusations of sexual abuse against a Polish archbishop who worked for several years at the Vatican at the beginning of Pope John Paul II's pontificate. Archbishop Juliusz Paetz of Poznan, 67, has denied the accusations brought by seminarians and priests in his archdiocese, according to a report Feb. 23 in the Polish newspaper, Rzeczpospolita. The newspaper said a Vatican commission had visited the archdiocese last November to investigate the allegations and hear testimony, and that Archbishop Paetz had been called to the Vatican for a week of talks in early February.

### New Vatican documents on Internet mainly positive, says archbishop

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's two new documents on the Internet point out areas of ethical and social concern but take an overall positive approach, said the president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. The Internet is a "providential" tool for communication that the church must fearlessly enter, but the medium needs legislative curbs to protect children and must not create a "digital divide" between those with access to the Internet and those without, said U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley. The two documents, "Ethics and the Internet" — a reflection on ethical issues — and "The Church and the Internet" — an assessment of online pastoral opportunities — were to be released Feb. 28 at a Vatican press conference. Archbishop Foley discussed the documents at a Feb. 23 Vatican meeting of the Latin American church's Web network.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Afghan women pass anti-land mine poster in Kabul**
**Two Afghan women pass a poster depicting various anti-personnel land mines in downtown Kabul Feb. 22. Afghanistan is one of the world's most heavily mined countries with explosions injuring 20 to 25 people each day.**

### Mexico's Bishop Ruiz chosen to receive 2002 Niwano Peace Prize

TOKYO (CNS) — An interreligious panel of judges has chosen retired Mexican Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia of San Cristobal de las Casas as recipient of the 2002 Niwano Peace Prize. The prize was established in 1983 by Japanese Buddhist leader Nikkyo Niwano to honor and encourage individuals and organizations that promote interreligious cooperation to further the cause of peace. In a Feb. 22 statement, the Niwano Peace Foundation said Bishop Ruiz, 77, "has devoted himself untiringly especially to raising the social standing of the indigenous communities of Mexico and to the reclamation and preservation of their native cultures."

### Dutch church: no religious burial for those who plan to be euthanized

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Dutch church spokesman confirmed a bishop's remarks that the Catholic Church cannot give religious burials to people who planned to be euthanized. Micheil Savelsbergh, spokesman for 's-Hertogenbosch Diocese, also said the Dutch bishops were completing pastoral guidelines for priests who deal with such cases. In a Feb. 21 telephone interview with Catholic News Service, Savelsbergh said church funerals could be given to people who already had died from euthanasia, but not for patients whose deaths still were being planned that way.

### Houston businessman finances Rome pilgrimage for students, teachers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With surprising discipline and unbridled enthusiasm, almost 250 students and 62 teachers from the Diocese of Galveston-Houston made a pilgrimage to Rome in late February. All of the students and teachers said they felt fortunate to be in Rome, and many said they felt God had a hand in their Feb. 17-23 trip. James MacIngvale, known as "Mattress Mac" from the commercials he appears in as owner of Gallery Furniture in Houston, paid for the whole trip. The students did not have to write an essay or have a certain grade-point average or wash cars to make money. They simply had to have parental permission to put their name in the hat. Four students and one teacher from each of the diocese's elementary and high schools were chosen by lottery for the pilgrimage MacIngvale hoped would be as special to the students as his family's pilgrimage to Rome was two years ago.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**March 12 — 6 p.m.**
Grace Award Dinner
Belmont Abbey College, Belmont

**March 16 — 9 a.m.-noon**
Day of spiritual renewal
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

**March 17 — 10:30 a.m.**
Mass and groundbreaking for new church
St. Francis, Mocksville

**March 21 — Noon Mass**
St. Benedict's Day
Belmont Abbey Basilica, Belmont

**March 23 — 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**
Day of prayer and spiritual renewal for diocesan catechists
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

## Diocesan planner

**March**

**8** SWANANNOA — The Lenten schedule for St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, will continue as follows: Stations of the Cross held tonight and every Friday at 7 p.m. and every Wednesday after noon Mass; Mass with soup and bread meal on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. with an additional 8 a.m. Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays; and a penance service on March 22 at 7 p.m. For more information about the upcoming Easter schedule, call the church office at (828) 686-8833.

**9** CHARLOTTE — The Emerald Ball is being held at the Adams Mark Hotel tonight from 8-11 p.m. Bagpipers, the Federals Irish and Blues Band, the Rince Na h'Eireann Irish Dancers, hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be featured. For further information, call Lynda Dyer Hart at (704) 542-6846.

**9** DENVER — The Knights of Columbus Council 10389 will hold its annual Irish Night Dinner tonight at 7 p.m. in the parish hall of Holy Spirit Church, 537 Hwy. 16 North. Chef Charles will be cooking traditional corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and other Irish delights. An international troop of Irish dancers will be performing. For ticket and other information, call Nancy and Gordon Hirshman at (704) 483-1205 or the church office at (704) 483-6448.

**9** GREENSBORO — All are invited to the Shamrock Social to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Our Lady of Grace School Gym, 2205 W. Market St., from 7:30-11:30 p.m. tonight. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be included. For more details about this opportunity for fun, fellowship and dancing, call Laurie Benko at (336) 294-0520.

**10** CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the

### Nigerians must choose the common good, archbishop says

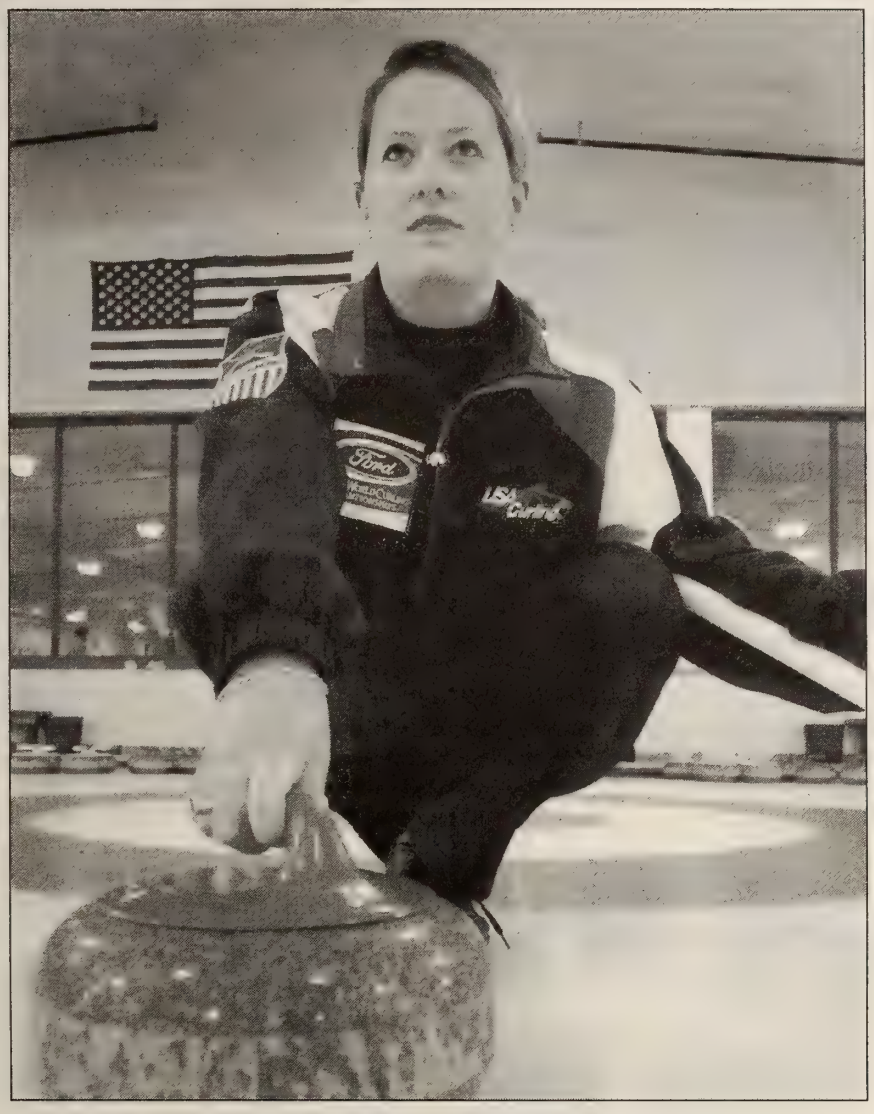
ABUJA, Nigeria (CNS) — Nigerians must choose the common good over personal interests to heal the wounds of the nation, said a Nigerian archbishop. "Pursuing the personal good at the expense of the common good is in the long-term interest of no one, not even the greedy and the selfish persons who do so," said Archbishop John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan of Abuja Feb. 19 during an opening Mass for the Nigerian bishops' annual meeting in Abuja. The archbishop, who called for an examination of conscience for all Nigerians, said the poor and weak suffer the worst consequences of negative actions. He called on Nigeria's "ruling elites" to ensure the long-term well being of the nation.

### Chinese president says religious figures who break law go to jail

BEIJING (CNS) — No one has the right to interfere in legal action taken against religious figures in China who break the law, Chinese President Jiang Zemin said at a press conference with visiting U.S. President George W. Bush. The two presidents held the news conference soon after their meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing Feb. 21, the day Bush arrived in China. Twice Jiang ignored questions concerning restrictions on religion in China and the detention of more than 50 Catholic clergy, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. However, toward the end of the press conference, Jiang responded by saying that the Constitution of the People's Republic of China provides for religious freedom.

### World Youth Day cross comes to New York for visit to ground zero

NEW YORK (CNS) — The schedule for taking the cross that symbolizes World Youth Day to locations across Canada was interrupted Feb. 24-25 for a pilgrimage to New York's ground zero, the site of the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center. Basilian Father Thomas Rosica, director of the World Youth Day scheduled for July 23-28 in Toronto, said 110 people gathered in Toronto for prayer at 11:30 p.m. Feb. 23, and then made the 12-hour bus trip to participate in the visit of the cross to New York. Joined by youths and youth workers from the New York area, they came to St. Patrick's Cathedral the evening of Feb. 24 for a Mass that began with the processional hymn, "Lift High the Cross." Auxiliary Bishop Anthony G. Meagher of Toronto, who heads the Canadian bishops' committee for World Youth Day and traveled with the group, was celebrant and homilist for the Mass. He said what happened at the World Trade Center was frightening, but that the cross was a sign that God would conquer the evil seen in that event.



CNS PHOTO BY MICHELLE STOCKER COURTESY THE CAPITAL TIMES OF MADISON

**U.S. Olympic curler Debbie McCormick**

**U.S. Olympic athlete Debbie McCormick holds the curling stone used in her sport. A Catholic from the Diocese of Madison, Wis., McCormick was making her second Olympic appearance at the Salt Lake City games.**

### War not over despite rebel leader's death, says Angolan priest

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — The death of Jonas Savimbi, leader of the Angolan rebel movement UNITA, does not mean that the 27-year-old civil war is over, said Father Francisco Eurico, executive secretary of the Angolan bishops' conference. The Angolan government announced Feb. 22 that its troops had shot dead the elusive 67-year-old guerrilla warrior during fighting the same day in eastern Moxico province, near the border with Zambia. "This news certainly means that we are going into a new era, but anything could happen, and there is even a danger that the war could intensify," Father Eurico said in a Feb. 23 telephone interview from the Angolan capital, Luanda. Angola has been fighting a civil war, which has claimed more than 1 million lives, since it gained independence from Portugal in 1975.

### Spread of AIDS fueled by lack of values, African archbishop says

YAOUNDE, Cameroon (CNS) — The spread of AIDS among African youth has been fueled by a careless attitude about sex and the lack of a value-based educational system, said an African archbishop. Archbishop Andre Wouking of Yaounde said a lack of positive role models was affecting youths' perception about sexual morality. "Contemporary society is overcrowded with superficial values that may be rational but which youths cannot assimilate appropriately," he said. "Facing difficulties, youth get confused, are unarmed to defend themselves and are unable to make positive judgments. Youth need some minimum appropriate Christian education to help them make positive choices in life," Archbishop Wouking told Catholic News Service.

school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

**12** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Arthritis Support and Education Group will meet this morning from 10-11 a.m. in Room D of the parish ministry center located at 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**13** CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Bobbe Conlin at (704) 643-1376 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

**13** CHARLOTTE — There will be a session on spiritual aspects of grief with Larry Dewalt from Hospice of Charlotte tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. at the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd. Tonight's session will center around one's view of God during times of grief and the use of spiritual resources. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

**14** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be hosting ultreyas and school of leaders on the following dates and times: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. tonight for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., with a potluck/Ultreya gathering at 1:15 p.m. with food served at 1:30 p.m. on March 17 and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on March 24 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

**16** CHARLOTTE — The 6th Annual Guinness St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival will take place today from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the First Union Atrium and Plaza on Tryon St. between 2nd and 3rd Sts. Featured will be Celtic arts and crafts, the Rince Na h'Eireann and Walsh Kelley Irish Dancers, bagpipers, food and other events. For further information, call Linda Dyer-Hart at (704) 542-6846.

**16** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Youth Ministry will be sponsoring a youth job fair today from 10 a.m.-noon for teens and young adults ages 16 and up who are interested in finding part-time or summer work. Mini-workshops on job skills and other relevant information will be offered. For further information, call Alex Barrazza at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 275 or e-mail alexb_ym@catholicweb.com or e-mail Stephanie Hoffman at shoffman@carolina.rr.com.

**17** CHARLOTTE — Chrism Mass diocesan choir practice will take place at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, today and March 24 from 4-5:30 p.m. Contact Larry Stratemeyer at (704) 334-2283, Ext. 22 to sign up and for further details.

**17** CHARLOTTE — All are invited to St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., for a National ARC Mental Retardation Awareness Sunday Mass this evening at 5:30 p.m. For details, call Mary Kennedy at (704) 364-6964.

**24** HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

**24** MAGGIE VALLEY — Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, will be hosting a Holy Week retreat beginning this evening until March 31. All are invited to join the Augustinian friars and the parish community of St. Margaret Mary for reflection, fellowship and silence. For further information, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# Food bank helps feed those in need

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

ANDREWS — Once a month a Manna Food Bank truck from Asheville pulls up to the back door of the Andrews Food Bank and Commodity Distribution Center in the West End Plaza. A team from Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Andrews or St. William in Murphy is waiting to unload canned goods, cereal and other nonperishable items.

The Andrews Lions Club and six Andrews churches, including Holy Redeemer, sponsor the center, which serves about 700 families and is open Tuesdays and Saturdays. The center exists to serve those in need in Cherokee County.

"Each family can get food every other month, but if you have an emergency — no matter what — they can get food any time," said Joe El-Khouri, center director and a Holy Redeemer parishioner.

The food comes free from the State Nutrition Assistance Program and the Federal Emergency Food Assistance Program or is purchased from Manna. Food also comes from local donations such as food drives. El-Khouri estimates that the center received $70,000 worth of free food from the federal and state programs and bought another $7,000 from Manna last year.

The numbers who need the food are rising. "Last month," El-Khouri said, "we distributed 391 boxes of food. In the old days it was 250 a month." That January figure is the highest ever for one month, he said.



Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**Frank Sommers wheels food into the Andrews Food Bank and Commodity Distribution Center as other members of the St. William Church Men's Club unload more items from the Manna Food Bank truck.**

Those who want food must fill out an application each time they visit the center. To be eligible, a one-person household must have an income no higher than $11,167 per year. For a two-person household, the maximum income is $15,093; for four, $22,945; on up to $38,649 for a family of eight.

A one-to-three-person household receives one box of food per visit; families of four or more get two boxes. Boxes contains nonperishable items, plus selections from "whatever we have in the refrigerator and freezer," El-Khouri said.

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

# Strengthen the children, strengthen the parish

"Planting Seeds of Hope"

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

THOMASVILLE — Many Catholics want to have a deeper understanding of their faith. There are many children who are well on their way.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a unique approach for the religious formation of children. By offering the courses in both English and Spanish, Our Lady of the Highways intends to help the children - and the parish — grow closer to each other and to God.

"It just made sense," said Kathy Laskis, coordinator of faith formation at Our Lady of the Highways, when she first heard of the courses several years ago. "I said, 'We had to have that for our children.'"

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the church and the educational principles of Maria Montessori, an Italian educator and physician best known for the Montessori method of teaching young children. This method stresses the development of initiative and self-reliance by permitting children to do by themselves the things that interest them.

"(The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd) is a way of using the Montessori style and allowing the children to work at their own pace, abilities and interests to learn our faith and develop a personal relationship with Jesus," said Laskis.

The courses, used by various Christian denominations in approximately 19 countries around the world, have three levels focusing on children ages 3-6, 6-9 and 9-12, respectively. All levels are progressive and cover age-appropriate themes for children from the Bible and liturgy, including the purpose and use of the materials used during the Mass.

According to the Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Web site, adults are able to read and grasp the meanings of Bible passages, but children — especially ones too young to read — need another way. Using this method, children "can ponder a biblical passage or a prayer from the liturgy by taking the material for that text and working with it."

Examples include having children: place wood figures of sheep in a sheepfold of the Good Shepherd; setting sculpted apostles around a Last Supper table; or preparing a small altar with the furnishings used for the Eucharist.

"The children work with real water; they work with real wine. They use real stuff," said Laskis. "Everything is real, just child-sized."

Older children who do read often copy parables from the Bible, lay in order written prayers from the rite of baptism, or label a time line showing the history of the kingdom of God.

"It's a progression," said Laskis. "The children must have the foundations in order to understand the rest of it."

To further understanding, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is only taught in atriums, closed-in gardens containing the materials the children need. "Children are free to explore in a garden," said Laskis. "This area is for them."

Our Lady of the Highways has knocked out walls to provide the necessary teaching environment for the program. Parishioners donated and made much of the original materials. The three levels now consist of approximately 50 Anglo, Hispanic, Filipino and Italian children from the parish.

Parishioner Margaret Scanlon-Laffata teaches level one in English, with Spanish translations done by an 8-year-old student. Raquel Cudd, a bilingual parishioner originally from Mexico, teaches level two. "By that age, the children usually don't need that much translation," noted Laskis.

Public school teacher Vanessa Osbourne teaches level three.

"It takes two years of training to become a trainer for each level," said Laskis. But one must be certified in all three levels before they can go for the training. Laskis, who has been driving to Durham every month for the past year, is completing her certification this week. She intends to train to teach the older children.

Parents are encouraged to attend as "helpers" in the weekly 2-hour classes. "Adults can learn a lot about their own faith from this, too, if they would just come and listen and look," said Laskis. "But it's hard to get helpers who will let their kids learn (the material) in their own way."

The program has made a noticeable difference in the children, even the young ones, said Laskis. "Children are behaving better in Mass because they know what is going on and they understand it."

In addition to understanding their faith, Laskis wants the children to "become a community ... That they'll want to stay together after they're 12 years old," she said.

By teaching the classes in both Spanish and English, Laskis hopes that the children would become accustomed to doing things together as they get older. "As the children grow up together, it will strengthen our parish," she said.

*Faith formation is one of the 35 programs and ministries that receives funds from the Annual Diocesan Support Appeal.*

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin Murray by calling (704) 370-3334, or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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# Hundreds gather for the rite of election and the call to continuing conversion

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

In parishes throughout the diocese, the first Sunday of Lent was the day for the rite of sending. In this rite, catechumens — those not baptized — and/or candidates — those baptized who are now seeking full communion with the Catholic Church — are asked if they are ready to take the next step in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Then, encouraged by the local community of believers, the catechumens are sent to the rite of election, or the candidates are sent to the call to continuing conversion.

Capuchin Father Martin Schratz, coordinator of the southern region, said, "It is exciting to see the recommitment to baptismal vows being made through the Catholic Church and the commitment of those who are not yet baptized. How awesome it is to be called as adults to become followers of Christ in this day and age and to become part of the universality of the Catholic Church."

Within the Diocese of Charlotte this year, there were three locations where Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated the rite of election and the call to continuing conversion this year. The catechumens and candidates of the northeastern region of the diocese gathered at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro Feb. 17; the southern region gathered at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, Feb. 23; and the northwestern region gathered at St. Barnabas Church in Arden Feb. 24.

At each of these churches, Bishop Curlin gave an inspiring homily in which he told of the "profound impact Bishop Michael J Begley had on my life as a bishop and a priest."

At Our Lady of Grace Church, Bishop Curlin revealed that Bishop Begley, a former patient at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point, was aware of his imminent death. He also said that Bishop Begley was a very patient and loving priest who "continually revealed the love of Christ in his life to all around him. He was one who never complained about his discomfort right up to his death."



**Bishop William G. Curlin bestows his blessings on Mollie Anne Counsil, daughter of Charles and Pam Counsil of St. Pius X, at Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro.**



Photos by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**Candidates stand as their respective delegates called their names during the call to continuing conversion at Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro.**

Bishop Curlin reiterated to the catechumens and candidates what drew them to the Catholic Church. "Your love of Jesus is what brings you to the church," said Bishop Curlin.

A person must be very "intolerant" to be a Catholic, said Bishop Curlin. "If you believe in adultery, abortion or racism, you are much too tolerant.

"Make sure you give your heart to Jesus. Be prepared to leave loved ones and everything for Christ. The Church doesn't need more people; it needs more saints," said Bishop Curlin. "The challenge of the baptized is to give up worldly happiness. Live your life for Jesus in this world."

The way to do this, added Bishop Curlin, is through prayer. "Prayer is the way to talk to God and to give our souls to him," he said.

Bishop Curlin explained how awesome it was "to have Jesus in our hands and in our bodies in the Eucharist. That is why it is so important to celebrate the Eucharist and to make it the center of your lives and your love. Then, take that love, and give it away because it is God's will that we human beings, who make up his church, bring that love to the whole world."

Bishop Curlin asked a series of qualifying questions to the godparents, sponsors and catechists representing the catechumens and candidates. When Bishop Curlin asked the catechumens and candidates if it was their will to be received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church, they replied, "It is."

At that, Bishop Curlin reminded the candidates to, "hear the Lord's call to conversion and be faithful to your baptismal covenant."

Terry Rogers, a candidate from Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, commented that the whole day "was a very uplifting and meaningful experience. Especially shaking the Bishop's hand at the end," she said.

"It was absolutely beautiful," said catechumen Sharon Cornelison from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point. "The Bishop is an excellent homilist. What he was saying was meant for me — for every one of us. I'm already feeling the hunger for the Eucharist. The closer you get the more frustrating it is not to be able to receive but, it is certainly well worth the wait."

James Taylor, a candidate from St. Joseph of the Hills Church in Eden, said, "As always, in today's ceremony, I know that I have been given the true word of God. At the church of my baptism, I always felt I was leaving with only what the preacher wanted me to know. To me, the true faith and the true religion lie in the Mass and in the Roman Catholic Church."

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*


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# Men's Club builds upon a foundation of volunteerism

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

MURPHY — When a few parishioners got together to form the St. William Church Men's Club (SWCMC) in 1997, they just wanted to take care of the church grounds, but the club has evolved. Now they're helping to take care of the community.

"At that time," said Bob Daniels, the new president, "we only had the church and the rectory. Then the church purchased the Begley building (the Bishop Begley Center). John Schell was in charge of the renovation for that, and all the men worked with him on that. That was our first outreach. Then we got involved with unloading the truck at the Texana Community Center. It's an African-American community in our area."

The truck brings in furniture and clothing several times a year. SWCMC also works with Congregation of Notre Dame Sister Therese (Terry) Martin in Hayesville.

"Whenever somebody needs furniture or clothing, she has it," Bill Melendez, vice president, said. "We pick it up and deliver it."

Food is also an important focus. Last Thanksgiving, the club delivered more than 100 baskets filled with food that the St. William Community Life Committee had collected. SWCMC also alternates monthly with Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Andrews to unload the Manna Food Bank Truck when it delivers to the Andrews Food Bank and Commodity Distribution Center.

SWCMC's periodic pancake breakfasts in 2001 earned $600 that the club donated to the church and to civic organizations; plus another $300 was added to parishioners' donations for a $1,003 contribution to the Archdiocese of New York to assist families of New York City firefighters and police in the aftermath of the World Trade Center bombings.

The club also has a wheelchair it loans out. Members help the Marine Corps League with Toys for Tots, and assembled more than 60 bikes for the program last Christmas.



Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**Old and new St. William Church Men's Club members gather at the grotto, which the club and other parishioners completed two years ago. Jim Martin (left), retiring president, John Schell, Ray Lott, and Bob Daniels, current president, were among those who worked on the project. Mike Kauffman (right), joined the club recently, and has been elected recording secretary.**

"We volunteer every year for Industrial Opportunities Inc.," Melendez said. "They're mentally and physically challenged and autistic people. They have a state bowling tournament, and we help them prepare. Some of them can't walk. We help them to the lanes and to role the ball."

All of these activities earned SWCMC a Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service, presented in October.

Another club project is also making its mark in Murphy. Two years ago SWCMC finished a grotto in front of the church. "It's a beautiful location and something we thought could be used by the community," Daniels said.

Indeed, it's become quite a popular spot. People often stop to sit on one of the nearby benches to meditate for a while. Murphy High School students have their class pictures taken there.

"A lady came with her child," John Schell said, "and asked me, 'I'm not Catholic. Is it OK (if I visit)?' I said, 'Sure.' She comes at lunch two or three times a week. She said that's one of the things her child enjoys the most. Now she brings a friend and her child."

Daniels got the idea for the grotto when he saw one in Connecticut. A professional artist, he sketched his interpretation and displayed it in the church's common area to show parishioners what it would look like. No church funds were used for construction, which involved 12,000 pounds of rock.

"The money for the grotto came from donations," Daniels said. "While we were working on it, people would come up and hand us money, and they weren't just from the church, either."

John Schell recalled that, "One lady came up and said, 'Who's paying for this?' I said, 'It's contributions.' She said, 'Here's $50.' "

About 22 people, ages 14 to mid-80s, worked on the project. Some were club members; some were not. They built a back wall with a central cave. A curving lower wall, wide enough to sit on, encloses an 1,800-gallon goldfish pool. Water, recycling as a fountain and waterfall, makes a pleasant sound. Statues of Mary and Bernadette are at right. The St. William Ladies Guild purchased the filter for the pool.

The club named it the Sister Terry Martin Grotto in honor of her community contributions. "She's a saint," one of the club members said.

"Sister Terry brought us water from Lourdes, and we put that in at the dedication," Melendez said. "She also brought a rock from Lourdes, and that's in the stonework."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*


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# Black History Month projects teach youth about unity, togetherness

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Every year, people of color around the country spread messages of unity and diversity through Black History Month programs and projects. The month long remembrance of the contributions, inventions and gifts that African-Americans have made to society has evolved through the years. The Rising Youth in Action and Youth in Action groups at Our Lady of Consolation Church (OLC) combined their faith and culture through their Black History Month joint projects. Through this endeavor, they went on a discovery mission about their ancestors, the people who affected their lives in a positive way and the link between their heritage and faith.

"Every year, we talk about the same dozen black history figures, and this year, we wanted them to come up with people who affected their spiritual growth," said Nanette Lide, parish co-youth minister, along with Leslie Johnson. "We asked them who was influential in their walk with Christ. It could have been someone they knew or did not know, which gave them a wide range of exploration."

The youth and teens researched their subjects and pasted and colored their tri-fold posters and cardboard into displays depicting the lives of those chosen. This also served as a mentoring opportunity for the older members of the parish youth ministry to guide their younger counterparts.

"We're trying to get the younger group involved in the parish ministry, while preparing the older group for leadership roles within the church," said Lide. "Projects like this allow them to pay more attention to what they do because the younger group is watching them."

With the help of Lide and Johnson; Cassandra Tucker, Rising Youth in Action coordinator; and the older teens in the parish, the participants' displays included names like Maya Angelou; Franciscan Father James Goode who led the first diocesan tent revival in 2000; Madame C.J. Walker, the first self-made female millionaire in America; and Harriet Tubman, "conductor" of the Underground Railroad.

Other names not commonly associated with Black History Month — Bishop William G. Curlin and Capuchin Father Jude Duffy, pastor of OLC — also graced a couple of the youth's projects.

Father Duffy has been an inspiration to Semaj Jones, 13. Jones said that the humor Father Duffy infuses into his homilies helps him to understand the Gospels.

"We have a bishop who has been very active in the African-American community, also priests and deacons who have worked with African-Americans," said Lide. "There have been some great conduits from all races in our walk with Christ. We wanted to be more inclusive, and it is very important that our youth understand that we all have a place within history."

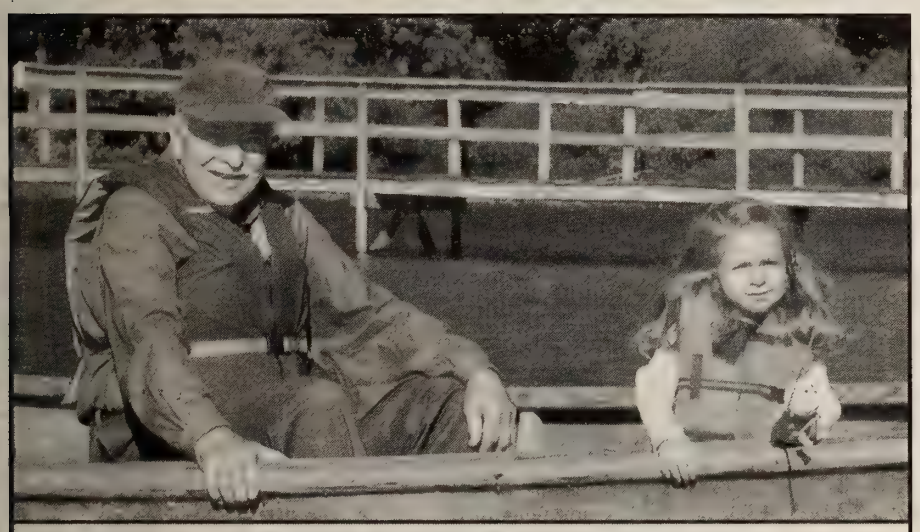
Julian Tucker, 11, created two projects depicting the lives of St. Martin de Porres, son of a freed slave and Spanish nobleman, and Ivory Coleman, OLC music minister. "I did St. Martin de Porres because I like to do projects on saints, and I picked Ivory because he is a very good piano player," said Tucker. "St. Martin de Porres helped a lot of people and went into the church at an early age, and Ivory has performed a lot of concerts and won many awards."

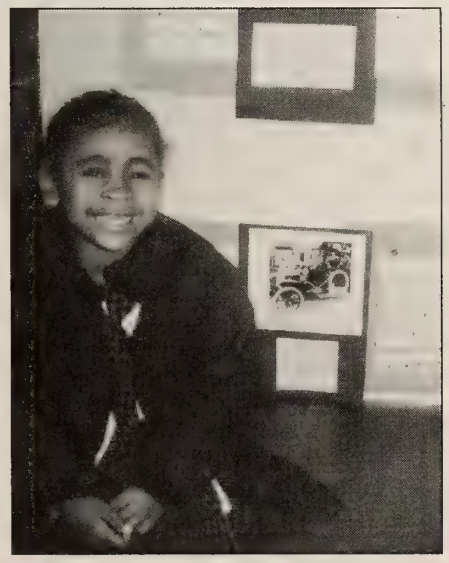
Tucker said that he learned the value of helping others and sharing one's talent with others especially during February. "It (Black History Month) honors not only black people but also others for the things they have done because black people are an important part of the history of mankind," he said.

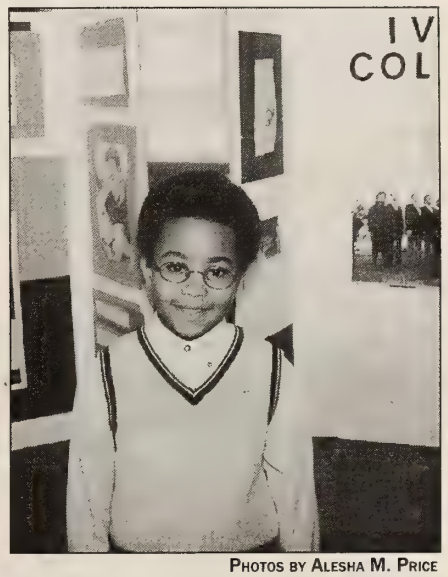
Jesuit Father Fernando Aritzi, Mexico native and civil rights leader, made an impact on 11-year-old Whitley Lide from the time of her birth. The priest baptized her and has been influential in her life. "I enjoyed the project because I was able to learn more about his life. He is a great role model in my life, and he taught me about God and the church and having a good time at the same time," she said.

"History is closer than we think; it isn't 50 years ago. It can be as close as yesterday," said Lide. "This project gave them a chance to reflect, focus and realize that they will have an impact on someone else's life one day. They are not too young to go out into the world and be the same positive force as the people on which they reported."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*








Photos by Alesha M. Price

**Pictured left, Olivia Freeman, 6, smiles in front of her dual project on Harriet Tubman and Madame C.J. Walker. Julian Tucker, 11, proudly shows his dual project depicting the lives of St. Martin de Porres and Ivory Coleman. The children, members of Rising Youth in Action of Our Lady of Consolation Church, created projects in honor of Black History Month in February.**

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# Understanding of pedophilia remains incomplete, psychologists say

By KEVIN LUPERCHIO
Catholic News Service

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — The scientific understanding of pedophilia is largely incomplete, despite significant advances during the last 30 years, according to Barbara Schwartz, who holds a doctorate in psychology.

Schwartz, a Plymouth native, is the author of several books on sex offenders and behaviors.

In a Feb. 22 telephone interview with The Catholic Free Press, newspaper of the Worcester Diocese, she said pedophilia is a mental disorder that causes a person to develop "a measurable sexual preference for prepubescent children."

This distinction separates pedophiles from the more general category of child molesters, that is, those who sexually abuse children for a variety of motives other than actual sexual arousal, she added.

Craig Latham, who also holds a doctorate in psychology, believes calling pedophilia a disease implies that those who sexually abuse children are not accountable for their actions.

Pedophilia is not inherited through genes nor is it biologically based, he said. Rather it is a learned behavior with an addictive quality that escalates in intensity and frequency. Latham, who is in private practice in Natick, works primarily with abused adolescents and young adults, some of whom are pedophiles.

Current studies suggest that pedophilia develops at a young age and often is connected to an individual's own victimization at the hands of another, Schwartz said.

Such victimization may lead to the individual acting out his or her abuse on another, something she called repetition trauma. It also may be socially modeled behavior, that is, behavior that an individual witnesses and imitates, she added.

Though many pedophiles were once victims themselves, "it's not a one-to-one ratio," said Evan Graber of Holden, who has a doctorate in clinical psychology.

Not every child who is sexually assaulted becomes a pedophile and, likewise, not every pedophile was sexually assaulted, said Graber, who is director of outpatient service at You Inc. and works only with juvenile pedophiles.

Exactly what causes pedophilia in those who are not abused themselves is unknown, he added.

Pedophiles at any age do not look any different from "normal" people, Graber said, which makes it difficult to detect their illness until inappropriate behavior is observed or an allegation is made.

They do, however, share some common traits, according to Latham.

Most pedophiles are male, he noted. Allegations of pedophilia against women are typically underreported because society tends to see such instances as a rite of passage for young men.

Pedophiles are usually uneasy in social settings and uncomfortable around their peers, he said, adding that they are often introspective and likely to bottle up their emotions.

Schwartz said the distinguishing trait of pedophiles is a strong attraction to children, which is often disguised to appear nonsexual. For this reason, many pedophiles are indistinguishable from members of the general population — including teachers, Boy Scout leaders, social workers and priests — who have only a positive, nonsexual interest in children.

Pedophiles' attraction to children may lead them to pursue jobs such as teaching as a way of having more contact with children, she said. Some, including those attempting to eliminate their inappropriate sexual inclinations, also may develop interest in the priesthood because priests are required to remain celibate.

However, a pedophile's attempts to ignore his sexual urges by becoming a priest are rarely successful. "They try to get away from the issue and find they can't," Schwartz said.

Despite popular misconceptions, there is no evidence to suggest that denying oneself sex, as priests are required to do, can transform a "normal" person into a pedophile, she added.

Pedophilia is treatable using multifaceted treatments, Schwartz said. These include individual and group counseling, educational classes and behavior treatment. The latter is designed to negatively reinforce a pedophile's fantasies about children by pairing them with frightening scenes or foul smells in something called aversion therapy.

The treatment also involves examining the cognitive distortions or thinking errors that allow pedophiles to excuse their own bad behavior with children, she said.

In some cases, Latham said, prescription drugs are used to treat underlying problems, such as mood disorders or Attention Deficit Disorder, that exacerbate an individual's pedophilic tendencies.

Despite treatment, pedophilia "is not like appendicitis, not something where you treat them and they're safe to be around children again," Schwartz said.

She compared the disorder to alcoholism or eating disorders: "Any behavior that has brought you relief in the past will remain in the back of your head as an option that may come into your mind."

As a result, she added, pedophiles must recognize and avoid so-called high-risk situations, that is, environments involving contact with children, in the same way alcoholics avoid bars and other places where liquor is common.


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# U.S. skater not shy about showing devotion to his faith

By JESUIT FATHER MATTHEW GAMBER
Catholic News Service

SALT LAKE CITY (CNS) — While the Olympic focus was on the controversy surrounding the pairs figure skating gold medals, Timothy Goebel was attending Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of the Madeleine, where he asked Bishop George H. Niederauer of Salt Lake City to bless his Olympic bronze medal.

"I never say it's my medal or it's my success, because so many people contributed to this: parents, coaches and for me, especially, the contribution of my faith," Goebel, 21, said in an interview Feb. 17, three days after winning a bronze medal in men's figure skating.

"My faith is a reality check," he said. "People in high-profile sports get involved in superfluous stuff, being a star. I'm really grateful for the gifts I have been given. It's good to realize why we are really here."

He added that there were 2,500 athletes at the games, "with all the physical ability in the world, but there are also a lot of unfortunate people in the world."

He said he keeps in mind that skating is not all there is.

"In the grand scheme of things," he said, "what's more important, winning an Olympic medal or being a good person?"

Goebel's faith has been nurtured by his parents, Richard and Ginny, since the day they adopted him through Catholic Charities of Chicago, on the couple's 10th wedding anniversary in 1980.

He attended Catholic grade school, St. Colette's in Rolling Meadows, Ill., until the fifth grade. He started skating when he was 5 years old, and by the time he was 11, his parents and teachers realized he had great potential.

That prompted a move to Cleveland, to be closer to his skating coach, and a search for a new parish. Tim and his mother met Father James A. Viall, pastor of St. Rose Parish, and hit it off.

"Father Viall was very strict. He wanted us to know what it really means to be a Catholic. If you lose one part, then it all falls apart," Goebel said. "He trained us not to be 'cafeteria Catholics.'"

Richard Goebel, meanwhile, stayed behind in Chicago to continue his work as an engineer.



CNS PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER GUNTY, CATHOLIC SUN

**Bishop George H. Niederauer, left, of Salt Lake City blesses the Olympic bronze medal won by Timothy Goebel, right, after Mass at the Cathedral of the Madeleine Feb. 17. Goebel took the bronze medal for men's figure skating in the Winter Olympics.**

"Father Viall provided a wonderful experience of the Catholic faith to Tim. He really took him under his wing," said Richard, who is a member of the United Church of Christ, but attends Catholic Mass with his family.

Ginny Goebel said people often ask her if it is a huge sacrifice to raise an Olympic skater.

"It's a big commitment, but not a huge sacrifice," she said. "We derive great joy from Tim's skating. It's a two-way street." She added that Tim has been a gift to the couple.

Cecil Bleiker, the Olympic Village press secretary for Team USA, said, "So many athletes forget their roots and where they came from. Tim hasn't.

"For other athletes, sports is their god," said Bleiker, a 25-year-old Catholic from Texas. "You can tell Tim is Catholic by the way he treats people in the Olympic Village."

Goebel said he has not met much opposition to visible expressions of his faith, though he did recall an instance when a skating judge told him to remove his crucifix, because it was "a distraction" to her.

Goebel said he told her, "I'm not taking it off. You will have to deal with it."

He prays the Guardian Angel prayer before he skates, and for nine days before his Olympic competition, he said, he prayed the novena to St. Therese of Lisieux, which he learned from 1998 Olympic gold medalist Tara Lipinski.

Goebel prays the rosary each night and wears a crucifix and a medal from the jubilee year in Rome that is emblazoned with the image of Pope John Paul II.

Although he has never met the pope, he attended an outdoor Mass in St. Peter's Square after a skating competition near Rome.

He said he attends Mass at least twice a week, often more, and goes to the sacrament of reconciliation weekly. He said he has been able to find a Catholic church in most countries, although some places do present a challenge.

All in all, for Goebel, skating is more than a career — it is almost a calling.

"I love skating. I'm very happy," he said. "I don't think you can do anything at this level if you don't love it. With the training, the traveling, the long days and the injuries, this experience makes it all worthwhile."

Today Goebel lives and trains in Los Angeles, where he takes classes at Loyola Marymount University. He hopes someday to have a "real job" and live in Europe or New York.

In the meantime, he does not plan to go professional, instead opting to prepare for the 2006 Winter Games in Turin, Italy.

He wants to continue training in his faith, too.

"I want to read more books and really learn more about my faith and lives of the saints," Goebel said. "I really don't know as much as I should."

*Contributing to this story was Christopher Gunty.*

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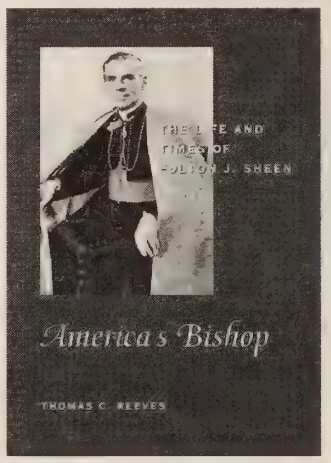
**Book Review**

# Biography reveals pious life of Bishop Sheen

REVIEWED BY MICHAEL DUBRUIEL
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In December 1999, on the 20th anniversary of the death of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York authorized the Archbishop Fulton John Sheen Foundation to begin collecting information on the archbishop's life as a preliminary step toward canonization.

"America's Bishop: The Life and Times of Fulton J. Sheen" places the life of this powerful preacher under the biographer's microscope. Author Thomas C. Reeves, a recent convert to the Catholic faith, claims that the book is "not an effort to bolster or defeat the effort" of those wishing to see Archbishop Sheen declared a saint. The book includes photos, an appendix of Archbishop Sheen publications, another with Archbishop Sheen's hints for giving a talk, and copious endnotes detailing Reeves' research to uncover just who Fulton J. Sheen was.




The infant Peter John Sheen (Peter became Fulton when his grandfather gave it as the boy's name upon enrolling him in St. Mary's School at the age of 5 1/2) cried unremittingly. Later in life the archbishop found that he had suffered from tuberculosis as an infant, which no doubt was the cause of his constant misery. It is also symbolic of one who would be known like John the Baptist as "a voice crying out in the wilderness."

Early on, those around him in the Illinois farming community where he was raised recognized a religious vocation in this gifted student. Reeves takes us through young Sheen's meteoric rise within the church, first as a professor, then as a national celebrity on radio and later on television.

He presents us with the known stories and those that we may not have heard about in the past, including scandal (an angry husband claimed Archbishop Sheen was having an affair with his wife), an academic degree that Archbishop Sheen claimed to have earned but in fact did not (reminiscent of the recent debacle of George O'Leary's short tenure as Notre Dame's head football coach), and the mysterious suffering that Archbishop Sheen often alluded to later in life (Reeves claims it was a rocky relationship with Cardinal Francis J. Spellman leading to exile in upstate New York).

We are presented with a conflicting image of a man who at the same time seems proud and humble. Most who resent the idea of Archbishop Sheen being considered a saint would point to the extravagant lifestyle — the big house, the expensive car, the company he kept among the rich and famous. But what emerges from Reeves' account is a man who is driven by a mission that he believes is inspired by God.

Reeves writes, "He was above all a supernatural man. He believed himself called by God to defend the faith and his church, and to love the human race. It was not the urge for fame that required Sheen's daily Holy Hour, that brought him for decades to the homes of the poor and the sick, that took him to untold numbers of convents and monasteries to give retreats, that prompted him to counsel and instruct thousands of converts, that made him answer tens of thousands of letters with advice and prayer, that stirred his lifelong generosity, that compelled him to go to Africa to hold the hands of lepers, that drove him repeatedly to Lourdes and Fatima."

Reeves' work is an excellent presentation of Archbishop Sheen's life. This is not hagiography but it comes close to that without trying. What emerges is a man who truly sought to follow Christ and to overcome his faults through the power of the Holy Spirit. Fans of Archbishop Sheen will rediscover the man that they loved; his enemies will find in this account pause to rethink their judgment about this great man who defies any definition we might wish to place upon him.

*Dubruiel holds a master's degree in Christian spirituality from Creighton University and is the author of "Praying in the Presence of the Lord with Fulton J. Sheen."*

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings*
*March 3, Third Sunday of Lent*
**Cycle A Readings:**
1) Exodus 17:3-7
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
2) Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
3) Gospel: John 4:5-42

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When the going gets tough, the tough change the subject. And if that doesn't work, they try shameless flattery. At least that's what the Samaritan woman in Sunday's Gospel does. When her conversation with Jesus moves from sarcastic banter about well water into the uncomfortable territory of her multiple marriages, she reverses field like an all-pro running back looking for a crease in the defense.

Had she looked away from the mirror which Jesus held up to her life, perhaps she would have left the well satisfied; she'd gotten the better of the foreign stranger, not let herself be taken advantage of. Had she protected her wounds and shielded her darkness, she might have won the debate, might have felt safer from anyone who would tempt her with the truth.

She could have felt more smug had she pulled it off, but in the end her efforts to avoid the truth hit a brick wall. At the point of impact, she runs straight into the arms of God's mercy and healing, straight into a new life, open to the possibility of truth and light and freedom and joy.

This Sunday the church celebrates the first of three Lenten "scrutinies," special prayers to help the elect, those preparing for Easter baptism, "to uncover, then heal" the wounds of sin in order to "bring out, then strengthen, all that is upright, strong and good."

Like the woman at the well, the elect are models for all who follow Jesus. By submitting themselves to the scrutinies, they demonstrate the life-and-death importance of confronting our own darkness: prejudice, envy, fear, malice. They show us the saving power of Christ's healing mercy. They inspire us to embrace the cross of our weakness so as to be embraced by the glory of life in God.

**QUESTIONS:**

Who in your life has helped you see your hidden failings and recognize what is "upright, strong and good" in you? In what area of your life can you let go of illusions to find healing and strength?

**SCRIPTURE TO ILLUSTRATE:**

"The woman said to him, 'I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Anointed; when he comes, he will tell us everything.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he'" (John 4:25-26a).

## Weekly Scripture

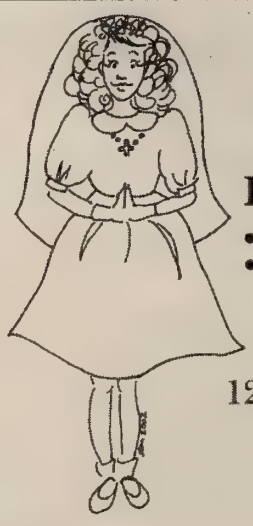
**Scripture for the week of March 3 - March 9**

**Sunday (Third Sunday of Lent),** Exodus 17:3-7, Romans 5:1-2, 5-8, John 4:5-42; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** 2 Kings 5:1-15, Luke 4:24-30; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 3:25, 34-43, Matthew 18:21-35; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9, Matthew 5:17-19,; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 7:23-28, Luke 11:14-23; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Hosea 14:2-10, Mark 12:28-34; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Hosea 6:1-6, Luke 18:9-14

**Scripture for the week of March 10 - March 16**

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent),** 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 65:17-21, John 4:43-54; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, John 5:1-3, 5-16; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 49:8-15, John 5:17-30; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday)** Exodus 32:7-14, John 5:31-47; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22, John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 7:40-53

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## Video Review

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

*What follows is a list of suggested videos that are appropriate for viewing during the holy season of Lent and hopefully will inspire viewers to live better Christian lives and come closer to Christ.*

**"The Assisi Underground" (1984)**

Fact-based story of a Franciscan friar (Ben Cross) who helps set up a network of hiding places for Jewish refugees in Assisi's monasteries while the local bishop (James Mason) organizes their escape from German-occupied Italy. Directed by Alexander Ramati, the sincere portrayal of the religious setting adds a spiritual dimension to this example of the Christian resistance to Nazi inhumanity. Much menace and some stylized violence. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (MGM)

**"Babette's Feast" (1988)**

Screen version of a story by Isak Dinesen, set in a rugged Danish fishing village in 1871, shows the impact of a French housekeeper (Stephane Audran) on two pious sisters who carry on their late father's work as pastor of a dwindling religious flock. The conclusion follows the preparation and consumption of an exquisite French meal, with focus on its sensual and religious implications and its healing effect on the austere sect and the French woman who prepares it. Danish director Gabriel Axel's low-key and understated work is rich with detail and fine, controlled performances. Subtitles. Cerebral treatment. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. (Facets)

**"The Bible" (1966)**

Six episodes from Genesis (Creation, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, the Tower of Babel and Abraham) are pictured as literally as they were written, largely leaving their interpretation to the viewer. John Huston directs, narrates and plays the part of Noah in this reverent but entertaining spectacular. George C. Scott as Abraham takes acting honors among a cast including Ava Gardner, Richard Harris, Ulla Bergryd and Michael Parks. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Fox)

**"Black Robe" (1991)**

After arriving in 17th-century New France, a Jesuit missionary (Lothaire Bluteau), guided by Algonquins, endures both a dangerous journey through the Canadian wilderness and an Iroquois attack to reach a distant Huron mission. Toward the end director Bruce Beresford manages to put the cultural clash between the humorless priest and the unbelieving Native Americans in a moving spiritual context. Some brief but graphic violence and several shadowy sexual encounters with momentary nudity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Vidmark)

**"Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace" (2000)**

Well-crafted biopic about a German Lutheran minister (Ulrich Tukur) who spoke out against Hitler's policies and virulent anti-Semitism, all the while smuggling Jews out of Germany and continuing to write about ethics until he was imprisoned and hanged. Director Eric Till gives the philosophical issues a fine human dimension and a sense of urgency in the inspiring true drama and intelligently presents the ethical quandaries Bonhoeffer faced as he struggled to be truly Christian. Brief violence and rear nudity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Vision Video)

**"The Burmese Harp" (1956)**

Badly wounded in Burma at the end of World War II, a Japanese soldier (Shoji Yasui) is nursed back to health by a Buddhist monk, then devotes himself to searching the jungle battlefields for the abandoned remains of dead soldiers to give them a decent burial. Directed by Kon Ichikawa, the Japanese production takes a strong anti-war stance through a series of flashbacks to the horrors of battle, but uses hauntingly poetic imagery to convey the main theme of life's value and the need to atone for its loss. Subtitles. Wartime violence. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Ingram International Films)

**"Captains Courageous" (1937)**

Spencer Tracy won an Oscar for his performance as Manuel, the simple Portuguese fisherman in Rudyard Kipling's story of a spoiled rich boy (Freddie Bartholomew) rescued at sea and turned into a good shipmate by the kind-hearted veteran sailor. Director Victor Fleming provides a gruff but appealing picture of life aboard the fishing boat, backed by some memorable sea scenes and the unsentimental transformation of the youth's character under Manuel's manly yet compassionate influence. Youngsters may get teary-eyed at Manuel's death but all is emotionally resolved in the lad's homecoming. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.(MGM)



CNS PHOTO FROM UNIVERSAL PICTURES

**Scene from movie 'Dragonfly'**

**Linda Hunt stars as Sister Madeline, who advises Dr. Joe Darrow (Kevin Costner) in the movie "Dragonfly." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**




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## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Praying means sharing life's joys, sorrows with God, pope says

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Faithfulness in prayer means turning to God in good times and in bad, Pope John Paul II said.

"The Lord is not indifferent to the cries of the suffering and, although not always in ways which coincide with our expectations, he responds, consoles and saves us," the pope said during his Feb. 27 general audience.

Three days after canceling a visit to a Rome parish because of pain in his right knee, Pope John Paul appeared to have a bit more difficulty walking than usual.

He entered the Paul VI Audience Hall on the moving platform he has used for months to move among the crowd, kissing babies held aloft by aides. One of his secretaries helped him up the 10 steps to his chair in the audience hall, but that was not unusual.

At the end of the audience, however, he needed assistance getting up from his seat, taking one step down to the stage and walking out of the hall.

In his audience talk, Pope John Paul focused on the Canticle of Hezekiah from the Book of Isaiah.

The prayer of the king, recounting his suffering and his recovery, "invites us to reflect on our fragility as creatures," the 81-year-old pope said.

"We need to rediscover an awareness of our limits," he said, "to know that 'the years of our life' — as the psalmist writes — 'are 70, or 80 if we are strong, and most of them are fruitless toil for they pass quickly and we drift away.'

"In times of sickness and suffering, then, it is right to raise our lament to God as Hezekiah teaches us using poetic images, describing his cry as the shrill call of the swallow and the moan of a dove," the pope said.

Hezekiah even says he feels like God is an adversary, "almost a lion breaking his bones," yet he does not hesitate to invoke God, crying, "'Lord, I am oppressed, protect me,'" he said.

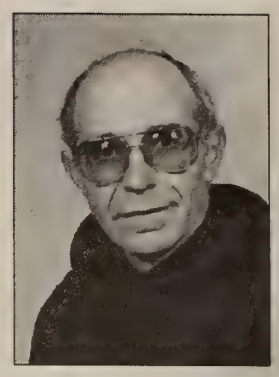
The lesson of Hezekiah, the pope said, is that in every situation one must hope, pray and have trust that God will not abandon the creatures he has created in love.

But, obviously, he said, Hezekiah does not stop praying when his suffering stops.

"He sings with joy his gratitude for his restored life and salvation," the pope said.

Christian prayer, he said, "must resound with the same constancy and serenity in the darkness of the night and of trial as well as in the light of day and of joy."

## Guest Column



FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM CAP
GUEST COLUMNIST

### The table, the cross and the tomb

The holiest triduum concludes Lent 2002 with a powerful trilogy. The Last Supper of the Holy Thursday, the cross of the Good Friday, and the tomb of the Holy Saturday. St. John makes a startling statement when he writes: "I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me, will perform the same works as I do myself." (Jn. 14:12). Does that mean that we can perform as well as Jesus did? Yes, we can. Our actions show the kind of persons we have become during Lent. Our way of life shows how close or how far we are from the master of the Last Supper, the master of the cross and the master of the tomb.

Will Rogers once told a story about a congressman who prepared a speech but did not have a chance to deliver it. He asked and received permission to have the speech printed in the Congressional Record. The speech contained all kinds of promises of things he was going to do, so that prosperity will be available to all. At the places where he expected applause, the congressman wrote in the word applause. The printer, unfortunately, had trouble reading the congressman's handwriting: everyplace where it should have read "applause," the printer had inserted the word "applesauce" instead. Well, our religion neither requires an applause, nor is applesause. St. Paul also reminds us that we are real and "we must be the same as Christ." (Phil. 2:5), who is also real. Knowing Jesus is good, but not good enough. Knowing the Bible is good, but not good enough. Everybody knows that some of the meanest people can quote the Bible backward and forward. The question is "Are they Christ?"

"A Mother's Magic Moment," is the title of a little piece a mother wrote about her son several years ago: We had received news of two local families in need, one lacking food and the other lacking clothing. We encouraged our children to dispense with a present for us and contribute something instead toward those two families. Our son, Chris, was a basketball manager for his college team and was on the road a great deal of the time. He had just been home on a brief visit, and as we were about to say our goodbyes, Chris's hand reached for mine. "Take this, Mom," he said and folded some money in my palm. "Use it for one of the families so they can be happy as we are." A quick hug and off he went, out the door and down the porch steps. In my hand rested a crisp $100 bill. With the little money Chris had to live on in college, he must have been saving for weeks. I stood still a moment, then down the steps I sprinted, opened the car door and sat down next to him. He gave me a warm, wonderful hug. In an instant, I was no longer sitting with my 20-year-old son, but my Chris of five, who once forgave someone who had stolen his toy car because, "Mom, he must need it more than me." A part of me wanted my boy of five back. Then he spoke, "Please get out of the car, Mom, before I cry too." I hugged him one more time and told him how very happy some family was going to be because of his generosity. At that moment I saw Christ in my son, Chris.

From a mother's story to a father's experience: The father knelt down beside his little girl's bed. It was time for prayers, hugs and tucking in. The little girl began her childhood prayer she had repeated many times before....

Now I lay down to sleep.
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
If I should die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take.

This particular night, the words got mixed up. "If I should wake before I die," the child said. When, she realized her mistake, she stopped in embarrassment. "Oh, Daddy, I got all mixed up," she said. To which her daddy responded tenderly: "Not at all, my dear. That may be the first time that prayer was properly prayed." What that good daddy meant, of course, was that before we die we are being called to wake up to the gospel truth about the meaning and purpose of our lives. If the Last Supper, the cross and the tomb don't make sense, then nothing else will. Our great Greek philosopher Plato said that the human being is a "featherless bi-ped." That may be so for him; for God we are Jesus and

if you are close to God
and his infinite grace,
You don't have to tell,
it shows on your face.



## Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

### Accepting spiritual happiness

Last night we spent an evening with several students at DePaul University. We were invited to speak to them about marriage. We shared with the young adults the difference between marrying for happiness and being happily married. The line from the 1971 movie Lovers and Other Strangers where an adult son informs his parents of his impending divorce comes to mind. The mother tells her son, "Don't look for happiness, Richie. It'll only make you miserable.

Happiness and the pursuit of it can be major obstacles for living a life-long, committed marriage. They are as American as apple pie, and third only to Life and Liberty in our national psyche. However, when happiness is the goal of marriage, spouses close the door to the amazing grace of God that they can neither plan nor anticipate. When marriage is just another pursuit of happiness it's too easily discarded when happiness is elusive, even for the moment.

Even when planning a vacation we have to take the trip itinerary with a grain of salt. Only when we veer from the planned schedule are we capable of real discovery. Otherwise we get only what we planned for.

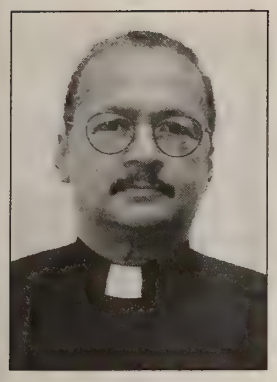
For us the joy of vacations, like happiness in marriage, comes from the unplanned experiences that happen even when (and often because) plans go awry. It's a matter of submission. Our plans, our needs, and our happiness only go as far as our imaginations will take us. When we submit ourselves to God's will we find that a much deeper joy is an outcome.

By entering into the Paschal Mystery: the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, we tap into God's grace. Accepting the cross of "being unhappy" in marriage, we open ourselves to God's shaping and direction, which brings joy far above any temporal happiness of our own design.

Indeed, married partners can be each other's "crosses." Instead of looking for happiness in marriage, we should look for God and embrace the cross. And what joy there is when we discover God there in good times and bad, in sickness and health, 'til death us do part.

**Questions for Reflection:**

- When have you experienced joy when plans went awry?
- How does the pursuit of happiness get in the way of committed love in your life?
- Does the Paschal Mystery speak to your experiences of marriage and family?



# Guest Column

REV. MR. CURTISS TODD
VICE CHANCELLOR AND VICAR FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Historical and spiritual origin of Black History Month

For several reasons, from the minute the first African slave was brought to this country, black people have, more often than not, been portrayed as lazy, sub-human, shiftless, uneducable, inherently inferior, a contributor only of crime, drunkenness and disease, and worth only a fraction of whites. Not so publicized were such things as their receiving brutal beatings, being lynched, children being sold away from their mothers and other atrocious, inhumane acts. In general, between 1619 and 1926, blacks in America were classified in the above manner and were considered a race of people that had made no positive contribution to human civilization at all. Blacks were visibly absent from any scholarship or intellectual discourse that dealt with human civilization. This attitude was the catalyst for the establishment by Dr. Carter G. Woodson of what we now celebrate as "Black History Month."

Carter Godwin Woodson (1875-1950), born to parents who were former slaves, earned a Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1912. He became an educator, serving as dean of the School of Liberal Arts at Howard University and at West Virginia Institute (now West Virginia State College). He was disturbed to find that history books largely ignored African-Americans, and when they were pictured, it was in the negative stereotype that was prevalent at that time. Dr. Woodson decided to leave mainstream academia to devote his life to the scientific study of the positive black experiences and contributions in America, Africa and the world. Among many books that he authored are "Education of the Negro Prior to 1861" (1915), "History of the Negro Church," (1921) and "The Rural Negro" (1930). In 1915, he established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In 1916, he founded, and until 1950, edited a quarterly publication "The Journal of Negro History." In 1937, he founded the monthly publication "The Negro History Bulletin." In 1926, he started what he called Negro History Week as an initiative to publicize and promote the many positive and varied contributions of black people throughout American history. He chose the second week of February because it marks the birthdays of two men who had a large impact on the African-American population, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas. Due to Dr. Woodson's leadership, for one week out of a year, the achievements of blacks in education, science, literature, medicine, politics, religion and other areas that had been generally suppressed were taught and recognized. In 1976, as a result of the efforts of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, Black History Week became Black History Month. From then until now, we highlight the contributions and achievements of blacks, not for a week out of the year, but a month.

In talking about Black History Month, I have heard it said, "What do those people want? They had a week. Then they got a month. The next thing you know, they'll be asking for a year." To this, my response is, "That is exactly what we want and what we're asking for." Although this is the year 2002 and institutionalized slavery and laws protecting and promoting segregation based on race have been legally abolished, covert discrimination and racial hatred unfortunately still exists. The varied, and positive contributions of blacks in all areas of American life, not just sports and entertainment, should be taught and

SEE REV. MR CURTISS TODD, PAGE 15

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### The church's position on gluten hosts

*Q. You have written some helpful columns in the past on celiac disease. I hope you can clear up my confusion about recent newspaper articles on the church's position regarding gluten hosts.*

*We are told that European bishops have approved hosts with low gluten, whereas the American bishops have not. Why is there a difference between what they can do in other countries and what we can do here? (Florida)*

A. Celiac disease, or celiac sprue, is an inherited disorder in which intolerance to the protein gluten causes insufficient absorption of food in the intestine. It can become a serious, even fatal, illness. Gluten is found in rye, barley, oats and wheat.

Obviously, this constitutes a major problem for Catholics so afflicted. General Catholic teaching is that there must be at least some gluten in Communion hosts for a valid celebration of the Eucharist. This teaching was repeated in 1995 by Cardinal Josef Ratzinger, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Earlier this year the bishops of Italy approved an extremely low-gluten eucharistic host, developed in Germany, for those who are allergic to wheat flour. This is consistent with Catholic requirements that hosts with no gluten whatsoever should not be used.

The policy adopted by the U.S. bishops adheres to that requirement; hosts that are entirely gluten-free may not be used in the Eucharist.

The current confusion seems to arise from differing medical assumptions about how much gluten celiac sufferers can tolerate. The American policy is related to medical opinion in the United States that, it seems to me, predominantly considers even the smallest amount of gluten dangerous.

Judging from the voluminous mail I've received, those with the disease report amazingly diverse, sometimes contradictory, experiences of what they can and cannot bear. Apparently on advice from their physicians, some believe they can tolerate part of an ordinary Communion host. For others even a tiny piece excites the allergy.

Medical judgment elsewhere can differ from that in the United States. The Italian Celiac Association, basing its conclusion on the advice of physicians in that country, says the small amount of gluten in the new formula satisfies church requirements, yet is too insignificant to be a health problem for celiac patients.

Italian bishops basically approved the conclusion that Communion hosts made using this process are valid matter for the Eucharist and may be used at Mass.

To my knowledge, hosts made with the new German formula have not yet been used in the United States, and American celiac specialists have not yet evaluated it.

Information readers of this column might relay to me will be appreciated. As I've indicated when treating this subject in the past, the number of people suffering from this disease is far greater than most of us imagine.

Catholics will be grateful in a special way for any formula that allows them to receive the Communion host without further endangering their health.

*A free brochure describing basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

# Letter to the Diocese



THE MOST REV. JOSEPH LAWSON HOWZE
FIRST BISHOP OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BILOXI

*Dear Bishop Curlin, priests, deacons, sisters and brothers of religious community, and the laity of the Diocese of Charlotte, family, relatives and friends:*

When I received the sad news of the death of Bishop Michael J. Begley, the first bishop of Charlotte, I realized that I would be unable to make travel plans to get to Charlotte in time for the funeral. I am writing this letter instead. It is a hopeless task to try to express my feelings by mere words, but I hope this letter will let you know I share this grief with you. I trust it is some consolation to you that I am celebrating the holy sacrifice of the Mass and offering the prayers of the holy rosary for the repose of the soul of Bishop Begley and for your own intentions.

It was my honored privilege to know Bishop Begley for 48 years. I met him as a seminarian when he was directory of Catholic Charities and the superintendent of the Nazareth Orphanage of the Diocese of Raleigh. When I came to Charlotte in my first assignment as associate pastor of Our Lady of Consolation, Bishop Begley was the founding pastor of St. Ann parish. Later, Bishop Begley was assigned to St. Leo Church in Winston-Salem and Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro. From there he was appointed by Pope Paul VI as the first bishop of Charlotte in 1971. He was my first bishop when I was appointed as auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Natchez-Jackson, Miss., in 1972, and later the first bishop of the Diocese of Biloxi, Miss., in 1977.

Like all of you, I know that Bishop Begley is a historical part of my priestly ministry of the church. I share my sorrow with you in the passing of this great and good priest, bishop and friend.

*Sincerely yours in Christ,*
**Joseph Lawson Howze**
*The First Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi*

# Quilting for a cause

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

NEWTON — A sentence on their flier said it all: YOU can make a difference.

Joan Waryold, a parishioner of St. Therese Catholic Church in Mooresville and a Catawba County resident, had just that in mind when she organized the Catawba Angel Network last July. "You hear so much today of, 'What can I do?'" she said. "But you get together with ten other women, and there's a lot you can do."

The Catawba Angel Network is a group of women from the community that meets monthly to sew, crochet and knit with a purpose. Since July, they have produced over 60 quilts, along with many knitted or crocheted blankets, hats, slippers and booties. In March, they plan to deliver these items to the Catawba County battered women's shelter and the Pregnancy Care Center, two organizations that they have adopted because they help women and children.

Waryold had been looking for a way to do something to help the pro-life cause. Trish Gabriel, a parishioner of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Newton who has attended the last two pro-life rallies in Washington, D.C., was also looking. "This is a ministry for us," said Gabriel.

They found each other through the Catawba County Extension and Community Association where they are both long-time members. The association was willing to sponsor the group, so they meet at the Agricultural Resources Center on the fourth Friday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Some of the members come in, set up their sewing machines, and start to work. Others come by to drop off completed items and to pick up materials for new projects.





PHOTOS BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

**Pictured left, Joan Waryold showed the women present at the meeting a wall hanging that she made for a recent competition.**

**Pictured above are Tina Sherrill, Joan Waryold, Trish Gabriel, Pauline Poovey and Rachel Sigman who stand behind a table piled with quilts, blankets and other knitted or crocheted items that their group has produced since July. The group plans to make its first deliveries to Catawba County's battered women's shelter and Pregnancy Care Center in March.**

"The nice thing is that you don't have to stay the whole time," said Gabriel, a professional quilt maker and designer. "It's a flexible thing."

Waryold said that the group also has many elderly or shut-in members who work on items at home and don't come to the meetings. She said that her 93-year-old mother-in-law, Dolly Waryold, does just that, and is the oldest member of the group.

The group is not limited to Catholic members. During the February meeting, Pauline Poovey, a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, showed the group some small caps that she has knitted for newborn babies. Rachel Sigman, a member of St. Paul's Reformed Church, and Pat Deblois, a member of New Hope Moravian Church, come in and set up their machines to start sewing.

"That's what's nice — the different denominations coming together," said Waryold.

"Life would be boring if we just dealt with the same people all the time," added Poovey, laughing.

Tina Sherrill, a member of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, helped Waryold to sort through the quilts and stamp them in preparation for next month's delivery. The stamp read, "Handmade with Love by: 'Catawba Angel Network' Catawba County Extension and Community Association."

"This is a comfort thing for the child — they take it with them," said Waryold. "A lot of times they come in with only the clothes on their backs."

"We both realize the importance of every child having their own comfort blanket or quilt," said Gabriel.

People in the community can help the group in various ways, said Waryold and Gabriel. The group needs donations of yarn, fabric and batting and will welcome any new members who want to make items to be donated. The next meeting of the group is Friday, March 22. For more information, call Joan Waryold at 704-483-9818 or Trish Gabriel at 828-459-7074.

# Classifieds

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Associate Editor:** New Catholic Miscellany located in Charleston, SC. Duties include editing, page design, photography & collaboration with freelance writers. Must be detail-oriented, conscientious of deadlines & willing to travel. Journalism degree desired, 3-5 years' experience using AP style, QuarkXpress & Adobe Photoshop required. Knowledge of Catholicism a must. Excellent benefits. Send resume with minimum salary requirement, non-returnable clips & photos to: P.O. Box 818, Charleston, SC 29401, or e-mail jordan@catholicdoc.org.

**Caregiver:** Seeking dependable caregiver to assist elderly with non-medical care in their homes. Part time and full time. Top hourly fees. VISITING ANGELS (704) 442-8881.

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**Director of Faith Formation:** Growing parish of 1,200 families seeks enthusiastic and knowledgeable Catholic as full time Faith Formation Director. Minimum of B. A. in related field of study and Parish/ Faith Formation experience. Position requires strong leadership, organizational, interpersonal, and basic computer skills. Responsibilities include, but not limited to: Pre-K through 5th Grade Faith Formation, R.C.I.A., and Adult Education. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Start July 1, 2002. Send resume, salary expectations, and three (3) references to: DFF Search, Attn: Wally Haarsgaard, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 605 Barbee Ave., High Point, NC, 27262. Visit our website at www.ihmchurch.org.

**Director of Religious Education:** Full-time position available July 1. To inquire, contact Parish Administrator, St. Stephen Catholic Church, 2402 Wicker Street, Sanford, NC 27330.

**Elementary Principal:** The Archdiocese of Atlanta anticipates openings for the position of elementary school principal effective July 1, 2002. Qualified candidates may send a letter of interest and current resume to: Superintendent of Schools, 680 W. Peachtree St., NW, Atlanta, GA 30308.

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**Teachers:** Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, located in Fairburn, Georgia, is seeking teachers in all disciplines for the 2002-2003 school year. Mercy offers an excellent teaching environment and well as competitive salary and benefits. Interested individuals should send resume and cover letter to: John Cobis, Our Lady of Mercy High School, 861 Highway 279, Fairburn, GA 30213.

**Vice President, Mission:** St. Joseph of the Pines, Southern Pines, NC, is seeking a Vice President, Mission. We provide Long Term Care, Home Health Care and Hospice Care. The position has oversight for Mission, Pastoral Care and Ethics. Please send resume to Mr. Russell Pait, Human Resources, St. Joseph of the Pines, 590 Central Drive, Southern Pines, NC 28387 or e-mail to hr@sjp.org.

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## PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

**In thanksgiving to St. Jude for prayers answered. DG**

**Thank you, St. Jude, for answering my prayer. M.D.D.**

# Chaplains minister to spiritual well-being of Catholic students

By Rev. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

Chaplains are priests who have been assigned by the local ordinary to specific communities to encourage and enhance the spiritual growth and pastoral welfare of those communities. The Diocese of Charlotte is fortunate to have three such chaplains working with its young men and women.

Franciscan Father Steve Hoyt is assigned to Charlotte Catholic High School; Father Christopher Roux is assigned to Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville; and Father John Hanic is assigned to Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte.

"(Chaplains) are present to serve the sacramental needs of both students and staff, as well as spiritual needs that go beyond that of counseling," said Father Roux.

"Chaplains provide a religious presence of the ordained minister in the midst of the daily student routine. In most cases, the chaplain is the only priest experience most of these students have outside of their own parishes," said Father Hanic.

"One of the most important aspects of my ministry is to encourage vocations to both the priesthood and the religious life," added Father Roux.

The three chaplains take care of the eucharistic liturgies for holy days and special occasions within the school year. For these liturgies, the students are the lectors, as well as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist at the high school level. The students also provide the music and choir for the liturgies.

In addition to the special liturgies, the chaplains also offer daily Masses at their respective facilities within the confines of their daily schedules.

The chaplains are always available for sacramental confession. They also offer their students, either by individual class or by schoolwide participation, penitential prayer services during which a homily on forgiveness and a good, thorough examination of conscience is presented. These penitential services are followed with the rite of sacramental reconciliation.

In some cases during the church season of Advent or Lent, additional priests from the area parishes are brought in to facilitate the administration of the sacrament.

Even though it is not required of him, Father Hanic usually spends about 45 minutes before the start of school greeting students and parents before starting his normal school day. "This is something that the parents seem to appreciate," said Father Hanic.

The chaplains sometimes step into the religion classes to discuss the topics of the day, thus showing the students that their teachers and the church are all on the same page.

Father Hanic sees his presence as "making Christ more visible throughout the school, thus, making the day a unique Catholic experience for the students."

Father Roux finds his ministry of chaplain to be "completely satisfying as I am able to exercise the ministry that God has graciously bestowed upon me."

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

## Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, from page 13

acknowledged in history and text books in the same way and manner as those of whites.

Revelations 6:9 says, "Worthy are you to receive the scroll and to break open its seals, for you were slain and with your blood you purchased for God those from every tribe and tongue, people and nation." As members of the family of the Diocese of Charlotte, we should believe and proclaim that we are all God's children: we are all created in His image and likeness; we are all brother and sister to one another, and more importantly, to Jesus. When we profess one another equally, when we understand and accept our differences, when we believe that Jesus came for all humankind, it is then that some of the stereotypes and negative myths about blacks can begin to be eliminated. It is then that we begin not only to profess, but to live the message of Jesus.


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# Mother's love continues to spread through son's ministry

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

MORGANTON — Although Rev. Mr. George McMahon's mother died when he was nine, she had a profound impact on his later life. He especially missed her cooking and the sound of her voice as she would pray and read him bedtime stories, but her influence was instrumental in his spiritual and personal development.

"I recall her vividly. She was a wonderful woman who gave me my foundation about the church and my belief in God," said Rev. Mr. McMahon. "At that time, I couldn't understand how my mother could die when she was such a good person."

The cradle Catholic was very dedicated to his faith and said that his childhood catechism classes provided comfort and a sense of structure for him. He grew up in his Pennsylvania household with his father, a postal worker and storeowner, and mother, who took care of her four children until her death.

"After she died, my grandmother and aunts expanded on my religion. My grandmother was a convert and was very faithful to the Catholic Church," he said.

He brought his faith with him as he entered Gannon University in Erie, Penn., a Catholic college. His mother's dedication to Mary helped him through his four years. "I was particularly close to the Blessed Mother when I went to college and prayed daily to her," he said. "I began to open my mind and let her (Mary) into my heart. I attended Mass daily in the latter part of my college years and spent a lot of time reflecting on my faith."

When not in class, McMahon's part-time work paid his college tuition and room and board until he earned his bachelor of arts degree in business administration in 1958. Two months after graduation, he entered the Army and was shipped to San Antonio. Some of the dust on his path in life did not settle until he became aware of one the reasons for his time in the Texas town — Annette.

She was studying to be a nurse, and the young couple met on a blind date. After several dates, it did not take long for the couple to fall in love. They married in 1961, and Mrs. McMahon converted to her husband's faith after the birth of the first of their eight children. After working for a phone company for eight years, they moved to Connecticut where McMahon accepted a management position with a correspondence school. He later became a city manager, working with financial affairs and personnel after moving to Florida in 1972.

He viewed this new endeavor as an opportunity to spread his faith and his love of Christ. It also served as a way for him to polish his teaching skills because he had begun teaching faith formation immediately after college. "I looked at it (his job as a city manager) as more of a ministry rather than a career. I felt strongly that my main responsibility was to care for and help people," he said. "I wanted people to feel free and open to discuss things with me."

After a year, he moved to Pennsylvania to take care of his sick aunt who had raised him after his mother had died. In 1976, he was hired as the city manager of Maitland, Fla.

During his years in the Sunshine State, he became acquainted with a couple of deacons who were influential in his life. The first stirrings of ordained ministry began to manifest themselves in his mind. Unfortunately, while his spirit was developing through eucharistic ministry and teaching faith formation, his body and mind began to fail him. A couple of strokes left his hands slightly weak and affected his memory, but he kept pushing forward. "It had to do with the intensity of the job," he said. "I realized that I should be in a less stressful job in the same career."



Rev. Mr. and Mrs. George McMahon

After he heard about another opening for city manager, the family moved to Beach Mountain, N.C., near Boone, in 1985. While in the mountainous territory, he applied for the diocesan permanent diaconate program and was accepted; he was ordained in June 1989.

"My formation classes were really great. The drive down to Belmont for classes through the Blue Ridge Mountains was beautiful," he said. "My wife went down to some of the classes with me, and she was very supportive."

After a few years, he wanted to return to a warmer climate. They moved back to Florida in 1990, where he accepted a county management position in Wachula in Hardee County, Fla. He was assigned to a mission church and worked with immigrant workers, faith formation and sick and shut-in ministry. Not satisfied with county government, he accepted a job as a city manager in 1992 in Edgewater, Fla., on the coast.

In 1997, he went to New Hampshire to be near his sister who had cancer and his son and daughter-in-law, who had been named deputy ambassador to Canada. While there, he had several cardiac operations and decided it was time to retire. They wanted to be close to their children who were living in North Carolina. So, the couple moved back in 1999, and he was assigned to St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton.

"I often think of myself as a nomad because I've traveled a lot, but it was always for work or family. During those years, I feel like I had an impact on my employees' lives," said Rev. Mr. McMahon. "For each place I've moved, I've learned more about God and a different dimension of my faith."

Rev. Mr. McMahon credits his wife with keeping him on track during all of their wanderings throughout the country. He says that since retirement, he has time to "do all of the things God wants him to do" — spending more time with his faith, family and his ministries, which include prison, mentally challenged and LANDINGS.

"My wife has drawn me closer to my faith with the love we have for each other and for God," said the grandfather of nine. "My wife has been very much a part of the diaconate and has given me support throughout our lives together."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

March 8, 2002
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"According to our Law we cannot condemn a man before hearing him and finding out what he has done."
— John 7:51

# Fire scorches church, not the parish

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

NEWTON — Flames were spouting into the early morning air before anyone knew what was happening.

"I was awakened by a parishioner who said the church was burning," said Father James Collins, pastor of St. Joseph Church. "I looked out my window and saw all the fire trucks."

The Newton Fire Department received the call approximately 5:30 a.m. Feb. 28. A Newton Police Department car happened to be on patrol near the church when the fire was spotted. The fire was contained within 30 minutes, according to the fire department.

"I couldn't believe it, seeing the flames coming out of the roof," said Bob Draher, maintenance supervisor at St. Joseph.

Kris Mulligan, music director at St. Joseph, received news of the fire via a phone call from another parishioner at 6:45 a.m. "I didn't know what to think on the way over here," she said. "The church was still smoking at 7:10 when I arrived."

"I thank the Newton Fire and Police departments for their quick response time," said Father Collins. "Their response time helped save the church. I just thank God it (the fire) didn't go into the main sanctuary."

The fire began and was contained in the church's chapel, where the majority of the structural, mechanical and electrical damage occurred. A candle that had been left burning caused the blaze, according to the fire report.

The sanctuary received mostly smoke damage, said Rev. Mr. Guy Piche, properties director for the diocese.

"The damage is quite extensive, and will require a bit of work," said Jason Jack, manager of Servpro of Hickory, which will be coordinating repair efforts with Walker Construction Company. Both companies have already begun an investigation into the extent of the damage and will start preliminary planning of construction within the week.

That construction, which may last two to three months, will include rebuilding the chapel, as well as "remodeling" and "reconditioning" the entire church, said Jack. Pews, ceilings, offices and more will need to be thoroughly cleaned, if not replaced.

"It will all be as good as it was the day before it (the fire) happened," said Jack.

Masses will continue as scheduled, but will be held in Holy Family Hall until use of the sanctuary is approved.

"We definitely look forward to rebuilding," said Joe Lichtenwalner, pastoral council president at St. Joseph.



Photo by Kevin E. Murray

**Parishioners of St. Joseph Church in Newton survey the damage hours after the church's chapel was consumed by fire.**

"I think it's a great opportunity to bring the community together," said Mulligan. "People have been pouring in and offering help."

Several pastors from other denominational churches, as well as two area funeral homes, have all offered their assistance and use of their facilities for Mass, said Father Collins.

"The community really comes together when things happen like this," he said.

In the end, Father Collins and other parishioners were just relieved no one was injured in the fire.

"It could have been a lot worse," said Lichtenwalner.

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334, or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

# Haven for homeless women and children

BY MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

BELMONT — Catherine's House ministry is one of dedication and commitment in response to the needs of homeless women and their children. It provides a non-threatening, safe and comfortable environment that acknowledges and fosters respect for individual differences.

Catherine's House sits in the midst of the former Sacred Heart College campus in a building that once housed the college's music department. Today, the small music rooms provide shelter and comfort for up to 40 homeless women and their children who come from North and South Carolina.

Most residents, who come from all walks of life and represent all nationalities, are referred by agency and/or individuals, but some call or knock on the door asking for assistance.

Founded in 1992 by the Sisters of Mercy, Catherine's House continues the work of Sisters of Mercy founder Catherine McAuley of Dublin, Ireland, who had a great passion for helping poor women and children.

Today, Catherine's House flourishes under the guidance of Mercy Sister Bernadette McNamara, who became president and CEO of Catherine's House Inc. in August 2001. She was previously parish administrator at St. Joseph of the Hills Church in Eden.

See CATHERINE'S HOUSE, page 14

### Sainthood cause opened for Virginia seminarian who died in 1920

RICHMOND, Va. (CNS) — With the approval of the Holy See, the Diocese of Richmond formally has opened the cause for possible canonization of a former diocesan seminarian who died in 1920 at age 22 while enrolled at the North American College in Rome for theology studies. Richmond Bishop Walter F. Sullivan, after consultation with other bishops of the Baltimore province, has signed a decree that declares Francis Joseph Parater III "a servant of God" and establishes a tribunal "to examine the reputation for sanctity and heroic virtues of Servant of God Frank Parater, seminarian." The decree, dated Jan. 24, also is signed by Anne C. Edwards, chancellor of the diocese.

### Catholic social ministers urged to get behind faith-based legislation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jim Towey, the Catholic who now heads the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, asked Catholic social ministry leaders to lend their support to passage of legislation supporting greater federal support for faith-based organizations that are trying to solve social needs and ills. "Government cannot love. It's hard for government to be neighbor," Towey said. "But government can work in partnership" with faith-based groups, he added. "We can remove the real-world barriers." Towey spoke during a general session on the final day of the Feb. 24-27 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington.

### Panel highlights religious differences on status of human embryo

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Even when they read the same sacred texts, scholars of bioethics reach different conclusions about the moral status of the human embryo, as evidenced by a Feb. 27 panel discussion on the topic. The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life brought together four bioethicists — a Catholic, a Jew and two Protestants — for the panel discussion at the National Press Club in Washington. The sharpest contrasts came in the views of Jesuit Father Kevin FitzGerald, chairman of Catholic health care ethics at the Center for Clinical Bioethics and research associate professor at the Georgetown University Medical Center, and Laurie Zoloth, director of Jewish studies and associate professor at San Francisco State University. "There isn't going to be some wonderful consensus to which we all ascribe on the status of the human embryo," Father FitzGerald said.



CNS PHOTO FROM CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

**Life through the eyes of Afghan refugee children**

**An Afghan child drew this picture of a refugee's journey through the mountains of Afghanistan. It is one of 28 drawings by children from the Shamshatoo refugee camp in Pakistan on displayed at the Capital Children's Museum in Washington through June. Catholic Relief Services workers who assist in running the camp collected the children's scenes.**

### At United Nations, Vatican calls for world-wide ban on human cloning

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — In a speech to a U.N. committee, a Vatican representative called for a worldwide ban on all human cloning, whether carried out for human reproduction or therapeutic purposes. Human cloning violates the right to life and the status of the human embryo as a free individual, Archbishop Renato R. Martino said Feb. 26 at U.N. headquarters in New York. "The Holy See firmly supports a worldwide and comprehensive ban on human cloning, no matter what techniques are used and what aims are pursued," he said. "Its position is based on biological analysis of the cloning process and anthropological, social, ethical and legal reflection on the negative implications that human cloning has on the life, dignity and rights of the human being," he said.

### Panelists assess what changed after 9-11 and what it means for church

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Everything did not change, but just about everything was touched" by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, said panelist Robert Royal in a 90-minute session with about 500 U.S. Catholic social ministry leaders on challenges facing the church and world after Sept. 11. One question panelists discussed was the status of pacifism after the terrorist attacks and whether nonviolence was a public-policy option. Royal, head of the Faith & Reason Institute in Washington, was one of three panelists addressing the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering at a plenary session on the final day of the group's Feb. 24-27 meeting in Washington.

### Diocesan mission helps Dominican village to finally get water

EL CERCADO, Dominican Republic (CNS) — For years, when Father Andrew Connolly brought visitors to Abra de las Yayas, the farthest and most remote community in the sprawling parish of St. Peter the Apostle in El Cercado, he would tell them about the long struggle to bring water to the community. The Dominican government once considered drilling a well, he would tell them, but the effort died when they realized a road first would have to be built to bring the well-drilling truck over the mountain. Today Msgr. John Cervini — former pastor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church in Wyandanch, N.Y., who is now serving with Father Connolly at the mission sponsored by the Diocese of Rockville Centre — is still bringing the visitors to las Yayas. The difference, however, is that now there is water, which he credits to the vision of Father Connolly and the tireless work of Peace Corps volunteer Tremie Gregory.

### Jesuit magazine says Harry Potter's power is in getting kids to read

ROME (CNS) — The most important power connected with the Harry Potter books is their power to get children to read, said an influential Italian Jesuit magazine. La Civilta Cattolica, a magazine reviewed by the Vatican Secretariat of State before publication, presented what it described as a calm reflection on "the Harry Potter phenomenon" in its early-March edition. The magazine said the only remotely troubling thing about the books is that, unlike most magical children's literature, Harry Potter's magic is being exercised in the real world of modern-day England. The possibility of confusion for young readers should not be "undervalued, nor blown out of proportion," the magazine said. A bit of parental guidance should be enough to let children know that Harry Potter's magic is fictitious, it said.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**March 17 — 10:30 a.m.**
Mass and groundbreaking for new church
St. Francis, Mocksville

**March 21 — Noon Mass**
St. Benedict's Day
Belmont Abbey Basilica, Belmont

**March 23 — 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**
Day of prayer and spiritual renewal for diocesan catechists
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

**March 24 — Palm Sunday**
11 a.m. Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**March 26 — 11 a.m.**
Chrism Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

## Diocesan planner

**March**

**13** GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will be having its annual mini-Lenten retreat at the Franciscan Center, 233 North Greene St., at the 12:10 p.m. Masses continuing this afternoon and concluding March 20 with coffee and refreshments. Call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022 for more information.

**15** LEXINGTON — Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 619 S. Main St., will be celebrating the following Lenten events: a fish fry with Cole slaw, beans, bread and beverages from 5-8 p.m. tonight; March 16 - 5 p.m. Mass and liturgy of the anointing; March 18 - penance service at 7 p.m.; and throughout Lent, soup and sandwich beginning at 5:45 p.m. every Friday followed by video, discussion, prayers, Stations of the Cross and Benediction. For further details, call the church office at (336) 248-2463.

**16** CHARLOTTE — The 6th Annual Guinness St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival will take place today from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the First Union Atrium and Plaza on Tryon St. between 2nd and 3rd Sts. Featured will be the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Charlotte Division, with a booth in the First Union Atrium; Celtic arts and crafts; the Rince Na h'Eireann and Walsh Kelley Irish Dancers; bagpipers; and other guests and events. For further information about the parade and festival, call Linda Dyer-Hart at (704) 542-6846. For LAOH membership information, contact Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 or visit http://laoh-charlotte.catholicweb.com.

**16** GASTONIA — The Knights of Columbus St. Gregory Council No. 6700 will hold a dinner and dance for charitable K of C-sponsored projects tonight at the St. Michael Church parish center, 708 St. Michael Lane. The night will feature a traditional dinner of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, soda and rye bread, Irish coffee and Irish tea at 6:30 p.m.; dancing with live music from 7:30-11:30 p.m.; and an Irish

### Pope asks Catholic communicators to ensure church's voice in media

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II asked Catholic communications professionals to make sure the Gospel and the church's voice are not sidelined in modern media. Speaking March 1 to participants in a plenary meeting of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, he called engagement with the world of media "a vital part" of today's church efforts to preach the message of Christ. "The special challenge before you is to find ways to ensure that the voice of the church is not marginalized or silenced in the modern arena of the media. You have a role to play in ensuring that the Gospel is not confined to a strictly private world," the pope said.

### Huge demand for first-ever Vatican euro coins surprises collectors

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Longtime collectors of Vatican coins were treated to an unusual and unwelcome sight March 1 when they arrived at the Vatican to pick up a mint set of the first-ever Vatican euro coins. People began lining up at the Vatican entrance near the Paul VI Audience Hall at 5 a.m., police said. In fact, there were lines at every Vatican entrance before Swiss Guards and gendarmes, assisted by Italian police, managed to get one orderly line formed. By noon, at least 300 people were waiting in line.

### Enron collapse has Catholic business community talking about ethics

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — The collapse of Enron has sparked a lively debate among members of Catholic business ethics organizations, according to Brian Von Gruben, a retired New Orleans businessman and regional director for Legatus. "It is not just something that happened in Houston, but it affects lives everywhere and the whole credibility of business takes a blow — the ripple effect through society is really pretty enormous," he told The Florida Catholic diocesan newspaper. "Those decisions made by just a few people in a business meeting really do matter, and if (our decisions) can hurt people they can also help people, and that is why it is important to bring your Catholic values into your business meetings," he added. Legatus, which is based in Michigan, encourages Catholic CEOs to study, live and spread the faith in their business, professional and personal lives. Von Gruben said there is no question the Enron collapse is a good example of the need for good ethics among business people at the highest level.




CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Abortion posters hung in Dublin**

**Posters advocating positions for the March 6 abortion referendum in Ireland are displayed near a statue of the Sacred Heart in Dublin March 3. The referendum generally seeks to continue the ban on abortions but the language is complex enough to confuse a majority of voters.**

### Prayer card released by USCCB's publishing arm a best-seller

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' publishing arm, in an announcement about its best-sellers for 2001, said its "Prayer for Peace" prayer card was its No. 1 seller. About the size of a postcard, it features four different artistic renderings of the Blessed Virgin Mary in color on one side and Pope John Paul II's "Prayer for Peace to Mary, the Light of Hope" on the other. Issued Dec. 7, it sold 765,600 copies in the final weeks of 2001. The No. 2 best seller was the book, "Celebrate Christ's Coming: Advent 2001," which sold 340,578 copies. Additionally, the Spanish-language edition of the book sold 78,832 copies, making it ninth on the best-seller list.

### Knights' information service expands to the Internet

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — More than two dozen booklets on different aspects of the Catholic faith and a Catholic home-study course are now available on the Knights of Columbus Web site at www.kofc.org. The booklets and course are offered by the Knights' Catholic Information Service, which since its founding in 1948 has sought to reach as many people as possible with the church's message. "The Web effort is part of the Knights' response to Pope John Paul II's call for a new evangelization, using modern means of communication to spread the church's message," said Carl A. Anderson, supreme knight.

### Assisi aftermath: Pope asks world leaders to promote dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Saying humanity must choose between love and hatred, Pope John Paul II asked political leaders of every country in the world to promote dialogue, forgiveness and concord. The pope made his request in a letter marking one month after a Jan. 24 day of prayer for peace in Assisi, Italy, attended by 200 representatives of a dozen religions. Along with the letter, the pope sent world leaders the religious gathering's "decalogue" commitment for peace, saying he was "convinced that these 10 propositions can inspire your government's political and social action." The letter was released March 4 at the Vatican.

### French church leaders criticize treatment of refugees, asylum seekers

OXFORD, England (CNS) — French church leaders have criticized their country's "lamentable" treatment of refugees and asylum-seekers. "In our society, the poor par excellence are the asylum-seekers, those whose lives are destroyed by misery, violence and uncertainty," said three bishops' conference commissions in a joint declaration. The bishops said the complicated nature of French immigration procedures violated asylum-seekers' rights guaranteed in the Geneva Convention. The late-February statement said hopes of better protection for asylum-seekers under a 1998 law had been "quickly disappointed" and described current asylum conditions as "lamentable."

dancing performance from 7:30-8 p.m. For reservations, call Gene Courtemanche at (704) 435-4845 or Pat Watts at (704) 861-9466.

**20** HAMLET — A series of presentations; sponsored by CSS Elder Ministry and facilitated by Richard Von Stamwitz, a national certified gerontological counselor; will continue throughout the diocese. Today's presentation will be given at St. James Church, 1018 Hamlet Ave., from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with lunch at noon. Session I will concern the experience of aging in our culture and the message of faith, and session II will concern vocation and ministry in later years. For March 15 pre-registration and other information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Marlo Wallace at (704) 370-3228.

**21** CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church Respect Life Ministry will be sponsoring pro-life educational programs. Father Matthew Kauth will be the speaker for the series, which will focus on the following topics on the following dates from 7-9 p.m.: "The Nature of Biology, Freedom and the Human Person" - tonight, "Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research" - April 16, "The Ethical Aspects of Human Cloning" - May 2 and "End of Life Issues" - May 31. For more information, call Pat Rodite at (704) 541-9744.

**22** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Men's Club will hold its world famous fish fry this evening from 5-7 p.m. in the St. Gabriel School cafeteria, 3016 Providence Rd. Menu includes fried and baked fish, clam chowder, Cole slaw, French fries, hush puppies, dessert and beverages. For details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

**22** HICKORY — Engaged Encounter is for couples planning marriage, who desire a richer, fuller life together. Although the encounter weekend is Catholic in origin and orientation, it is open to couples of any faith. Couples are encouraged to attend the weekend three to six months prior to their wedding date. Engaged couples may take part in one of several Engaged Encounter weekends, which will take place at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane: today through Mar. 24, April 5-7, May 10-12, Aug. 23-25, Sept. 20-22 and Oct. 25-27. For registration and other information, call Carl Whitesel at (704) 987-9420 or (888) 310-9040 or e-mail eeregistration@yahoo.com.

**22** SWANANNOA — The Lenten and Easter week schedules for St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, will be as follows: penance service tonight at 7 p.m.; palms at all Masses on March 24; seder meal at 6 p.m. on March 25 with covered dish meal; 7 p.m. Mass on March 28 with washing of the feet followed with eucharistic adoration from 8 p.m.-midnight; Stations of the Cross on March 29 at noon for youth and teens and Mass at 3 p.m. with veneration of the cross and presentation of the heart of the cross at 7 p.m.; blessing of food baskets at 10 a.m. and Easter vigil Mass at 8 p.m. on March 30; and Easter day Masses at 8:30 and 11 a.m. on March 31. For more information, call the church office at (828) 686-8833.

**23** CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., for its 3rd Annual Women's Day, today from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Mercy Sister Helen Burns will speak on the topic, "Check Your Baggage." The day of prayer and reflection is dedicated to Mary, the mother of God. Mass is at 8 a.m. in the sanctuary with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. in the parish center. For registration and other information, call Kathy Murray at (704) 849-0398.

**23** SALISBURY — A diocesan School of Leaders will be held at Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., this morning at 9 a.m. For further details, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665.

**24** CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., will be having its Christian Coffeehouse tonight from 7:30-9 p.m. following 6 p.m. Mass. Through food, fellowship and Christian music from Kathy and David with Redeemed, participants can join in the spiritual celebration. For reservations of a table of six or more and sponsorship opportunities, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 614-9100.

# Deacons and wives celebrate faith together

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin presided over the deacons' annual recommitment Mass at St. Gabriel Church March 2. Attending the celebration were 40 deacons and their wives from the Diocese of Charlotte.

Reflecting on the spiritual life of a deacon, Bishop Curlin said, "God put his word in our hands. When you realize your life involves performing God's work in this world, then everything changes. When people see you, do they feel Jesus in their presence? Jesus must be the focus of your lives. Be what you claim to be. I challenge you to be Christ."

In his homily, Bishop Curlin emphasized that deacons must care for themselves, know their ministry and proclaim their spirituality.

"You owe it to your wives, your children, the church and the deaconate," said Bishop Curlin, referring to the importance of being healthy.

Second, a deacon must know his work and "...pray the liturgy and proclaim the word with passion," said Bishop Curlin. "Bring your heart and love of Jesus to the way you stand, genuflect, and hold your hands."

Recognizing the support of a deacon's wife, Bishop Curlin added a bit of humor saying to the wives, "If your husband doesn't put you first in his life, you call me." He emphasized, "Wives keep the heart of Christ alive in their husbands. You are the heart of your husbands' ministries."

Deacons had the opportunity to mingle before the Mass and at a luncheon served in the St. Gabriel School cafeteria following the ceremony. They shared the tremendous spiritual changes that have taken place in their faith, lives and relationships with their wives. They cherished the knowledge gained through the years of preparation and the influence of the sacrament in their daily lives.



Photo by Mary Marshall

**Deacons pose with Bishop Curlin at the deacons' annual recommitment Mass at St. Gabriel Church March 2. From left are Rev. Mr. David King, Rev. Mr. Tim Rohan, Bishop William G. Curlin, Rev. Mr. Vincent Shaw and Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning.**

"Being a deacon has strengthened my faith tremendously," said Rev. Mr. Dan Carl from St. James Church in Concord. Rev. Mr. Carl has served as a deacon for 14 years and is director of the homeless shelter in Concord.

"We're seeing a whole new spectrum of people who are in need," he said. "My wife, Donna, and I jointly agree that our diaconal presence is prime in addressing these problems."

Donna Carl added, "Our prayer life has been strengthened through his work as a deacon; we are very supportive of each other."

Rev. Mr. Rafael Torres has served as a deacon at the Hispanic Catholic Center in Charlotte for six years. "Being a deacon has had a beautiful effect on my life," he said. "As I work among the Hispanics, I see their many needs. My goal is to set a positive example for them. Many males aspire to become deacons because of the relationships I have developed with them."

Rev. Mr. Torres said his wife and he understand each other better both spiritually and as human beings as a result of the spirituality that came from being a deacon. "I relate better with my children and grandchildren," he added.

Rev. Mr. Tim Rohan believes his faith grows daily as a result of being a deacon. As a retiree, he is able to devote much of his time to his parish, Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro, where he finds his ministry brings fullness to his life.

Rev. Mr. Rohan's wife, Eileen, said, "Together we share God's ministry as I draw closer to God through his works. We now pray together whereas previously we prayed separately. Through our prayer support, we set an example for our children."

Rev. Mr. Vincent Shaw, who has served at St. Mary Church in Greensboro for 13 years, said his faith has filled his life with appreciation. "The relationship between my wife, Catherine, and I has expanded through my work as a deacon," he said. "We feel the presence of God is very apparent in our marriage as is his ability to keep us together and on a straight path."

Rev. Mr. Andy Cilone of Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City was a member of the diocese's first deaconate class 18 years ago. As a cantor, Rev. Mr. Cilone continues to grow in faith as he shares his talents with other parish members.

"You minister to others, and they in turn minister to you, which increases your own spirituality," he said. "Through family life worshiping together, we have grown spiritually and have a greater spiritual involvement with others. We've had two daughters-in-law convert to the Catholic faith and have five children, who are all active in the church."

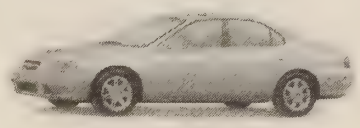

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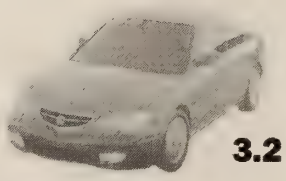
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# Case for the imperfect saint heard in Triad

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — Dr. Murray Arndt, Ph.D., professor emeritus from University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), presented "The Case for the Imperfect Saint" to a standing-room-only crowd of various Christian faiths at the Franciscan Center Feb. 26.

"What is true about human beings who work so tirelessly to make beautiful things is that they fail," said Arndt. "Why? They are not God. Yet, the energy of those who fail becomes a lens by which we can view the nature of spiritual life."

The greatest resources of humankind are weakness, imperfection and sinfulness, said Arndt. "At the same time, those who strive for perfection are doomed to failure as the journey of holiness is from and through imperfection," he said.

Using Job as the perfect example, Arndt showed that we relate best to God in moments of greatest weakness. Only after being brought to his knees did Job truly see God for the first time, and he was overwhelmed by divine power, said Arndt. Only then did Job recant, surrender and become justified.

Referring to the life and words of Jesus, Arndt said, "Those who are whole do not need a physician...only the sick do." Arndt stated that Jesus' power extended to the weak, the poor, the hungry, the blind and the sinful. "It was the imperfect that he loved," said Arndt. This is well pronounced in the Sermon on the Mount.

"Even St. Paul writes that God chose the foolish to confound the wise. And that he gloried in his weakness," said Arndt.

Applying this to the spiritual life, Arndt contrasted the prayer of the lowly publican with that of the Pharisee. "Prayer must begin low, and the one who prayers must look up," said Arndt. "Rather than just a laundry list of things, prayer of petition is the absolute admission of need and total surrender of control. Prayer thus becomes a simple, critical declaration that 'Thine is the Kingdom'; a fact that is readily acknowledged by both poets and children."

Arndt encouraged his listeners "to assign a value to brokenness that allows us to become whole by understanding that God is love. He loves us even in our sinfulness."

Through the healing process we receive from God "comes a revitalization of prayer life for those things we really need — hope, outrage against injustices and forgiveness for ourselves and for others," said Arndt, "a life through which we are grateful to the divine lover as we realize we are undeserving of divine love."

Through acknowledgement and surrender to God's will, "we can bring empathy to the pitiable, the drunks, the homeless, not because of supreme pity but because they are us, and we are them," said Arndt.

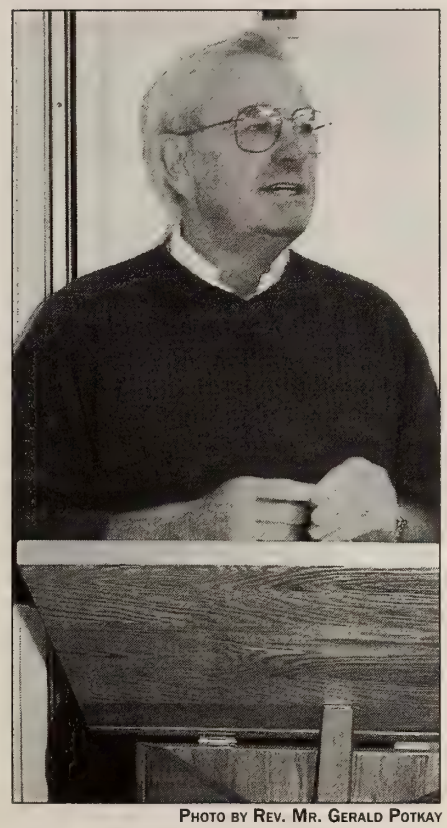


Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**Dr. Murray Arndt, professor emeritus from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, presenting "The Case for the Imperfect Saint" at the Franciscan Center Feb. 26.**

"Following the example of the Olympians," Arndt concluded, "we must live on the edge through despair, boredom and hunger, aware that we have the courage to leap into the arms of God who loves us."

Two members of the Our Father Lutheran Church, Nancy Southern and Judy Joiner, both found the presentation interesting and enjoyable.

"Now I realize that all are given thorns to strengthen us," said Southern.

"I too can see that weaknesses become the turning point towards strength," added Joiner.

Carol Leach, a parishioner at Holy Infant Catholic Church in Reidsville, felt that the presentation was profound and very well presented. "I was most affected by the way Dr. Arndt explained the 'empathy' we feel for others who are weak is because 'we are them,'" she said. "His words were very much alive in truth."

Born in Milwaukee, Wis., Arndt holds a bachelor's degree from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and a doctorate in American literature and poetry from North Carolina's Duke University.

Arndt has received the coveted award for excellence in teaching from UNCG, where he taught English. Since retiring, Arndt lectures and co-authoring "Homiletics for Lent," which is being published by Paulist Press.

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

# Oratorian priest in South Carolina charged with sexual misconduct

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Father Juan Carlos Castano, a suspended Oratorian priest was arrested March 5, charged with forcible fondling/lewd act upon a minor. If convicted, the 44 year-old priest faces a sentence of up to 10 years in prison.

"We are following the established policy of the Diocese of Charleston (concerning reported child sexual abuse)," said Oratorian Father Joseph Wahl. Father Castano, a native of Colombia, South America, was removed from ministry prior to the arrest.

In a statement read to parishioners March 3, Father Wahl said, "This is a very painful thing for all of us in the Rock Hill, York and Lancaster Catholic communities. In this type of situation, there is always a chance that there may be other victims. Want you to know that we are here for you." The Diocese of Charleston made the services of a victim assistance minister available for the parishes in the area.

Father Castano arrived at the Oratory in 1999, said John Carroll, a spokesperson for the Diocese of Charleston. "At that time, all his records and transcripts were in order, and (came) with the recommendation that he was in good standing in South America."

"Father Castano was given visiting status for a period of three years. That hadn't expired when the allegations surfaced," said Carroll.

The Oratorian priest visited Room At The Inn in Charlotte on four occasions to celebrate Mass in Spanish and to assist in ministering to two Hispanic adult, female clients, said Cindy Brown, executive director of Room At The Inn. "Room At The Inn had no knowledge of the allegations against Father Castano nor have any allegations of misconduct on the part of Father Castano been made by Room At The Inn clients," said Brown. "We are greatly saddened by this situation and offer our prayers for the alleged victim and family, for the accused, and for our Catholic community," said Brown.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, the policy concerning ministry-related sexual misconduct by church personnel is constantly re-examined. "Our diocesan policy mandates, that if an allegation of sexual abuse is made against a priest, he will be immediately removed from his ministry and given intensive examination and testing to determine his culpability," said Bishop William G. Curlin, bishop of the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte. "We follow the mandates of the Gospel and the norms of church and civil law."

"If found guilty of child abuse, the priest will be expelled from priestly ministry and never again allowed to exercise it. The diocese will always work in full cooperation with civil authorities in a case of child sexual abuse," said Bishop Curlin.

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org*


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# OLR parishioner recognized for dedication, spirit

By WILLARD ROBINSON
Special to The Catholic News & Herald

LEXINGTON — With book and quill in hand, a statue of St. Francis de Sales faced the congregation of Our Lady of the Rosary Church as the members of the parish congratulated Kathy Noor as the recipient of the parish's 2002 Salesian Award. Noor was voted most deserving because she depicts the "spirit" of St. Francis de Sales, 16th and 17th-century priest and patron saint of authors and journalists.

Oblate Father Albert Gondek, pastor, presented the award at Mass Jan. 20. As a parish morale booster and in the spirit of true dedication to the Triad parish, Father Gondek created the idea of the annual award several years ago. Every year, the presentation of the award coincides with St. Francis de Sales' feast day on Jan. 24.

"Kathy is a virtuous, passionate and loving woman who has endured a lot of pain with one of her three sons passing away and her being involved recently in a serious car accident," said Father Gondek. "We appreciate her kindness, gentleness and quiet patience because that is what St. Francis de Sales was noted for."



Kathy Noor

# Romania's plight featured at World Day of Prayer

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

HICKORY — When members of the local branch of Church Women United (CWU) found out that Romanian women would write the 2002 World Day of Prayer service, they knew they had a unique opportunity.

Hickory is the headquarters for the Little Samaritan Mission (LSM), a nonprofit Christian organization that works to help people in the Republic of Moldova, a country that was part of Romania until it declared its independence in 1991. Hickory also has Romanian churches, and members of the Romanian Baptist Church agreed to help with the service.

It all came together at St. Luke's United Methodist Church on the evening of March 1. Women from the Romanian Baptist Church brought food native to their country for the reception. Daniel Blaj, also from Romanian Baptist, led the singing during the service, and his niece, Maria Simonca, who graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne College and works with LSM, spoke on the theme for the service, "Challenged to Reconcile."

During the service, attended by more than 120 people, CWU members spoke as the voices of Romania, telling about the political, economic, social and moral struggles of the citizens as they try to reconcile three different ethnic groups. The Romanian, German and Hungarian languages are all spoken in the country. The economy has collapsed, and many families face poverty and unemployment. The text of the service called for the churches of the country to help bring renewal to society.

"The need for reconciliation with God is greater than before," said Simonca during her talk. "All other reconciliations stem from this one. Reconciliation with God gives us the love and understanding to accept persons of other races and backgrounds.

"The quiet voice of the Holy Spirit reminds us that these people were also created by God," she said.

Simonca, who was born in Romania and immigrated with her family to the United States in 1985, also talked about LSM and the work that its volunteers were doing to assist the people of Moldova. The organization currently operates 14 Christian radio stations in the country, and the broadcasts also reach parts of Romania and Ukraine. It assists the state-run orphanages of Moldova, providing clothing, medicine, food and coal, and operates the LSM Children's Home, which provides a Christian environment for about 40 children in the country.

Some of the children from this home are sent to live with families in the United States for two months to a year to give them the opportunity to study here.

LSM also sponsors a medical clinic in Moldova and finds doctors, nurses and dentists in the United States to travel there and volunteer at the clinic for one to three weeks at a time. The organization operates soup kitchens for the elderly and helps to provide medicine for the hospitals and social service agencies in the country.



Photo by Ellen N. Sigmon

**Maria Simonca of the Romanian Baptist Church spoke of her native Romania and the "Challenged to Reconcile" theme of the World Day of Prayer service at St. Luke's United Methodist Church March 1.**

Participants in the service heard a doxology from the Romanian Orthodox liturgy entitled "Holy and Almighty God" with verses sung in Romanian, German, and English. Daniel Blaj sung the German verse, and Rick Setzer of New Hope Baptist Church sung the Romanian part. Setzer said he had traveled to Romania five times and that the language had been easy for him to learn because of its similarities to Italian, which he knew from his studies in music.

Later in the service, Blaj and Setzer sang the hymn "Amazing Grace" together, and Blaj sang the Lord's Prayer. Blaj's wife, Mielutsa Blaj, played the piano at the service.

Carole Marmorato, a member of St. Aloysius Catholic Church, serves as chair of the planning committee for the local CWU branch, and organizes the World Day of Prayer services in March and the World Community Day services in November of each year.

CWU is a women's ecumenical movement that works to bring about peace and justice. More than 15 churches participate in CWU in the Hickory area.

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# Friends, co-workers remember woman of faith and love

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Father Michael Clay, celebrant and homilist at Joanna Ninteman Case's memorial service in January 2002, stood in front of over 400 people from all parts of the country and told the story of his last encounter with Case, a longtime friend and co-worker. The wife of 34 years, mother of three and grandmother of two had finally come to the end of her battle with cancer and wanted her memorial service to be a "homegoing," a celebration of her life with personally selected liturgy and tributes from people who had touched her life. She had specifically planned her service and lightheartedly demanded that it unfold as scheduled. That is the woman with whom most had been familiar — a planner, a doer, a woman of action.

Father Clay, director of vocations for the Diocese of Raleigh, told the story of how he sat with Case for the last time before she succumbed to cancer the day after Christmas in 2001. They both knew that she was not going to be with her family and friends for much longer. As he talked to her, making final preparations for her memorial service and thinking about her last Christmas season, he wept. She wiped his eyes and made the sign of the cross on her forehead and his and said, "this is holy water."

"Even in the midst of her pain, her sense of faith was so strong, and her abiding belief in the power of symbols did not wane," said Father Clay.

They met several years ago through their work with the Washington, D.C.-based North American Forum on the Catechumenate (the Forum), and they became fast friends while traveling through rural areas of the country accomplishing the main goal of the Forum — instructing parish catechetical leaders and teachers about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) through information sessions. It was one of Case's passions to ensure that people nationwide, especially in small towns, were informed about how to bring new candidates into the Catholic Church in a culturally diverse and sensitive manner.



Joanna Ninteman Case

She worked tirelessly, even in the midst of her illness, traveling to different places as a coordinator and team member. She also served as a Forum board member, helping to map out a strategy for teachers to impart on adults wishing to become Catholic.

Being a cradle Catholic from California via Massachusetts, she had always had a connection to God through her faith and wished to share that with others through ministry. Teaching was her first love, and after a few years of public school work, she gravitated toward Catholic education and found her niche. She taught for three years in Catholic schools in Houston, Texas, and moved to Charlotte, where she taught religion at Charlotte Catholic High School (CCHS) for 20 years. Case was also the director of RCIA at St. Patrick Cathedral for many years.

Director of Religious Education Connie Milligan, from St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte, was asked to speak at Case's memorial service. She first became acquainted with her longtime friend when Case was teaching at CCHS. She remembers a woman who was knowledgeable and intelligent, and she became closer to Case through their affiliation with the Loyola Institute of Ministry Extension program (LIMEX), an extension learning and small group sharing program for those who wish to earn a master's degree or certificate in religious education or pastoral studies from Loyola University of New Orleans. Case played a large role in bringing the ministry program to the diocese and served as the diocesan LIMEX liaison after earning her master's degree in religious education from the program.

"She was the most fair person I have ever known and would accept anyone for who they were and would call them to be all they could be," said Milligan, who was also a member of their weekly Bible study group. "She was a close friend of mine, and I could share with her very honestly. The presence of God in her life was very real, and she was a wonderful inspiration for all of us."

Her educational and catechetical work in Charlotte and her serving as the diocesan RCIA Commission co-chair came to the attention of the Forum. She was asked to become involved on a national level, and like other things in her life, she dedicated herself wholeheartedly to the Forum's mission.

"Joanna was the coordinator at many institutes and was also a team member. She was very concerned about initiation in a rural context. She helped to implement RCIA in parishes where there was no program before," said Sheila O'Dea, associate director of the Forum. "She was a woman of tremendous passion and very deep faith. She was a skilled catechist, which was evident in her work with us."

After her retirement from teaching, a lump in her neck sent her to the doctor where Case was diagnosed with a form of lymphoma over four years ago. She was knocked off of course but did not falter; she did not slow down. Her prayer life took over, and she pressed forward.

"For Joanna, the paschal mystery of our Lord's dying and rising was central. It was what she lived for, in and through. She talked about this great mystery with feeling and sometimes with humor," said Jim Schellman, executive director of the Forum. "Asked by a good friend in her final month about the paschal mystery, she responded, 'It keeps on getting more mysterious' — not for Joanna, sentimentality, or as she called it, 'mushiness.'"

Her family and friends rallied around her in her last few months, and she made her final preparations for a memorial service where she wanted the liturgy and the Eucharist to be the focus. She had chosen the speakers for her memorial from all areas of her life to share their stories with those who had traveled, some from great distances, to St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte during the busy holiday season. Bishop William G. Curlin, presider at the memorial service, expressed his gratitude for Case's devotion and her generous use of her talent in various ministries in the diocese.

"It (listening to the speakers) was like looking at a diamond from different facets which all fit together, but everyone had a unique experience. That was so typically Joanna," said Clare Colella, director of radio and TV for the Diocese of San Bernadino, Calif. "During the last, difficult months of her painful life, there was a sense of peace with Joanna's passing. It was one of those times where our shared faith helped us look beyond the loss. She is at peace and is still with us."




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# DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE POLICY CONCERNING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT BY CHURCH PERSONNEL

The purpose of this policy is to provide the Diocese of Charlotte with an official procedure for dealing with an allegation of sexual misconduct.

Nothing in this policy is intended to prevent or relieve any person or group of persons, whether they be clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, from reporting any allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor to the proper civil authorities as mandated by law, unless to do so would violate the priest/penitent relationship.

The diocese will cooperate fully with any investigation by civil authorities and will thoroughly investigate the truth of allegations in order to protect the good name of the accused.

**A common mission of all of us is to be holy. A holy people will not allow one of its members to be a victim of ministry-related sexual misconduct. It is with this in mind that the Diocese of Charlotte issues this policy that affirms all human suffering as well as the weaknesses and imperfections of human beings deserve a response that is rooted in love, concern and compassion.**

**The term ministry-related sexual misconduct as used throughout this policy refers to three related forms of misconduct. The first, which is sexual contact between church personnel and a child, is often called sexual abuse. The second, which is sexual contact between church personnel and another adult, is often called sexual misconduct. The third, which is unwanted sexual conduct or language, is often called sexual harassment. All three are addressed herein together because they each involve an abuse of power or authority.**

**The Diocese of Charlotte is committed to dealing with allegations of ministry-related sexual misconduct by church personnel. In order to achieve this commitment, the following policy and procedures have been adopted and are to be implemented with justice and equity. The policy sets forth a process of internal church grievance and is not intended to create any rights in any person, to obligate the diocese to act at any time or in any manner, or to establish any responsibility of the diocese. The Diocese of Charlotte will willingly cooperate with civil authorities as to the extent possible in all circumstances. In addition, there may be cases where the tenets of the Catholic religion, the prescriptions of canon law, or the greater good of all concerned require that action at variance with the provisions of this policy be taken; therefore, the Chancery reserves the right to interpret, modify or replace this policy as it deems necessary.**

**The Diocese of Charlotte presents these guidelines not because of past failures, not to cause alarm or fear, but rather to set forth a clear policy for the protection of our priests, seminarians, permanent deacons, religious and laity. The policies and procedures that we have adopted reflect our experience and the studies of many others and must always be construed in the light of the gospel and the principle "salus animarum suprema lex" — that is, the well being of the people is our primary obligation.**

## I. DEFINITIONS

1. Sexual Abuse: The exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of an adult. Sexual abuse includes acts of incest, rape or sexual offense in any degree, sodomy and unnatural or perverted sexual practices, lewd or indecent acts or proposals, including exhibitionism, touching or fondling, permitting or encouraging a child to participate in acts of prostitution or pornography.

2. Child: Any person under the age of eighteen (18).

3. Sexual Misconduct: (a) The touching of a private part of another person. Private parts can include the genital or anal areas, the groin, the inner thigh, the buttocks, or the bosom of a female. Touching means either a single incident in which church personnel intentionally brings a part of his/her body or another object into physical contact with a private part of another person, or repeated incidents of the same type, whether intentional or unintentional; (b) Any conduct and/or relationship of a sexual nature that can bring scandal.

4. Sexual Harassment: Unwanted attention, ogling, words, pictures, jokes or comments of a sexual nature that are directed towards an individual or in the general environment.

5. Church Personnel: Includes bishops, priests, deacons, religious, lay employees and volunteers involved in ministry or work for the Diocese of Charlotte.

6. Bishop: The canonically appointed Bishop of Charlotte, or, in the case of a vacancy, the Diocesan Administrator. For purposes of this policy, the Bishop or Diocesan Administrator may act through a designated representative.

7. Administrative Leave: For purposes of this policy, is defined as relieving the accused of assigned duties. The application varies depending on the employment, volunteer, or canonical status of the accused. Administrative leave does not infer guilt or innocence.

## II. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Compassion requires that primary attention be given to the alleged victim of ministry related sexual misconduct, however, the alleged victim's family will be contacted immediately by the Chancery with an offer of spiritual help and pastoral counseling. If the need for counseling or medical help for the alleged victim or his/her family is indicated, this too shall be offered, but without admission of guilt or of any liability on the part of the Diocese of Charlotte.

2. Any accused person who is convicted of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct may not be permitted to return to ministry, employment, or volunteer status.

3. In instances where the accused is not convicted, not found liable by a court of competent jurisdiction, or does not admit to sexual abuse or misconduct, the Chancery will make a determination as to whether or not the accused will be returned to ministry, employment, or volunteer status.

4. The Diocese of Charlotte will not require an attempt at reconciliation between an abuser and victim. The involvement of any diocesan personnel in non-authorized reconciliation efforts will be treated as a violation of this policy.

5. No pastor, associate pastor or director of any diocesan rectory, institution or facility is permitted to grant full or part-time residence, or regular week-end ministry to an extern priest, a permanent deacon or a religious without prior approval from the Chancery. Short-term hospitality in conformity with these norms is at the discretion of the pastor or director. For other individuals, no-one may be extended hospitality as a resident, full or part-time, without prior approval from the Chancery.

6. An individual advisory board will be appointed by the Chancery. The responsibilities of the board will include the review of allegations of sexual abuse and all actions taken in response to those allegations, to ensure the integrity of the process, to offer advice concerning diocesan investigations, to advise as to the need for pastoral care for affected individuals, and to provide advice and recommendations to the Chancery regarding the implementation of any aspect of this policy. The board will also periodically evaluate the effectiveness of this policy and propose revisions if a need is indicated. All members of the board are strictly bound by a Code of Ethics, which mandates strict confidentiality.

7. Because the stigma and shame associated with ministry related sexual misconduct might make the accused feel that he/she will be abandoned by the church, the diocese will do whatever it can to help the accused to experience its support. Whatever the outcome of an investigation or trial, the Diocese of Charlotte will be solicitous of the needs of the accused in order to see that he/she gets the personal support he/she needs during a very difficult time.

8. When an intervention causes the removal of clergy or religious from his/her current parish assignment, the parish family that is left behind will be provided necessary care and direction and the Chancery.

9. When an intervention causes the removal of an employee or volunteer from a parish, mission, agency, school, institution or organization of the Diocese of Charlotte, the Chancery will provide necessary concern and direction to the remaining staff.

10. Allegations against the bishop are beyond the scope of this policy. Any such allegation shall be directed to the vicar general who will contact the papal nuncio and the appropriate civil authority.

## III. APPLICATIONS - LAY PERSONNEL

1. During the application process, the diocesan form, Application for Lay Employment (Appendix I), must be completed and submitted by all lay applicants for any paid position in the Diocese of Charlotte.

2. During the application process, the diocesan forms, Application for Lay Employment (Appendix I), and Volunteer Profile (Appendix II) must be completed

and submitted by all persons volunteering for positions that involve supervised or unsupervised ministry or work with children.

3. The original of all applications and profiles must be kept as part of the parish, agency, school, institution or department official personnel files.

4. Pastors and agency or department heads are responsible for ensuring that all employees and volunteers under their authority are given a copy of this policy. The original of the signed and dated Acknowledgment of Receipt of Sexual Misconduct Policy (Appendix III) must be sent to the Chancery within fourteen (14) calendar days of the date of hire or beginning volunteer service. Copies should be kept by the parish, agency, school, institution or department.

## IV. APPLICATIONS - CLERGY, SEMINARIANS AND RELIGIOUS

1. Before beginning any duty, all clergy seeking assignment to perform ministry in a stable, official capacity in the Diocese of Charlotte for more than thirty (30) days, must complete and submit the diocesan form, Application by a Priest/ Deacon Seeking Assignment to The Diocese of Charlotte (Appendix IV).

2. All individuals seeking acceptance as a seminarian in the Diocese of Charlotte must complete and submit the diocesan form, Personal Questionnaire for Applicants for the Seminary (Appendix V).

3. All religious seeking assignment to perform ministry in a stable, official capacity in the Diocese of Charlotte for more than thirty (30) days, must complete and submit the diocesan form, Application by Members of Religious Institutes Seeking Assignment to The Diocese Of Charlotte (Appendix VI).

4. Secular clergy seeking an official assignment, and religious clergy who are not being postulated for assignment by a religious superior, may be required to undertake a psychological examination.

## V. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Any person having actual knowledge of, or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry related sexual misconduct by any church personnel of the Diocese of Charlotte is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery, unless to do so would violate the sacrament of penance. The Chancery will then report, or direct the reporting of the incident to the proper civil authority.

2. Any person making a report of alleged sexual misconduct will be asked to complete the diocesan form, Report of Suspected Ministry Related Sexual Misconduct by Church Personnel (Appendix VII).

3. No action concerning an accused individual will be taken by the Diocese of Charlotte on the basis of anonymous or uncorroborated accusations. The accused will be informed of the anonymous complaint and of the disposition of the matter.

4. Any act of retaliation or discrimination against an individual who reports or complains of ministry related sexual misconduct is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated by the Diocese of Charlotte.

5. If sexual misconduct is self-reported, the Chancery will notify the other party(ies) involved of the nature of the report and will conduct an immediate investigation into the matter. If it is determined that there is no reasonable cause to believe that the report has some basis, the involved party(ies) will be notified of that finding and the matter will be closed. The Chancery will decide whether or not any action will be taken against the individual making the report. If it is determined that there is reasonable cause to believe that the report has some basis, the Chancery will decide the appropriate course of action to be taken. In either event, actions taken may include evaluation/treatment, counseling, reassignment, or resignation from ministry.

## VI. PROCEDURES WHEN ALLEGATIONS ARE MADE AGAINST A LAY EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER

1. On receiving an allegation of ministry related sexual misconduct, the Chancery will notify the accused of the nature of the allegation and will conduct an immediate inquiry into the matter.

2. Following the initial inquiry, if it is determined that there is no reasonable cause to believe that the allegation has some basis, the accused will be notified of that finding and the inquiry will be closed.

3. Following the initial inquiry, if it is determined that there is reasonable cause to believe that the allegation has some basis, a full diocesan investigation into the matter will be conducted. The accused will be placed on administrative leave (with pay for paid employees) pending the outcome of the full investigation.

4. If the full diocesan investigation finds that there is no reasonable cause to believe that the allegation is true, the matter will be closed and the accused will be restored to duty at his/her original, or a comparable position.

5. If the full diocesan investigation finds that there is reasonable cause to believe that the allegation is true, the accused will be notified of that finding and his/her employment or volunteer relationship with the Diocese of Charlotte will be terminated immediately. The diocese will encourage the individual to seek an appropriate treatment program.

6. No diocesan inquiry or investigation will interfere with any civil investigation, and will be conducted with a high level of Christian pastoral care for the alleged victim, his/her family, the person reporting the incident, the accused, and all other persons whose lives are touched by this incident.

7. It is the private responsibility of the accused to obtain his/her own legal counsel.

## VII. PROCEDURES WHEN ALLEGATIONS ARE MADE AGAINST CLERGY, RELIGIOUS OR SEMINARIANS IN SERVICE TO THE DIOCESE

1. On receiving an allegation of ministry related sexual misconduct, the Chancery will notify the accused of the nature of the allegation and will conduct an immediate inquiry into the matter.

2. Following the initial inquiry, if it is determined that there is no reasonable cause to believe that the allegation has some basis, the accused will be notified of that finding and the inquiry will be closed.

3. Following the initial inquiry, if it is determined that there is reasonable cause to believe that the allegation has some basis, the accused will be placed on administrative leave and/or relieved of his/her assignment. In the case of a diocesan priest or seminarian, he shall be assigned to a recognized treatment center or professional to receive appropriate evaluation and treatment. In the case of a permanent deacon, the decision as to assignment to a recognized treatment center or professional will be made by the Chancery. In the case of a religious, the decision as to assignment to a treatment center will be made by the religious superior.

4. Any administrative leave will be planned and circumstances determined in a way specific to each situation and to each individual in accord with canon 1722. In general, an administrative leave will be time limited, will allow for re-determination at the end of such time limit, will specify living arrangement, location, financial support, and will address treatment, conduct and aftercare.

5. Participation of an accused cleric in appropriate professional treatment/counseling is required as a matter of clerical obedience (c. 273). Treatment/Counseling referral is for treatment, not punishment.

6. Future ministry will require in part a full sharing with the Chancery of all information developed in the course of treatment. Authorization from the accused is required in all cases to allow the treatment providers to communicate freely with the Chancery.

7. Following evaluation and treatment, if aftercare is prescribed, the accused will be assigned to a priest-monitor who will be a friend in very difficult circumstances and who will ensure that the aftercare program is being carried out.

8. Upon the conclusion of treatment and aftercare, a priest or permanent deacon may be assigned to a parochial ministry, non-parochial ministry, or be assisted to resign from all clerical ministry. If the accused does not express a desire to return to restricted ministry, or to live in a supervised setting, or to resign from ministry and seek laicization, the Diocese of Charlotte may pursue appropriate courses of action under the Code of Canon Law. In certain cases, if it is determined that an accused priest will not be returned to ministry, the Chancery will offer him a program of retraining so that he can find employment and become self-supporting.

9. The Diocese of Charlotte is responsible for the diocesan salary of a priest, seminarian or permanent deacon undergoing treatment who has been relieved of his duties and responsibilities in accordance with this policy.

10. In the case of a priest, seminarian, permanent deacon, or religious from another diocese, the Chancery will immediately notify the appropriate bishop or superior of the allegation and of the actions that have been/will be taken by the Diocese of Charlotte.

11. In cases where the accusation is found to be true, the accused will be the primary person responsible for the payment of the victim's therapy and attendant expenses, and will be required to reimburse the Diocese of Charlotte for all expenses that it incurred in connection with the matter.

12. It is the private responsibility of the accused to obtain his/her own legal counsel.

## VIII. EDUCATION

1. The Diocese of Charlotte will periodically conduct continuing education sessions for clergy, religious, employees and volunteers that will update them from viewpoints such as new scientific knowledge, church policy and canon law, civil law, moral theology, professional ethics, the pastoral care of victims and coping with the disclosure of misconduct by a colleague.

## IX. MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Chancery shall be responsible for all media contacts and will appoint a primary spokesperson to handle all media inquiries, all release of information, and all news conference arrangements.

## X. SANCTIONS

1. Any church personnel who fails to comply with any of the provisions of this policy will be subject to such action(s) by the Diocese of Charlotte as it deems necessary, up to and including termination from any position with the Pastoral Center and/or any parish, mission, agency, school, institution or organization which is subject under canon or civil law to the administration, authority or governance of the Diocese of Charlotte.

2. Applicants or volunteers for positions with the Pastoral Center and/or any parish, mission, agency, school, institution or organization in the Diocese of Charlotte who fail to comply with the provisions of this policy may be denied or removed from any position that is subject under canon or civil law to the administration, authority or governance of the diocese.

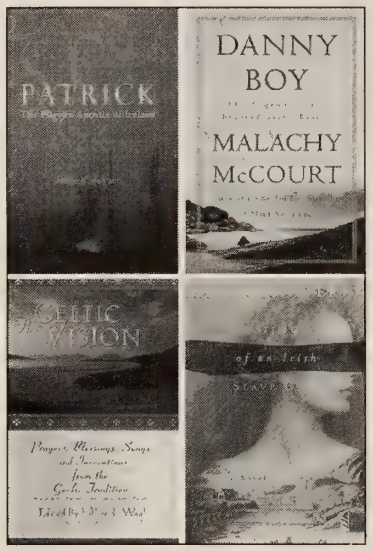
**Book Review**

# Books celebrate St. Patrick, Irish heritage

REVIEWED BY MAUREEN E. DALY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In March, or any time of the year, Patrick is a fascinating character — one of the few saints who wrote his own life story. His "Confessio" is nearly 1,500 years old, but reading it you can hear the individual man's distinctive voice as if he were alive today. In his own words he tells of his capture, enslavement, escape, conversion and mission to return to the Irish who held him captive.

"Patrick, the Pilgrim Apostle of Ireland" contains the full texts of Patrick's writings in Latin with English translations and captivating commentary by Presentation Sister Maire B. de Paor, an Irish religious scholar. Also known as Sister Declan, she is the author of three previous books on Gaelic Christianity, including one on the 18th-century poet, mystic and catechist Tadhg Gaelach O'Suilleabhain. This book on Patrick was published in Ireland in 1998 and is newly available in a North American edition. It has the detail and documentation to satisfy scholars and a readable style that makes it accessible to anyone interested in Patrick and early Christianity.




In 1988, the publication of "The Celtic Vision" edited by Esther de Waal was one spark that ignited the current wildfire of interest in Celtic spirituality. A second edition has just been released. De Waal's book is a selection of "Prayers, Blessings, Songs and Invocations from the Gaelic Tradition" taken from Alexander Carmichael's six-volume collection of folklore. Carmichael lived from 1832 to 1912 and for six decades under arduous conditions he collected Gaelic oral tradition as a work of love and scholarship. Reading these prayers alongside Sister de Paor's book on Patrick, the reader can see literary and theological traditions carried across centuries.

St. Patrick drove slavery out of Ireland but Oliver Cromwell brought it back. When Cromwell invaded Ireland in 1648 the population of the island was estimated at 1.5 million. By Cromwell's death in 1658, Ireland's population had been reduced by two-thirds to 500,000. It is a little-known fact that by 1656 more than 60,000 Irish had been sent as slaves to Barbados and other islands in the Caribbean.

"Testimony of an Irish Slave Girl" is a historical novel about a slave life in 17th-century Barbados. Kate McCafferty tells the story of a slave revolt in the words of an Irish prisoner testifying to her jailer. Irish slaves shared with those of African nations a life of degrading suffering, and united with them from time to time in unsuccessful revolts. The novel is a window on a glittering tropical world of multicultural misery.

On a lighter note, "Danny Boy: The Legend of the Beloved Irish Ballad" is a pretty little fluff of a book — 141 pages of widely spaced type on the 155 words of the most popular Irish song of all time. Written by Malachy McCourt, author of the best-seller "A Monk Swimming" and brother of best-selling writer Frank McCourt, the book has the ranging conversational tone of a buddy at a bar holding forth with an encyclopedia of anecdotes. Who knew there was so much to know? This book is a fine gift — if for no other reason than because it has the lyrics of this highly singable song, an unfailing tool for bringing tears to listeners' eyes. In this uncertain world, "Danny Boy" is one thing you can count on.

*Daly is book review coordinator for Catholic News Service.*

# Word to Life

**Sunday Scripture Readings:**
*March 10, Fourth Sunday of Lent*
*Cycle A Readings:*
1) 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Psalm 23:1-6
2) Ephesians 5:8-14
3) Gospel: John 9:1-41

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When a solar eclipse is forecast, the experts always warn us, "Do not look directly at the sun." For years, I'd hear that and think: "Yeah, right! One of the most awesome sights in nature is appearing, and I'm going to go outside, turn my back on it and look into a shoebox!"

Well, one time I actually did.

It turned out that what was just as awesome as the eclipse was the fact that one could make a pinhole in a cardboard box, and the focused light would project, on the inside facing, an exact image of the eclipse occurring. With the shoebox device I was not only able to see the eclipse of the sun, I was able to experience a further phenomenon of light at work!

Today's readings are full of the lesson about how we can miss the essence of a person — or an event — by focusing our "view" only on outward appearances.

In the Gospel, the blind man, was able to "see" Jesus' awesome power by experiencing his healing, while the Pharisees were so caught up in Jesus' apparent breaking of the law (not keeping the Sabbath) that they missed the essence — the experience — of God.

Likewise, in observing the eclipse, if I had insisted on seeing a direct visual image of the source of Earth's light, I would have missed an experience of light working on Earth.

If I insist on seeing God through a visual or mental image or intellectual pursuit — my brain is smaller than a shoebox — then I will miss the essence of God working in my life and the lives of others. In the words of a country song, I'd be "lookin' for love in all the wrong places."

In the first reading, the Lord reminds Samuel that in searching for God's chosen king he should avoid judging by appearances because the Lord "looks into the heart."

In these Scriptures God calls us to look deeper, past our limiting expectations, for the essence of Jesus at work in the world. When we do, we will see, and like the blind man we will believe, because what we see will indeed be awesome. Then, while we may occasionally glance at the outward image, it will be the essence of Jesus we worship and follow and love.

**QUESTIONS:**
When was a time when you were surprised by an unexpected experience of Jesus? What distractions blind you to the essence of God's presence?

**SCRIPTURE TO ILLUSTRATE:**
"I know this much: I was blind before; now I can see" (John 9:25b).

# Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of March 10 - March 16**

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent),** 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 65:17-21, John 4:43-54; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, John 5:1-3, 5-16; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 49:8-15, John 5:17-30; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Exodus 32:7-14, John 5:31-47; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22, John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 7:40-53

**Scripture for the week of March 17 - March 23**

**Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Lent),** Ezekiel 37:12-14, Romans 8:8-11, John 11:1-45; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, John 8:1-11; **Tuesday (St. Joseph, Husband of Mary),** 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16, Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22, Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, John 8:31-42; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Genesis 17:3-9, John 8:51-59; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 20:10-13, John 10:31-42; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Ezekiel 37:21-28, John 11:45-57

Thinking about the priesthood?

*please contact:*

Father John Allen
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## Video Review

By Catholic News Service

*NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

**"Don't Say a Word" (2001)**

Faulty thriller in which a New York psychiatrist (Michael Douglas) races against time to extract a mysterious code from a nearly catatonic young woman (Brittany Murphy) that will lead the ruthless kidnappers of his 8-year-old daughter (Skye McCole Bartusiak) to a valuable hidden gem. Though the frantic pace in director Gary Fleder's film heightens suspense, narrative inconsistencies and shaky characterizations produce a frustrating package. Intermittent violence with a few gruesome images, a fleeting sexual reference and sporadic rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Fox Home Video)

**"The In-Laws" (1979)**

Prominent New York dentist (Alan Arkin) and a seedy CIA agent (Peter Falk) are brought together when their children are engaged, and the hapless dentist finds himself unexpectedly plunged into a wild adventure in a corrupt Central American dictatorship. Directed by Arthur Hiller, the pairing of Arkin and Falk is bright and the comedy frequently hilarious. Some comic violence and a few mild vulgarities. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Warner Home Video)

**"The Musketeer" (2001)**

Failed adaptation of Alexandre Dumas' classic focuses on the young swordsman D'Artagnan (Justin Chambers) as he attempts to save the 17th-century French throne from the schemes of Cardinal Richelieu (Stephen Rea) and his brutish agent Febre (Tim Roth). Director Peter Hyams' watered-down story pathetically limps along, interrupted occasionally by an imaginatively choreographed fighting sequence. Several scenes of mean action-violence and some sexual innuendo. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Universal)

**"O" (2001)**

Sordid tale of jealousy set in a tony prep school in which a black basketball player (Mekhi Phifer) is convinced by his envious friend (Josh Hartnett) that his girlfriend (Julia Stiles) is cheating on him, leading the hoop star to make some desperate choices. Director Tim Blake Nelson's brutal modernization of Shakespeare's classic "Othello" is involving, but the inescapable presentation of remorseless teen killings leaves the senses numb. Vicious, explicit images of teen violence, including rape and suicide, some sexual situations, a few scenes of drug abuse and recurring rough language and profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Lions Gate)

**"Session 9" (2001)**

Frightening thriller in which an asbestos removal crew (including David Caruso and Peter Mullan) working in an abandoned insane asylum uncovers the building's mysterious past while one of the workers loses his mind. Director Brad Anderson builds tension with deft editing as suspicion is cast on each character, yet one-note characterizations diminish the effect. Brief but strong violence with some gory images, fleeting drug use and recurring rough language with profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (USA)

**"Soul Survivors" (2001)**

Listless horror film in which a coed (Melissa Sagemiller) mourning the car-wreck death of her boyfriend is beset by hallucinations and becomes paranoid when her friends act suspiciously. Writer-director Steve Carpenter's formula horror film employs familiar cliches up to a twist ending that too patly resolves everything. Implied sexual encounters, brief violence and substance abuse. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Artisan)



CNS photo from Paramount Pictures

**Scene from the movie "We Were Soldiers"**
**Chris Klein and Mel Gibson star in the dramatic film "We Were Soldiers." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

## Movie Capsules

By Catholic News Service

*NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

**"40 Days and 40 Nights" (Miramax)**

Crude romantic comedy about a young bachelor (Josh Hartnett) who swears off sex for Lent after his girlfriend (Vinessa Shaw) breaks up with him, but complications ensue as soon as he meets the girl (Shannyn Sossamon) of his dreams. Snickering at the Catholic Church's teaching on premarital sex, director Michael Lehmann's one-joke film exploits the holy season of Lent as a cynical pretext for abstinence. Misuse of the sacrament of penance, sexual encounters, recurring nudity, intermittent rough language, crass sexual expressions and profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Harrison's Flowers" (Universal Focus)**

Intense drama set in 1991 during the Serbian-Croatian conflict where the determined wife (Andie MacDowell) of a photojournalist (David Strathairn) presumed dead travels to the war-torn area to bring back the husband she believes is still alive. Using the backdrop of fierce political strife, director Elie Chouraqui depicts ethnic cleansing in agonizing terms but the central story of a wife whose fear is overshadowed by love fails to resonate as powerfully as it should. Pervasive and harrowing war violence with gruesome images, some drug use and recurring rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Trouble Every Day" (Lot 47)**

Sick sexual thriller about an American (Vincent Gallo) honeymooning in Paris and searching for a renegade French doctor (Alex Descas) who may have a cure for a disturbing sexual deviancy affecting the American and the doctor's wife (Beatrice Dalle). Director Claire Denis' repulsive film interweaves two stories about cannibalistic sex using a minimum of dialogue and a maximum of grisly visuals, which result in a drawn-out, muddled narrative. Several explicit sex scenes including masturbation, vicious sexual violence with much gore, recurring frontal nudity and a few instances of crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

**"We Were Soldiers" (Paramount)**

Powerful Vietnam War drama about the first battle between American troops, led by fatherly Lt. Col. Harold G. Moore (Mel Gibson), and the Viet Cong enemy. Despite slim characterizations and a few clichés, writer-director Randall Wallace's harrowing true story depicts war with raw, graphic imagery that underscores the wrenching loss of human life as it touches briefly upon the formidable struggle to reconcile Christianity and warfare. Constant war violence with many bloody, chilling images and some rough language with profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## At apartment window, pope greets faithful, thanks them for prayers

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II greeted thousands of visitors March 6 and thanked them for their prayers "for my quick recovery."

Speaking from his apartment window overlooking St. Peter's Square, the pope made no mention of the pain in his right knee caused by arthrosis, which forced him to skip that day's weekly general audience and to cancel several parish visits.

When he came to his window, the pope summarized in two sentences the talk he had prepared for the audience.

Psalm 65, he said, "invites us not to stop with what the world promises, but rather to consider what the Creator promises the world."

"It is with this sentiment that I exhort you to trust always in divine providence, the source of peace and serenity," the pope said, before reciting the Lord's Prayer with his visitors.

The visitors had gathered earlier in the audience hall, where Vatican officials explained in seven languages that the pope, "following the advice of his personal physician," would not participate in the audience, but "is following our gathering on television."

The announcement offered some consolation to members of the St. Jerome Chorale from Largo, Fla., which had prepared songs to sing for the pope at the audience.

"We're sure he heard us," choir members said.

A pilgrimage from St. Cecilia's Parish in the Harlem neighborhood of New York arrived at the audience hall at 9 a.m. to get good seats for the 10:30 audience.

"We were warned; they told us he would be there if he could," said Gennie Bowers, a member of the pilgrimage.

Although they had heard on television that the pope would not preside over the audience, several hundred pilgrims from the Diocese of Vallo della Lucania in southern Italy still boarded buses at 4 a.m. for their trip to Rome.

"The idea was to see the pope, but these things happen," said Tiziana Cardullo, a member of the group.

The teaching Pope John Paul had prepared for the audience focused on God's readiness to forgive sins and his life-giving reign over all creation.

The two themes found in Psalm 65 are inseparable, the pope wrote.

"In the Bible, creation is the home of humanity, and sin is an attack on the order and perfection of the world. Conversion and pardon, therefore, restore integrity and harmony to the cosmos," the pope said.

The psalm's image of God calming the roaring of the seas and the tumult of his people is an affirmation of God's absolute power, he said.

"God, who cancels the chaos and evil of the world and of history, can defeat and forgive the wickedness and sin" of the contrite, the pope wrote.

The psalm's spring-like descriptions of the renewal of creation, he said, follow naturally from its reflection on forgiveness.

"Like the earth rising again in the spring through the action of the Creator, so men and women rise from their sin through the action of the Redeemer," the pope wrote.

# Letter from the Bishop



THE MOST REV. WILLIAM G. CURLIN
Bishop of Charlotte

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in our diocese,*

I have met many, many wonderful priests during my life. I remember with special fondness the elderly priest who baptized me, heard my first confession and gave me first Holy Communion. He was much loved by his parishioners. Throughout my school years (including college) priests were an important part of my life. Their good example helped me to discern a call to serve the Lord as a priest.

Recent tragic reports of priests, accused of pedophilia have proven very painful to priests who faithfully spend their lives in your service. While they know that no one is without faults, such evil is incomprehensible to good and devoted priests. Sadly, the environment created by such scandals has cast aspersions upon all good priests. For some, the credibility of all priests has been called into question.

Last week, I wrote a letter to my brother priests, the priests of this diocese. To them I shared my prayers that they do not become discouraged or disheartened by news reports regarding allegations of child abuse by priests.

There is no excuse for the terrible crime of child abuse. A policy of Zero Tolerance for Child Sex Abuse applies to all clergy, religious, and laity who work in the Diocese of Charlotte. This policy, constantly subject to re-examination, mandates that any church personnel (clergy and laity), if found guilty of child abuse, be removed from their ministry and never again be allowed to exercise ministry in this diocese.

We regularly publish the Policy of the Diocese of Charlotte Concerning Ministry-Related Sexual Misconduct by Church Personnel. This week, The Catholic News & Herald again carries the diocesan policy.

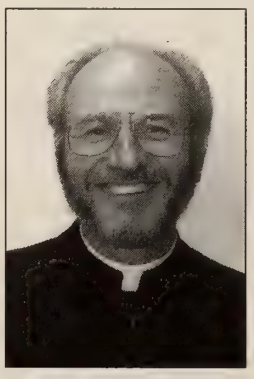
In my first parish assignment, the pastor taught his young assistants by word and example that priests are called to imitate Jesus, "who came to serve and not be served." His zeal for souls was rooted in his daily holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament. When he died, the entire parish mourned the loss of a much-loved father. Like St. Paul, priests know that Christ must always remain the center of their life and ministry.

On Tuesday during Holy Week, my brother priests and I will gather at the Cathedral of St. Patrick to consecrate the Holy Oils and to publicly renew our commitment to God and to you in priestly ministry. I cordially invite you to join with us on this special occasion. Your presence will be a visible sign of appreciation for priests who faithfully and devotedly spend their lives in your service. Whether you are able to attend this Chrism Mass or not, please take the time to express to your parish priests a word of gratitude for their devoted ministry. Please continue to pray for them.

*Devotedly and prayerfully in the Lord,*

William G. Curlin

The Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte



# Economy of Faith

GLENMARY FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest columnist

## Another world is possible

A couple of my friends working in community ministry traveled to Brazil to attend the World Social Forum. Porto Alegre, the host city, lies geographically thousands of miles from New York, but ideologically millions of miles from Wall Street. Though the gathering attracted more than 50,000 community people from around the world, it received scant mention in the American press. The World Economic Forum, convening at the same time in New York, attracted movers and shakers from world governments and transnational corporations, paying $25,000 each, and got the spotlight.

The WEF, founded in 1971 by a Swiss business professor to discuss the challenges of world trade, drew 3,000 invited delegates to the Waldorf-Astoria. With instability from terrorism and a slowing world economy, the conference theme painted a picture one shade lighter than gloom: "Leadership in Fragile Times." The philosophy of globalization that emphasizes deregulation, laissez faire government, free markets and free trade, high technology plus corporate efficiency and profitability has delivered a report card of exaggerated winners and losers.

For example, the richest fifth of the world's population now consumes 86 percent of all goods and services, while the poorest fifth receives just over 1 percent. Between 1994 and 1998, the world's 200 richest people increased their wealth from $40 billion to over $1 trillion with the three richest people holding assets greater than the combined GNP of the 48 least developed countries. And, the life expectancy in these least developed countries remains 25 years less than in industrialized nations.

A continent away in Brazil, the WSF marketed itself as a counter-conference "building a planetary society centered on the human person." The conference theme: "Another World Is Possible."

"Our struggles are the same with people around the world," said Jerry Hardt, a participant from Salyersville, Ky. "The issues are similar: healthcare, living wages, a clean environment." Jerry spoke as a resident of Appalachia where a celebrated land study showed that 72 percent of the surface land and 80 percent of the mineral rights in the survey were absentee-owned and predominately by large corporations.

While poverty in the U.S. and the rest of the world differs by material degree, the sense of vulnerability and powerlessness marginalizes the poor everywhere. Decisions made over cocktails at the Waldorf-Astoria can have dramatic effects on the marginalized of Appalachia or Brazil. But, alternative development efforts — those that promote open dialogue, democratic decision-making and inclusion of the people affected — offer a process to create a different world.

An hour's bus ride from Porto Alegre, a cooperative organized by the Movement of the Landless provided 5,400 fertile acres of unused land for 100 families to farm together and share the proceeds. Working together nobody gets rich, but nobody goes hungry. The Movement of the Landless, having settled over 300,000 families on millions of acres of land, represents land redistribution efforts long supported by the Catholic church. These utilize the capabilities of the landless and affirm the dignity of the poor.

Although many throughout the world see the U.S. as promoting structures that keep people poor, Jerry responds, "Trade policies do not always reflect the will of the people." At the same time he recognizes U.S. dominance in foreign affairs: "As citizens and consumers, we have a serious responsibility to shape those structures and policies that affect people around the world."

Bottom line: another world is possible, if the priorities favor the poor and include them in the process.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### It's Not What You Say

There's probably no more difficult ministerial challenge than the funeral of a child. Parents are faced with a nearly insurmountable pain because the normal assumption is that their children will survive them.

When the shockingly unexpected occurs, parents' lives are upended. This wasn't supposed to happen. In meeting with the parents, as well as speaking at the wake and funeral, clergy often wonder: "What can I possibly say to these good folks? How can I offer any real comfort or solace?" In the quest to find the proper words, some ministers do very well. I've seen any number of colleagues give insight into the meaning of eternal life or articulate a personal vision of the deceased child that's warm, loving and wise. Other times, I've seen what trying too hard can do. I recall one terribly sad funeral for a teenager. He'd been driving his car in the left lane of a highway on his way to school. Another driver, in the opposite lane of traffic, lost control of her car which literally flew over the divider, squarely hitting the young man's car. He died immediately.

The funeral Mass for this well-liked young man was overflowing. All present wanted to support his parents, brothers and sisters. I could see in the face of the priest celebrating the Mass a tension, a nervousness that was palpable. He wanted to do this right, to say the perfect words of comfort, to give some meaning to this seemingly meaningless horror. For most of his sermon, he was fine. He recounted much about the young man's life, lending the talk a personal flavor that caused people to smile or cry. But he also knew that the random quality of the student's death was confusing and painful. So the priest decided to focus on the question of "why?" a little too colorfully, asking "Haven't you sometimes noticed a dog or cat killed on the road and wondered why? Why does God allow such bad things to happen to these innocent creatures?"

Now, here we were at the funeral of a vibrant young man. We didn't need the image of dead pets to give us perspective about the loss of a much-loved person. You could immediately see a look on the faces of those attending which told you the priest blew it. He overreached. He used an illustration that only distracted.

It was, for me, a classic case of trying too hard to find perfect words, a struggle that rarely ends in success. That's because there are no words that make sense of it all. It can't make sense, it hurts too much. You can be a person of deep faith, but when the heart is broken, no spiritual bromides will glue it back together.

On the Christopher Closeup television program, I interviewed New York City's then-Fire Commissioner Thomas Von Essen. He's the good soul who lost over three hundred of his best firefighters at the World Trade Center on September 11th. Every day for months, he'd attended funerals and memorial services. Sometimes, three or four a day. Most of those who died in the prime of their lives left behind parents, spouses, children, friends, co-workers and neighbors, who would suffer pain that is almost more than a heart can bear.

I asked the commissioner how he was able to offer help or emotional comfort. He told me something useful: no words are ever enough. Nothing you say can eliminate the hurt. Instead, you just have to be there with the people who are in pain. Love them, embrace them, cry with them and let them know you truly care. The salve you offer isn't in words, it's in presence, touch and compassion.

No one likes attending services for the dead. It's a responsibility made more difficult by our fear of what we can say to give comfort. But you can make an enormous difference for the bereaved just in being there. We have no greater gift than our caring and empathetic presence. Just go. That's enough.

# Work Matters



JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Save something for yourself

I knew a man who was about to retire from the organization he'd worked for all his adult life — and he was scared, but not about money. He and his wife would have a comfortable retirement.

The problem was that he didn't know what he was going to do with himself. He had devoted himself to every aspect of the organization. Now, he was at mandatory retirement age, and his focus was about to disappear.

It's a situation many of us face. We love our jobs. Maybe we're deeply involved in some cause that consumes every spare moment, or we volunteer for every committee and ministry at church.

John O'Donohue, an Irish Catholic priest, calls that total immersion the "trap of false belonging."

Yes, it is important to work hard, and your church and local civic organizations always need volunteers. What's also crucial is to save something for yourself, something that doesn't have anything to do with your job or your cause, but with your soul.

"Too many people," O'Donohue says, "belong too naively to the system in which they are involved. When they are suddenly laid off, or the system collapses, or someone else is promoted, they feel broken, wounded, and demeaned" [Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom, Cliff Street Books, HarperCollins Publishers, 1997].

What's needed is balance.

"You should never belong fully to something that is outside yourself," O'Donohue writes. "It is very important to find a balance in your belonging. People frequently need to belong to an external system because they are afraid to belong to their own lives. ... As the New Testament says, where your treasure is, there is your heart also."

Don't make anything the be-all and end-all of your existence. Scott Ryan, for instance, loved his financial-consultant job, but took a three-month leave of absence in 2000 to work with Geekcorps, a Peace Corps-like outfit that brings tech savvy to developing countries. Ryan used his e-commerce know-how to help a group in Accra, Ghana, set up a Web site. Geekcorps provided Ryan with bed, board, transport and a $500 stipend. His company encouraged his endeavor but didn't pay him during his leave.

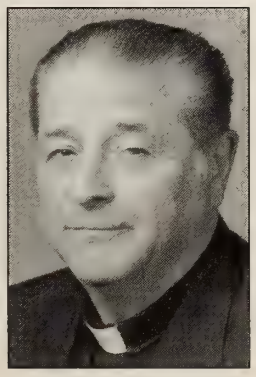
Ryan's effort was laudable, you say, but how many of us can do what he did? Well, an article in Fortune magazine ["Geeks on do-good rampage," July 9, 2001] reports that the head of Geekcorps "received 700 applications for 14 openings for the most recent Geekcorps class."

You may not be able to take three months off at no pay, but you can find ways to balance your life, to diversify your interests. Cut back on your work to volunteer a few hours a week. How about dropping one church committee to spend more time with your family?

Can you take a few hours a week to spend more time with yourself? That scares people who need the TV on in the background because they can't stand silence, but silence lets us hear fresh messages. Remember Elijah in 1 Kings 19:11-12? God wasn't in the big events — the high wind, the earthquake and the fire. God was in the tiny whispering sound. Small voices require us to stop and listen in our own interior stillness.

The point is not to wrap yourself in one thing. That way, when your focus has to change, you'll be able to hear new ways to engage your life.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### The practice of covering church crosses and statues during Lent

*Q. Each year our parish staff has a discussion about whether the crosses and statues in church should be covered during Lent.*

*Our pastor and liturgy coordinator say no. Yet we regularly see it still done in other parishes. Is there a rule any more or is it up to each parish? (Florida)*

A. Before 1970, crosses and other images in Catholic churches traditionally were covered with purple veils during the final two weeks of Lent, during what was then called Passiontide.

Since the publication of the revised missal in 1970, however, the regulation is that crosses may be covered "if the episcopal conference decides" to do so. In that case images are covered during the final two weeks until the celebration of the Lord's passion on Good Friday (for crosses) or until the beginning of the Easter Vigil (for other images).

These rubrics are found at the end of the Mass for Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent and were repeated by the Vatican worship congregation in 1988.

Since the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops never has voted to continue the rubric of covering images, the practice has not been permitted in this country for 32 years. Individual parishes have no authority to reintroduce the practice on their own.

### Following proper Mass procedures

*Q. My wife is Catholic, and I was raised Protestant. Since our marriage six years ago, we have attended Mass together. Neither she nor I, however, understand what I and others who are not Catholic should do or not do at Mass. I know we should not receive Communion; but how about bowing or genuflecting before entering the pew? Can we go forward at Communion time with others who cross their arms for a blessing? May we stand for the Gospel, for example? And give the sign of peace? Make the sign of the cross at the sprinkling of holy water? I'm sure these are trivial questions, but I know others in the parish are as confused as I am. (Ohio)*

A. They're not at all trivial or unimportant questions. My mail regularly brings the same questions from other areas as well.

Most Catholics, it seems to me, have no idea how uncertain and confused those not of our faith can be about how to act at Mass and other ceremonies, even after years of being there week after week. The short and simple answer is that people who are not Catholic are welcome, even invited, to do everything Catholics do, except, as you say, receive Communion.

Participate in the prayers, sing, make the sign of the cross, bow or genuflect as you wish. In fact, the liturgy should become a more genuine act of worship for you if you participate this way, as long as you feel comfortable doing so and if your actions reflect your interior attitude of prayer and devotion with the people worshiping alongside you.

It would perhaps not be a bad idea for parishes to place an occasional note in the bulletin on these matters to put you and others like you more at ease.

*A free brochure describing basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

# Sister of Mercy honored for lifetime dedication to humankind

CHARLOTTE — Mercy Sister Mary Thomas Burke, Ph.D., was recently honored with the 2002 Echo Award Against Indifference from the Charlotte-based Echo Foundation.

Sister Mary, 73, a UNC-Charlotte professor of counselor education in the department of counseling and special education, accepted the award before approximately 700 guests at the 3rd Annual Echo Foundation Award Dinner in Founders Hall at Bank of America Feb. 19. Speakers at the dinner included noted author and poet Maya Angelou and Nobel Laureate for Literature Wole Soyinka of Nigeria.



"The Echo Foundation brings world-renowned humanitarians to Charlotte to deliver messages that galvanize souls to action on behalf of humankind," according to the Echo Foundation Web site. This is to build a city that embraces racial diversity, culture and tolerance.

The Echo Award Against Indifference is given to a member of the Mecklenburg County community who exemplifies the Echo Foundation's dedication to promoting dignity, justice and moral courage through positive, effective action for humankind.

"Sister Mary Thomas Burke has long been a voice for compassion and justice in the Charlotte community by seeking out and ministering to those in need," said Joan Zimmerman, Echo board of trustee chairperson, in a press release statement.

Sister Mary's work helped launch numerous community outreach programs, including The Metrolina AIDS Project, The Relatives and Open House. She has also served in various leadership capacities for Catherine's House, YWCA of Central Carolina, Ready to Learn for WTVI 42, Belmont Abbey College, Mecklenburg Ministries, Child Care Resources, North Carolina Cancer Society and many others.

A native of Ireland, Sister Mary came to the area to attend Sacred Heart College in Belmont, earning an undergraduate degree in social science and mathematics in 1958. She also earned a master's in mathematics from John Carroll University in 1962 and in history from Georgetown University in 1965, and a doctorate in counseling from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1968.

During the 1960s, Sister Mary served several roles at Sacred Heart including humanities instructor, academic dean and chair of the education department before leaving in 1970 to establish the counseling department at UNC-Charlotte. Under her guidance, the department has become one of the university's most respected academic areas.

Sister Mary has also written or co-written more than 140 professional papers and journal articles, and given some 125 presentations on varied topics. She has acted as a consultant to more than 40 organizations on a wide range of human relations subjects.

The Echo Award is the 28th individual honor that Sister Mary has received for her efforts. Other honors include: the Francis J. Beatty Humanitarian Award from Catholic Social Services (1997); WBT-AM's Woman of the Year Award (1979); and the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Award (1978).

"Sister Mary Thomas' work reinforces The Echo Foundation's message that one person's actions can make a difference for many," said Zimmerman.

The past Echo Award Against Indifference recipients are Bishop George E. Battle, Jr. of A.M.E. Zion Church (2001) and Joe Martin of NationsBank (2000).

# Catherine's House, from page 1

In order to be considered for residence at Catherine's House, women must be homeless with no money, be unemployed and be free of illegal drugs and alcohol. "Many have been in abusive situations or through a divorce where they have lost everything," said Sister Bernadette.

Residents must maintain stable mental health, be capable of participating in a community living arrangement, adhere to the rules and policies of Catherine's House and demonstrate their commitment to consistently working toward meeting individual program goals during residency.

All residents meet with a case manager who helps them establish their goals, which are reviewed weekly. The Stepping Stones to Success program consists of six distinct components that are woven into the residents' goals: self sufficiency; psychological/social needs; securing employment; health services; educational goals; and securing permanent housing.

Residents also attend sessions with counselors and family therapists, and attend wellness, parenting skills, budgeting and nutrition programs. Caseworkers assist them in setting up bank accounts. Residents who have not earned their high school diploma enroll in the GED program.

While living at Catherine's House, residents are responsible for assisting with the care of the house. They do their own cooking and clean up.

"We're preparing them for the future by teaching them the importance of caring for their home," said Sister Bernadette. "But it is not always easy. Some are belligerent because they have to live under rules and regulations. Others are so grateful for a roof over their head, a bed and being able to cook for themselves. For many, it is only after they leave that they realize what Catherine's House is really all about and how we reached out to help them in their greatest time of need."

The residents interact by playing games and enjoying passes to the YMCA, as well as special outings such as the circus, Hornets games, and tickets for the Nutcracker, which are provided by the Charlotte Authority. Soon, residents will have the option of attending a weekly Bible sharing class.

But it is the personal touch that makes Catherine's House so special for many.

"It is important for me to get to know the women and children here, calling them by name," said Sister Bernadette. "A smile and greeting lights up their day and life and mine as well when I see their response."

Sister Bernadette is grateful she chose to come to Catherine's House. "...It is truly the work of our foundress Catherine McAuley. Every day we are walking in her footsteps," said Sister Bernadette. "If she were here today, she would have the same passion for the underprivileged and underserved in our community — these very vulnerable women and children in today's society.

"We have no idea what it must feel like to be homeless," she added. "When I see a three-day-old baby beginning his or her life in a homeless atmosphere, it breaks my heart. It is so rewarding to know that we are helping these women and their families."

"It's amazing to work here," said Mercy Sister Maureen Dees, who serves as the receptionist. "I enjoy being able to talk to the women and children. It's a joy to greet them and make them feel loved. A smile goes a long way."

"We have wonderful success stories like the mother, daughter and grandson who fled from New Mexico because of family violence," said Sister Bernadette. "With relatives in the area, they sought refuge here and were referred to us. They were here nine months as they underwent identity changes. Step by step they got their lives in order, securing employment and a place of their own."

Catherine's House also helps residents when they are ready to venture out on their own by giving them a graduation ceremony and gifts to help them get settled in their new environment.

Local churches and Belmont Abbey College students are strong supporters of Catherine's House, as they arrange parties for the residents. The Catholic as well as the non-Catholic community strongly supports Catherine's House both financially and with in-kind gifts.

Catherine's House is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. Other funding comes from local churches and community groups. Fundraisers help with general expenses.

*There will be an art auction in Curtin Hall, 101 Mercy Drive, Belmont, presented by Avatar Galleries with proceed to benefit Catherine's House on Friday, April 26. Preview is at 6:30 p.m. with the auction beginning at 7:30 pm. Tickets can be purchased though board members and at Catherine's House at (704) 825-9599.*


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**Elementary Principal:** The Archdiocese of Atlanta anticipates openings for the position of elementary school principal effective July 1, 2002. Qualified candidates may send a letter of interest and current resume to: Superintendent of Schools, 680 W. Peachtree St., NW, Atlanta, GA 30308.

**Teachers:** Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, located in Fairburn, Georgia, is seeking teachers in all disciplines for the 2002-2003 school year. Mercy offers an excellent teaching environment and well as competitive salary and benefits. Interested individuals should send resume and cover letter to: John Cobis, Our Lady of Mercy High School, 861 Highway 279, Fairburn, GA 30213.

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**Holy Cross Columbiettes sponsor children's consignment sale**

**The Holy Cross Columbiettes in Kernersville held a children's consignment sale, featuring a wide variety of children's merchandise available for purchase Feb. 8 and 9. Hosting the event for the past eight years, the Columbiettes have used the money raised to support their church — as well as helping others in the community — such as Cancer Services and Room at the Inn of the Triad, among other organizations.**

# Invitation to stewardship

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The first ever ICSC Region IV Stewardship Day Conference is being held on Saturday, April 27. This collaborative effort, hosted and sponsored by the Archdiocese of Atlanta as well as the dioceses of Charlotte, Charleston, Raleigh and Savannah, is an excellent opportunity for people interested in stewardship to interact and learn from individuals and parishes from across the Southeast.

"We especially encourage parish ministry and commission leaders and those responsible for parish stewardship efforts to attend," said Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Keynote speakers will be Bishop John Snyder, retired bishop of St. Augustine, Fla., and Rosemary Bisig Smith, director of stewardship and development for the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky.

Throughout his 21 years of faithful service to the people of St. Augustine, Bishop Snyder worked diligently to promote the concept of stewardship. He is recognized nationally for his deep personal commitment to stewardship as a way of life.

Smith has served the archdiocese for 12 years and initiated the children's stewardship education process.

"Rosemary Smith has a wealth of information and ideas related to children's stewardship education. It would certainly benefit every parish to send someone from faith formation just to listen to Rosemary's talks," said Gaddy.

Featured sessions are: beginning and advanced stewardship parish profiles; stewardships for children, teens and the Hispanic culture; forming stewardship committees; and stewardship and evangelization.

Those encouraged to attend are: pastors; associates; deacons; school principals; directors of religious education; parish council members; stewardship committee members; youth ministers; diocesan, parish and school staff; and all others interested in embracing stewardship as a way of life.

*The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fee is $30 per person and includes continental breakfast, conference materials, breaks and box lunch. Deadline for registration is April 12. For more information, call Barbara Gaddy in the Office of Development at 704-370-3302 or bagaddy@charlottediocese.org.*


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# Deacon's ministry grows out of tragedy

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

MAGGIE VALLEY — Gerard La Pointe's young life unfolded against a backdrop of mountains, hills, lakes and snowy skies in Laconia, N.H., where his Canadian-born father owned a diner. Jerry's Shore Diner was a popular spot for the locals and tourists especially during World War II. La Pointe started by peeling potatoes and worked his way up to head chef in the family business.

He grew up in an environment where religion was stressed. The family went to early Mass on Sunday mornings to the church a couple of houses away. Even though the diner took up much of the family's time, they still managed to arrive for church every Sunday and help wherever they were needed.

While in high school, he met the love of his life. A St. Patrick's Day Dance was the setting for this meeting, where after one dance, La Pointe was smitten with Lorraine. After becoming acquainted, he would pick up his sweetheart and drive her to school. "I liked everything about her. I couldn't find one thing wrong with her," he said.

The country was embroiled in the Korean War when La Pointe graduated from high school in 1951. His hobby of restoring and fixing cars turned into a career when he entered the New Hampshire Technical Institute where he took mostly mechanics classes. While attending classes, he married Lorraine in November 1951.

His first job after he finished school was an apprenticeship in a body shop in his hometown. He would travel from Mrs. La Pointe's hometown of Laconia to work every morning. He later worked in two car dealerships before deciding to move to Clearwater, Fla., to work in another family business.

La Pointe's family had moved to Florida two years before, and his father had opened a Texaco service station and repair shop. His father wanted his son to work with him, so with that proposal and the warm weather as incentives, La Pointe packed up his family and his in-laws and moved South in 1957. The men worked to build the station up, and La Pointe moved it to a new location and enlarged the business. In his spare time, he worked on antique cars and loved restoring them.

"I loved the accomplishment that came from taking something that was all banged up and making it look like it was never touched. I liked the aspect of making something out of nothing," he said.

This traveling man, who has been to all states except Alaska and Wisconsin with his family, sold his business, retired and maintained his family's lifestyle with real estate investments. However, he was not sure about his future plans. He had several goals in mind, which included teaching his six children about their faith. "I wanted to help them be educated and be interested in their religion," he said.

He and his wife were heavily involved at their church including La Pointe's service as an usher. The couple tried to share their faith to the fullest degree with their children.

After the children were grown, they began to wonder where they would spend their autumn and winter years together. North Carolina seemed to be the likely choice, and they moved to Maggie Valley and settled in at St. Margaret Church over 14 years ago.

"I became an altar server, and we did a lot of work to get others involved," he said.

His pastor informed him about the diocesan diaconate program, and he was intrigued. He went through the lay ministry program, one of the requirements, but there was a problem. He was 64 at that time — older than the age limit of 60. After writing to Bishop William G. Curlin about his desire to serve, he was granted permission to enter the program.

"If I had known the diaconate was open to anyone, I would have done it long time ago," he said. "I was doing most everything that a deacon does — giving the Eucharist to the sick and teaching RCIA classes — but I wanted to baptize children and adults and perform weddings. It (the diaconate) was simply another thing I wanted to get involved in."

Mrs. La Pointe was supportive and was ready for her contribution to the ministry. But, their outlook for the future suddenly became hazy. Mrs. La Pointe was diagnosed with breast cancer and had a mastectomy halfway through the formation classes.

Doctors informed them after a series of chemotherapy treatments that she was in full remission, and she went back to work as a restaurant hostess. When she could not seem to hold the menus in her hands, they were filled with a feeling of dread. Their feelings were correct — the cancer was back, and the outlook was dim.



Rev. Mr. Gerard and Lorraine La Pointe

Plans for their 50th anniversary and their grandson's wedding, both in November 2001, and his ordination in June seemed to fall apart. However, the bishop moved his ordination ahead to March at his parish so that Mrs. La Pointe could attend. It was a happy day for them both, and they were all smiles, but two weeks later, Mrs. La Pointe died.

"I know that I was truly blessed to be married to her for 49 years and to have six beautiful children together," said Rev. Mr. La Pointe, who misses everything about his wife. "I am coping pretty well. I have moments like anyone else, but with all of the family at St. Margaret, it helps. I can't believe what people have done for me, and they have treated me like one of the family. Most of them took as badly as I did, but they have helped me to cope."

The grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of one spends his spare time creating works of art from wood that he calls "3-D wood mosaics." This artistry called intarsia is a way for Rev. Mr. La Pointe to express himself through his carvings. He says that his ministry fulfills his life because he is able to be involved in parish life in various ways that he was not prior to ordination. "I am happy with what I am doing now."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

## Fresco cleanup efforts continue

**Cleanup work continues in St. Peter Church in Charlotte, where a central portion of the fresco fell Feb. 20. Specialists, including a conservator and various engineers are looking at the source of this tragedy. The diocese will make long range plans once all pertinent information is obtained. The immediate goal is to have the parish back up and open for Mass.**



Photo by Joann S. Keane

# Web site launched to help Catholics get answers on faith questions

By DANA WIND
Catholic News Service

DURHAM, N.C. (CNS) — Half way through the live chat session, moderator Father Joe Vetter, campus minister at Duke University, found himself on the receiving end of a stumper.

If the Catholic Church does not regard a marriage as valid unless it is consummated, and Mary remained ever virgin, does that mean the marriage between Mary and Joseph was invalid, a chat participant wondered.

It was not a Scripture scholar who asked the question. Instead, it was a college student who went by the online name "Jacko."

A new Catholic Web site at http://www.CatholicQandA.org is the brainchild of campus ministers from the Diocese of Raleigh. It debuted in January and is open to anyone interested in the Catholic faith. Visitors can post questions and receive e-mail replies, but the real attraction is the Tuesday evening live chat sessions with a priest or campus minister. No topics are barred.

"The site is useful because Catholicism is the least understood Christian religion. It's not even understood well by Catholics!" said Scott Hajek, a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

About three years ago Father Phillip Leach, diocesan director of campus ministry, conceived of an idea to use the latest technology to reach Catholic students. Much of the information available online comes from individuals or "outside" groups, he noted.

"We, as ministers, really need to pay more attention because (the Web) has become such a significant tool for catechesis," Father Leach said.

Most of the live sessions develop into dialogues rather than a straight question-answer format. On average, six visitors participate on any given Tuesday during the 9 to 11 p.m. time slot.

"We're dealing with a population of Roman Catholic people who are highly educated and deeply dedicated to their faith. Simple answers will not do."

They're also dealing with a population that is not confined to Catholics, college students or the geographic Diocese of Raleigh. While 91 percent of visitors are Catholic, 7 percent are Protestant and 2 percent are Jewish. Nearly one-third of users are over the age of 22.

The anonymity also provides a comfort level not found in talking to a priest face to face. Students have asked detailed questions about sexual morality and non-Catholic friends who want to go to confession.

"It's not a theological site," said Father Leach. "It is an attempt to give (visitors) the very best presentation of what the church teaches that is commensurate with the kind of education and interest that students have."

And in answer to the question about Mary and Joseph, Father Vetter submitted the following to cyberspace: "The Catholic Church certainly considers Mary and Joseph to be a married couple."

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Those who obey their human nature cannot please God. But you do not live as your human nature tells you to; Instead, you live as the Spirit tells you - if, in fact, God's Spirit lives in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

— Romans 8:8-9

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

# A hunger for the cause

By Kevin E. Murray
Associate Editor

BELMONT — The idea of going hungry can be a hard one to swallow, but not for these kids.

Approximately 60 youth ministry members from four area churches — two Catholic and two non-Catholic — gathered at First Presbyterian Church for 30 Hours of Famine March 8 and 9. The youths went without food, learned about global famine, and helped deliver a truckload of potatoes to those in need.

"It was really enlightening. We learned what other countries go through every day," said Catherine Butterfield, 18, from Queen of the Apostles in Belmont.

30 Hours of Famine is an international youth movement sponsored by World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization serving the poor in nearly 100 countries, according to World Vision's Web site.

"The fast is an opportunity to see Jesus in the people that they help," said Dennis Teall-Fleming, director of faith formation at Queen of the Apostles. "We minister to Christ when we help Christ's people."

Teall-Fleming had done the 30 Hours of Famine with other youth ministries before. When the Queen of the Apostles youth ministry saw videotape of hungry children, they wanted to get involved.

"We started by looking at the problem of hunger in the world," said Teall-Fleming. "They said, 'We need to do something about that. This is what God needs of us — to help the poor.'"

The teens found sponsors to raise money during their fast, which will assist a specific child in Kenya, Africa.

"It really helps to have a certain kid for the money to help," said Christine Irvine, 14, of Queen of the Apostles. "A lot of times, you don't know where it's going or who it's helping."

The Queen of the Apostles teens got together with their youth ministry comrades from Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Denver, N.C., and First Presbyterian Church and First United Methodist Church in Belmont.

"We have the people here who God wants to be here, and they've come together really well," said Teall-Fleming.

The fasting began at noon, with the teens encouraged to drink nothing but water and juice. They gathered from 5 p.m. Friday until 6 p.m. Saturday, when they were allowed to have their first meal. The night consisted of small group sessions and a late evening worship service.

"That put everything into a spiritual perspective," said Teall-Fleming. "We sang, read scripture and prayed for people in different areas of the world."



Photos by Kevin E. Murray



**Above, youth ministry from Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont and Holy Spirit Church in Denver sorted 44,000 pounds of potatoes during the 30 Hours of Famine at First Presbyterian Church in Belmont March 8 and 9. Left, the potatoes were boxed and bagged for delivery to area homeless shelters, soup kitchens and food banks.**

"It was a good experience because for a little bit of time, we stopped thinking about ourselves and started thinking about others," said Katie Bess, 17, from Queen of the Apostles. "I was glad to be here because it was for a good cause."

An 18-wheeler truck dumped 44,000 pounds of potatoes into the church parking lot, which the teens put into boxes and bags Saturday morning. The food was to be delivered to food banks and needy homes in the immediate area, said Teall-Fleming. Numerous soup kitchens and shelters came with vans and trucks to pick up shipments.

"I think the kids are awesome," said Marilyn Marks, the Western North Carolina coordinator for Society of St. Andrew, the nonprofit group that salvaged and supplied the potatoes from farms in North Carolina.

"Their commitment to the poor is overwhelming. They're an inspiration to me," said Marks.

"I think the kids are wonderful," said Susan Rozycki, a youth minister at Holy Spirit Church. "And it's great to see that several denominations are working together."

"It (the famine) brought me closer to my friends," said Katie Rozycki, 16, "It took the materialism out of our lives so we could concentrate on each other."

The teens were quick to recommend 30 Hours of Famine to other youth ministries.

"We're only doing this for 30 hours. We really can't get the full impact of what others in the world go through day after day," said Butterfield. "But we're starting to. We learned how lucky we really are."

Teall-Fleming said the experience would last with the teens long after the fast was over. "Some teens want to do more because they remember there are people around the world, and around the country, who are hungry and need our help," he said.

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

### Long Island priest, parishioner killed by gunman during Mass

LYNBROOK, N.Y. (CNS) — A Long Island priest and a 73-year-old parishioner were killed by a gunman during morning Mass March 12.

Father Lawrence M. Penzes, 50, and Eileen Tosner were shot just after the priest finished the homily during the 9 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church in Lynbrook, according to Karen Montalbano, a spokeswoman for the Rockville Centre Diocese.

Associated Press reported that Father Penzes was shot in the back and Tosner was shot in the face. About seven hours later police captured a suspect after storming a nearby apartment where he had been holed up all day. The man reportedly had been fired from a custodian job at the parish.

Father Penzes was taken to Mercy Medical Center in Rockville Centre, where he was pronounced dead shortly after arriving. Tosner was pronounced dead at the church. No one else was shot, although several members of the congregation went to area hospitals.

A police spokesman told the Long Island daily newspaper, Newsday, that the gunman fled after firing the shots. He was chased by two members of the congregation, including an off-duty Lynbrook police officer. The men were able to wrestle a rifle away from the suspect, who then ran into a nearby apartment building.

Newsday quoted Lynbrook Mayor Eugene Scarapato as saying the suspect was Peter Troy, 34, who had been fired a few months earlier from a job as parish custodian over the theft of money from the collection box. Scarapato said Troy hid a rifle in a long coat until he walked into the back of the church.

Police did not immediately confirm the mayor's identification of the suspect. He was arrested after police in riot gear stormed the building and brought him out. The suspect apparently tried to stab one of the officers with a small knife, Newsday reported.

The 400 students at the parish's elementary school were kept in their classrooms all day and parents were told they would not be released until the suspect was in custody.

Approximately 40 people attended the morning Mass.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Rosary hangs from tree near Pentagon**

**A rosary hangs from a tree near the Pentagon March 11, six months after a hijacked jetliner was flown into the U.S. defense headquarters just outside of Washington. People gathered at emotional ceremonies in New York, the Washington area and Pennsylvania to mark a half-year since the devastating Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.**

### Pope donates $30,000 for famine relief in Malawi, Zambia

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has given $30,000 to the bishops of Malawi and Zambia to help them feed the millions of people who risk starving in their nations. The papal donations of $15,000 for each country were sent through the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum," the Vatican's charity promotion and coordination office, said Msgr. Karel Kasteel, council secretary. The U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization said 4 million people in Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe need emergency food assistance this spring because of low corn stockpiles, high prices and persistent transportation problems with the food the governments have managed to buy.

### Quebec bishops reaffirm church stance on gay marriage, stem cells

MONTREAL (CNS) — Quebec's bishops have reaffirmed church teaching against homosexual marriage and stem-cell research involving human embryos. In their plenary assembly held in Cap de la Madeleine March 6-8, the bishops urged the province's government to carefully weigh all the ethical aspects surrounding rapidly developing genetic information before legislating on the subject. They also expressed concern about a bill proposing rights equal to marriage for same-sex partners. The bill, currently under review by the Parliamentary Commission, proposes equal rights and obligations in financial, legal and medical matters for homosexual partners.

### Catholic institutions in Bethlehem hit by Israeli guided missiles

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Two Catholic institutions and the home of a Catholic Bethlehem resident were hit by Israeli guided missiles in the latest round of violence to rock the Middle East. The latest escalation of violence provoked the heads of churches in Jerusalem March 9 to issue a letter titled "A Call to All the People of the Holy Land," which expressed deep concern over the spiraling violence. The church leaders called on "everyone to take the appropriate measures to stop further massacres or tragedies for our two peoples." Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah and the Franciscan custodian of the Holy Land, Father Giovanni Battistelli, were among the 13 signatories of the letter.

### Irish bishops disappointed by narrow defeat of abortion referendum

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — The Irish bishops are disappointed at the narrow defeat of an abortion referendum, said a spokesman for the bishops' conference. The spokesman, Father Martin Clarke, told Catholic News Service that Irish citizens missed an opportunity to tighten the country's abortion laws. "Obviously, we are disappointed, particularly as the result means that the constitutional protection of the unborn continues to be undermined by the 'X case' judgment," Father Clarke said, referring to the 1992 Irish Supreme Court case that allowed an abortion if a pregnant woman threatened suicide. The March 6 referendum included a measure to end the suicide provision, but the proposal was rejected by a margin of less than 1 percent.

### Latin American bishops look to form theology from indigenous values

BOGOTA, Colombia (CNS) — Latin American bishops plan to examine the religious elements of indigenous cultures to form a native theology compatible with Catholicism, said the general secretary of the Latin American bishops' council. "We want to collect religious expressions and not just purify them, but develop them as a Catholic theology," said Bishop Carlos Aguiar Retes of Texcoco, Mexico. The bishops hope to avoid a politicized theology that could be used for partisan purposes, he said. Bishop Aguiar was interviewed Feb. 27 at the bishops' council headquarters in Bogota. The bishops'

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**March 24 — Palm Sunday**
11 a.m. Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**March 26 — 11 a.m.**
Chrism Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**March 28 — Holy Thursday**
7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**March 29 — Good Friday**
7:30 p.m. Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**March 30 — Holy Saturday**
8 p.m. Easter vigil
St. Patrick, Charlotte

## Diocesan planner

**March**

**22** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Men's Club will hold its world famous fish fry this evening from 5-7 p.m. in the St. Gabriel School cafeteria, 3016 Providence Rd. Menu includes fried and baked fish, clam chowder, Cole slaw, French fries, hush puppies, dessert and beverages. For details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

**22** HICKORY — Engaged Encounter is for couples planning marriage, who desire a richer, fuller life together. Although the encounter weekend is Catholic in origin and orientation, it is open to couples of any faith. Couples are encouraged to attend the weekend three to six months prior to their wedding date. Engaged couples may take part in one of several Engaged Encounter weekends, which will take place at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane: today through Mar. 24, April 5-7, May 10-12, Aug. 23-25, Sept. 20-22 and Oct. 25-27. For registration and other information, call Carl Whitesel at (704) 987-9420 or (888) 310-9040 or e-mail eeregistration@yahoo.com.

**22** SWANANNOA — The Lenten and Easter week schedules for St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, will be as follows: penance service tonight at 7 p.m.; palms at all Masses on March 24; seder meal at 6 p.m. on March 25 with covered dish meal; 7 p.m. Mass on March 28 with washing of the feet followed with eucharistic adoration from 8 p.m.-midnight; Stations of the Cross on March 29 at noon for youth and teens and Mass at 3 p.m. with veneration of the cross and presentation of the heart of the cross at 7 p.m.; blessing of food baskets at 10 a.m. and Easter vigil Mass at 8 p.m. on March 30; and Easter day Masses at 8:30 and 11 a.m. on March 31. For more information, call the church office at (828) 686-8833.

**23** CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., for its 3rd

council, known by its acronym as CELAM, is a service and coordinating body for 22 national bishops' conferences in Latin American and the Caribbean.

### German diocese told to withdraw from abortion counseling program

COLOGNE, Germany (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has instructed the Diocese of Limburg to withdraw from a state-sponsored pregnancy counseling system, 15 months after other German dioceses withdrew. In a letter to Bishop Franz Kamphaus of Limburg, Pope John Paul said that, while he respected Bishop Kamphaus' conflict of conscience over the issue, "for the sake of the clarity and unity of the witness for life of the Catholic Church" he was requiring the diocese to follow the German bishops' decision to leave the program. "The withdrawal from the state system is to be carried out as quickly as possible," the letter said. The pope asked Bishop Kamphaus to have Auxiliary Bishop Gerhard Pieschl carry out the decision.

### Swiss church leaders welcome vote approving country's U.N. membership

GENEVA (CNS) — Church leaders in Switzerland expressed "relief and happiness" after a national referendum favored entry into the United Nations. "The national churches declared themselves in favor of entering the community of nations," the Catholic bishops' conference and Protestant Federation said in a joint statement. "Swiss foreign policy stresses human rights and humanitarian involvement. Joining the U.N. will reinforce our country's influence in this area," the statement said. A 54.6 percent majority voted March 3 to make Switzerland the United Nations' 190th member-state. Church leaders cautioned that "worries and doubts" by those who had voted against membership also should be taken into account.

### French Cardinal Jean-Louis Bille, 64, dies of cancer

PARIS (CNS) — French Cardinal Jean-Louis Bille of Lyons died March 12 after a months-long battle with cancer. He was 64. "Up to the very end, despite the ordeal of suffering, he showed an extraordinary fighting spirit, rooted in the faith he had in Christ," the Lyons Archdiocese said in a statement. In October, after being diagnosed with a colon tumor, Cardinal Bille resigned as head of the French bishops' conference and began chemotherapy treatment. The archdiocese's statement said he died in Bordeaux surrounded by friends and family. Cardinal Bille had served as president of the bishops' conference since 1996 and archbishop of Lyons since 1998. He was named a cardinal by Pope John Paul II in 2001.



CNS PHOTO BY BILL WITTMAN

**Pilgrims holding palms look toward Jerusalem**

**Pilgrims from Toronto hold palms as they stop to look toward the Old City of Jerusalem during a walk along a traditional route marking Jesus' triumphant entry into the city. Touring the Holy Land in late February, the pilgrims found themselves alone at sites normally packed with tourists and pilgrims. Ongoing violence in the Mideast has kept most visitors away. Palm Sunday is celebrated March 24 this year.**

### Ramallah parish perseveres despite escalating violence, priest says

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Parishioners in Ramallah on the West Bank are trying to lead normal lives despite escalating Mideast violence, said a Ramallah priest. "In spite of it all, we are trying our best to continue," Father Ibrahim Hijazin of Holy Family Parish told Catholic News Service. "Even if there is shooting, we will continue, because life should go on and we can't accept to (bow) to the Israeli shooting. At the same time, people are in a real crisis," he said in a telephone interview. In early March, Ramallah and other Palestinian cities came under heavy fire by Israeli forces retaliating for a series of suicide bombings. Since the current Palestinian uprising began nearly 18 months ago, more than 1,000 Palestinians and more than 300 Israelis have been killed.

### Faith helps New York's 'singing cop' persevere

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Until six months ago, New Yorkers knew Officer Daniel Rodriguez as the city's singing cop. But since the Sept. 11 terror attacks that brought down the World Trade Center, America and the world also have begun to know the talents of the Catholic policeman. Rodriguez has sung "God Bless America," "America the Beautiful" and "The Star-Spangled Banner" at baseball's World Series, the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, and a host of other public events. "Faith" is how Rodriguez says he has gotten through the past half-year knowing that his growing fame is the result of a collective national tragedy — and thousands of individual tragedies. Rodriguez, a lyric "spinto" — a tenor with the range to reach lower notes — is on leave from the New York Police Department for three months of lessons with opera star Placido Domingo, artistic director of the Washington Opera.

### Ten named to Cardinal Law's commission on protecting children

BOSTON (CNS) — With the addition of 10 new members, Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston completed the selection process March 7 for his Commission for the Protection of Children. "Our priority has been to have a good balance of expertise, talent, gender and diversity," said Dr. Michael Collins, the cardinal's point man for the commission. "We wanted the commission to be representative of experts and society." The announcement increases the number on the commission from the initial five selected by the cardinal in late January to 15. They were slated to have their first meeting March 16. Members include leading figures in psychiatry, medicine, law, education, social services, child welfare, child development and law enforcement. There are eight women and seven men. Only one is a priest or religious: Jesuit Father Edwin H. Cassem, a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and former chief of psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Annual Women's Day, today from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Mercy Sister Helen Burns will speak on the topic, "Check Your Baggage." The day of prayer and reflection is dedicated to Mary, the mother of God. Mass is at 8 a.m. in the sanctuary with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. in the parish center. For registration and other information, call Kathy Murray at (704) 849-0398.

**23** STATESVILLE — The Family Life Ministry of St. Philip the Apostle Church, 525 Camden Dr., will be hosting its annual Easter egg hunt at 1 p.m. this afternoon. All are asked to bring a basket for the eggs and a baked dessert to share. For further details, call the church office at (704) 872-2579.

**23** LEXINGTON — The Easter week schedule for Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 619 S. Main St., is as follows: 5 p.m. vigil and procession of palms tonight; 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. (Spanish Mass) blessing and procession of palms with a K of C-sponsored pancake breakfast on March 24; 7 p.m. memorial Mass for the deceased on March 25; Tenebrae service at 7 p.m. on March 26; 7 p.m. reconciliation on March 27; 7:30 p.m. Mass with procession and adoration of Eucharist on March 28; 3 p.m. Mass with living Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m. on March 29; noon blessing of Easter food baskets with vigil at 7:30 p.m. on March 30; and 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. (Spanish) Masses on March 31. Call the church office at (336) 248-2463 for details.

**24** CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., will be having its Christian Coffeehouse tonight from 7:30-9 p.m. following 6 p.m. Mass. Through food, fellowship and Christian music from Kathy and David with Redeemed, participants can join in the spiritual celebration. For reservations of a table of six or more and sponsorship opportunities, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 614-9100.

**25** CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia will be held today and every fourth Monday from 10-11:30 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. With advanced notification, activities for the memory-impaired can be provided. For more information about the support group or the Shining Stars Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday at St. Gabriel from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and every Thursday at Sardis Presbyterian Church from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

**25** NEWTON — The Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group will be meeting at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

**27** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

### Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — The Knights of Columbus Council 770 will host bingo every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Ann Church activity center, 3635 Park Rd. Call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte is a social group for singles 21 and over striving to maintain a warm and caring environment for singles by fostering friendships and enriching personal growth in the light of Christianity. Monthly events include Mass and brunch, weekend trips, movies, dinners and much more. For more information and a calendar, call (704) 547-9844 or (704) 504-8509 or visit the Web site at www.catholicsinglescharlotte.faithweb.com.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.*

# New Knights continue a long, noble tradition

By DIANNE M. A. RIGGS
Correspondent

SWANNANOA — Chivalry is not dead. But instead of thundering horses and clashing broadswords, today's knights fight for the church's ethical code and strive to embody Jesus' command to "love one another." Of course, these knights are the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic fraternal benefit society.

Their ranks just grew stronger with the organization, chartering and first meeting of Council 13016 at St. Margaret Mary Church. In a simple, meaningful ceremony, District Deputy Knight David Smith of St. Barnabas Church legally installed 11 officers Feb. 24.

Smith encouraged the men to serve the church and their fellow man with the accords of God. He stressed that each has talents and anticipated that the newly elected officers would use those talents in Knightly service.

Married officeholders' wives presented the jewel of their office, while Smith bestowed the others. Then, newly installed Grand Knight Joseph Madden gave charter members their certificates.

"We want to help the parish out any way we can with Father Andy's direction," said Madden, who functions as the council's president. He said the men's current plan is to assist with youth group activities and support other parish activities throughout the year. "As we grow and mature, (we will) make other goals in the future," he said.

Why does a man become a Knight? The answers varied. Mark Owens said he felt like he was not doing enough to help other people. When he heard of the Knights, he thought it would be a way to do something. "I felt it was really a calling for me — a start," he said. "I don't know what the Lord has for me further down the road."

"Lots of friends (were) joining. I heard a lot about it... wanted to be helpful," said Edmund Fiore. "(They) do a lot of good for charity and underprivileged children."

At St. Margaret Mary, Father Andrew Latsko was particularly interested in having a Knight's council at the church. He had heard that Father McGivney, the Knight's founder, and Bishop William G. Curlin both believed every Catholic church should have a Knight's council.

"This preyed on my mind," he said. "But the real reason is that the Knights of Columbus have a balanced agenda — spiritual and temporal."

Knights are particularly known in the United States for their Tootsie Roll drive that supports Project Lamb (monies given for the mentally challenged, including the Special Olympics), the RSVP program, which assists seminarians, as well as their support for many local community needs, especially in the areas of youth work.

Family life is very important to the Knights. During the luncheon immediately following the installation, Financial Secretary Anthony Marcaccio handed out Knights' coloring books to the children present. The luncheon itself was prepared by Knights' wives. The fact that spouses presented the officers' jewels during the ceremony was symbolic of the role wives and children play in a married Knight's life.

"As a wife of an active Knight, (I try) to set a good example for the children to be active in the church and charities. It is important to (support the Knights) and make sure they can do their work," said Rosine Marcaccio.

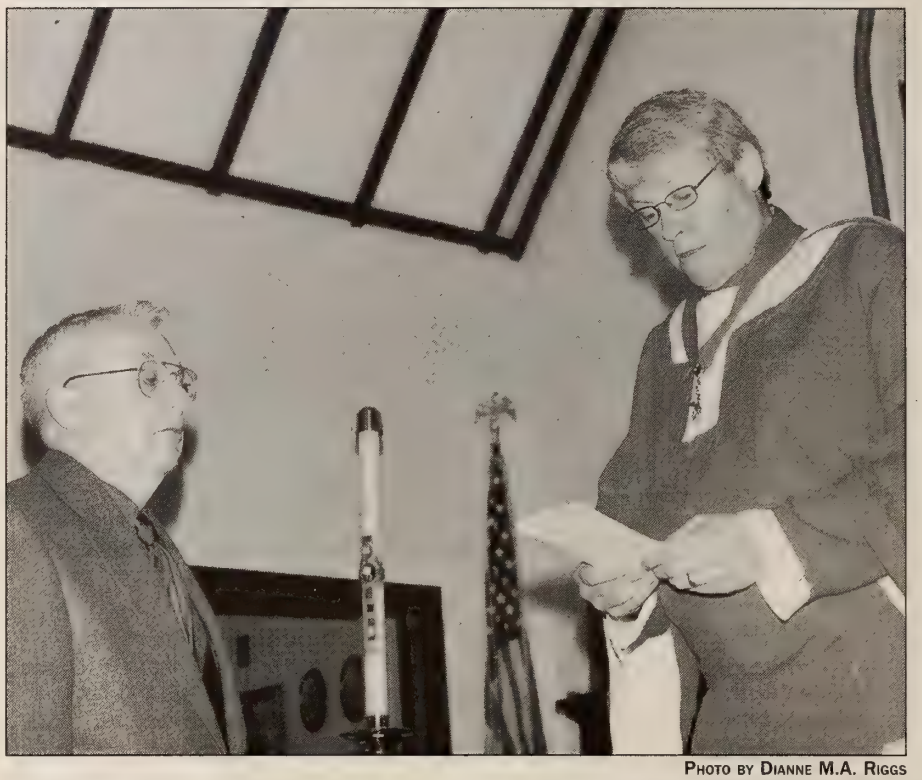


Photo by Dianne M.A. Riggs

**District Deputy Knight David Smith inducts Joseph Madden as the grand knight of Council 13016.**

According to Smith, Knights support five distinct areas in a parish: the church, the council and its needs, youth, family life and the local community beyond the church. They support these areas not only with their time, but also with money raised.

"What we (as Knights) make in money, we try to give away. If we make $300, we give $3,000 away. We generally don't have reserve funds," said Smith.

While most Catholics have occasionally seen the colorful Knights' robes at various Catholic events, not all are acquainted with the Society's origins.

Father Michael McGivney, whose priestly ministries began at St. Mary in New Haven, Conn., on Christmas Day 1877, knew from his own humble beginnings the plight of the working class and immigrant poor of his church. He was deeply concerned. Weekly he saw widows and orphans who were destitute, following the death of the breadwinner from sickness or an industrial accident. He also wanted a way to strengthen the Catholic Christian faith and fraternity of the men in his parish. Finally, he was concerned that his male parishioners were turning to secret societies prevalent at that time.

After exploring the idea of a Catholic fraternal organization during the year 1881, the first council meeting was held in February 1882. The name Knights of Columbus was chosen to identify both as Catholics and as Americans. Four degrees, or levels of membership, were chosen: charity, unity, fraternity and later, patriotism.

By the time of Father McGivney's death in 1890, there were 57 Knights of Columbus councils chartered in New England. Today there are 1.6 million members spread throughout the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Mexico and several Central American and Caribbean countries.

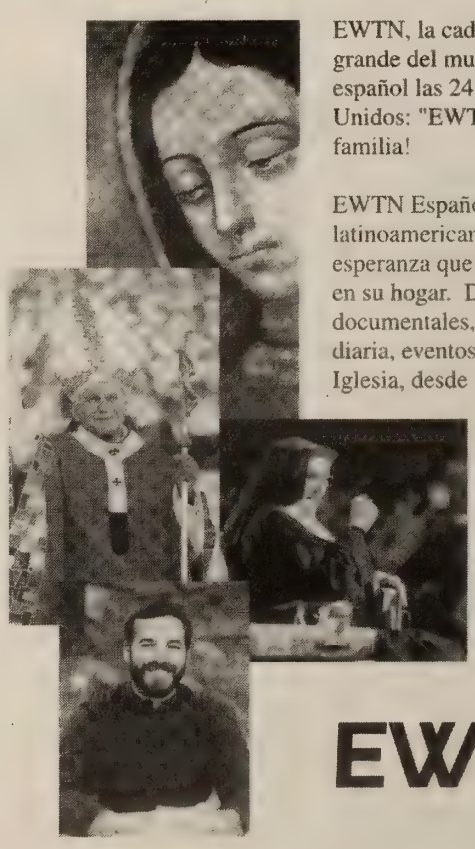
The Knights are a hybrid organization, providing members with an avenue for brotherhood and charity, and at the same time, an insurance benefit in the case of the accidental death of a brother Knight or his wife. Unknown to some Catholics and others, the Knights of Columbus constitute one of the most successful insurance companies in the world.

Any man, 18 years of age or over, of sound Catholic Christian character and in good standing with the church is eligible for membership as a Knight, said Madden.

Officers for Council number 13016 are: Grand Knight Joseph Madden; Deputy Grand Knight George Frazier; Financial Secretary Anthony Marcaccio; Treasurer Dr. Rodolfo Valencia; Warden David Law; Advocate J. Chris Gibbs; Chancellor Edward Papay; Guard Robert Riegger; Recorder Paul McCrane; Trustee William Armstrong; Trustee Donald Blaser.

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# Sister's charity embodied in community center

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

HAYESVILLE — When Charity Sister Loretto John Meehan came to this mountain community in 1971, health services — or any kind of services for low-income people — were minimal. As one of the healthcare pioneers in this region, Sister John's name and memory remain strong here.

She now works in New York as one of four assistants to the administrator of the senior sisters' facility at Mount St. Vincent, her order's motherhouse. On March 10, though, she was back in Hayesville when the Sister Loretto John Meehan Community Services Center was dedicated in her honor to carry on the work she and other nuns of various religious orders began. Her sisters, Sister Mary Martin Meehan and Helen White, also attended.

The dedication was held in the nearby Hayesville United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall because the Sister John Center did not have a room large enough for the crowd anticipated to attend the dedication. People who could not find seats lined the walls around the room.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church hosted an open house at the center following the dedication.

This is not the first time Sister John has been feted. The Sister L. John Meehan Bridge was named for her in July 2000. The bridge, across the Hiawassee River, straddles the Clay/Cherokee County line.

"The reason they did that is because she worked in both counties, and they thought that in 30 years she probably crossed that bridge a thousand times," said Father George M. Kloster, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) and St. William Church in Murphy and a member of the committee to develop the Sister John Center.





Photos by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**Above left, Sister Loretto John Meehan (third from right) receives a standing ovation during the dedication of the Sister Loretto John Meehan Community Services Center in Hayesville March 10. Above right, Ed Moeller, a parishioner at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, and Sister John pause after the dedication. The conference room in the Sister John Center was named for Moeller and his late wife, Barbara, in honor of their community service. "Any good cause in the community, and the Moellers were part of it," said Father George M. Kloster, IHM**

"Where many served, none served better than Sister John," said Dr. Brian Mitchell, of the Hinton Rural Life Center, at the dedication. Sister John served on the board of the center, which provides support for rural Methodist churches.

"She spent many hours with patients here and in their homes as a nurse and a friend. She took patients to medical appointments. She provided solace to the dying before there was Hospice. She became the most well-known nurse in these mountain communities. Sister John brought health care in such a fine way that trust was established with Good Shepherd (Home Health and Hospice), perhaps at a time when these people were thought of as outsiders," he said.

"The nicest part of my work here was getting to know people," Sister John said during the dedication. "Each person was part of me. It didn't matter what religion you were. I hope there are a lot of Methodists and Baptists and Jehovah's Witnesses waiting for me somewhere. The Glenmary Sisters were the foundation, but there were many communities. We didn't even think about what community we were."

The Sister Loretto John Meehan Community Services Center houses Western North Carolina Legal Services, MPD Counseling Services, REACH of Clay County, Mountain Youth Services and the Fraternal Order of Police.

The Catholic Church has owned the facility since 1957. It had been the Carolina Motor Court and Restaurant before the Diocese of Raleigh purchased it in 1957. Glenmary Sisters established the Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice in the building, and Mass was celebrated there because the town had no Catholic church. The sisters also lived in the building. When the Diocese of Charlotte was established in 1971, it became the building's owner.

That was the same year that Sister John, then in her late 30s, arrived to become a staff nurse, working with two Glenmary sisters and a home health aid at Good Shepherd. She had always been interested in Appalachia, and wrote to Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh asking about opportunities. Sister John visited Hayesville for two weeks and returned the following year for what would be a nearly 30-year stay.

Hayesville was certainly different from New York. "We had one blinking light, one bank," Sister John said. "The old jail was still in operation; now it's a museum. One community had just gotten electricity a couple of years before. People still had outhouses."

Good Shepherd was a welcoming

See SISTER'S CHARITY, NEXT PAGE

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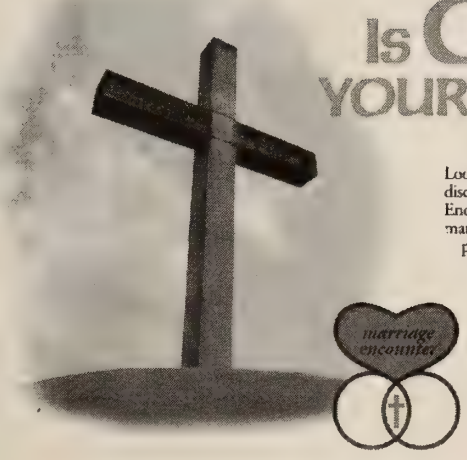
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# SISTER'S CHARITY, from previous page

presence in the community.

"The kids would feel free to stop in on their way home from school and go to the refrigerator," Sister John said. "The sheriff would call and say, 'There's a family stranded over the mountain. Can you do something?'"

Going out to help families and others who needed assistance meant traveling in a pickup truck on dirt roads. When the trail became too narrow for a vehicle, she hiked in. Sometimes she had to figure out which of the many bridges over small creeks was the one referred to in the directions to her location.

"We cut wood for people," she said. "We cooked. We would do laundry for people who didn't have electricity. There were no Laundromats. We were on call all the time. Wherever there was a need, we just went out. We weren't bogged down with all the laws there are today. You never got lost, and you never went hungry. No matter what door you knocked on, you were always invited in."

If medical needs exceeded the locally available information, Sister John phoned home. "I'd call my sister, Sister Martin. She was at St. Vincent Hospital in New York. I'd tell her what we were up against, and she'd get the information we needed."

In this way Sister John learned the physical therapy she used to help a severely crippled girl who "couldn't even move one finger." The girl, now in her 20s, recovered full mobility.

"We were very conscious of the needs of health and of the people," she said. The sisters at Good Shepherd invited senior citizens to their facility for Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners and provided holiday meals to prisoners and staff at the local jail.

"At Christmas I'd make big pans of cookies and take them around," Sister John said. "Everybody, including businesses, got cookies. At the jail, they got the same."

Sister John admires the people she served. "They had great respect for their land and the mountains and nature," she said. "They were content. I learned a lot from them. They had their land, their gardens. Everyone knew each other."

Eventually, though, the Good Shepherd facility changed. Catholic services moved to IHM when the church opened in 1985. The sisters had other living quarters. Briefly, the building was a homeless shelter. Good Shepherd moved out of the building when Murphy Medical Center bought it in 2000.

"When Good Shepherd moved out, the diocese was faced with an issue: What do we do with the building?" Father Kloster said. "It was still a vibrant source of life for the community. We decided to name it for Sister John and rent it, at minimal rent, to agencies that were close to Sister John's heart."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

# Rev. Mr. Joseph E. Garavaglia, dead at 71

HICKORY — Rev. Mr. Joseph E. Garavaglia, a permanent deacon at St. Aloysius Church, died of a stroke on Feb. 25 at Frye Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were held at his parish on March 1 at 11 a.m. with a military guard and a 21-gun salute in honor of his military career.

Born on Oct. 10, 1930, Rev. Mr. Garavaglia, a Detroit, Mich., native, grew up during the Depression era, the son of Italian immigrants. His signing up for the reserves led to active duty in the Marines after high school graduation in 1949. The cradle Catholic married Ilah Barnes in 1951. Six months later, he was shipped to Korea to serve in the war. Frostbite from the extreme temperatures sidelined him for a while during his 13-month tour of duty, and he and his wife were sent to Cherry Point, N.C., for three years where their son, Bruce, was born.

After four years in New Hampshire, the family was shipped to Naples, Italy, where they adopted their daughter, Vanda. After returning to Cherry Point, Garavaglia was shipped out to Vietnam in 1965 for the first of two tours of duty. Retirement came after he was asked to go back for a third time to Vietnam, and they went to visit friends in Hickory, N.C., in 1970. They liked the area and made it their home.



**Rev. Mr. Joseph E. Garavaglia**

He was ordained to the permanent diaconate in 1983 and was assigned to St. Aloysius. His years of diaconate duties included hospital ministry as an associate chaplain and other ministerial work.

He is survived by his wife, Ilah; children, Bruce Garavaglia and Vanda Howard; his sister, Mary Hamilton; six grandchildren, Joseph, Dominic, Christen and Savannah Garavaglia and Robert and Lauren Howard; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Anthony and Carmelia Cudine Garavaglia; a brother and two sisters.


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*Rev. Daniel Quackenbush, O.F.M. Conv., St. Julia, Siler City, NC*

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*Mr. James K. Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, NC*

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# Diocesan In-Service Day given high marks by teachers

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

KERNERSVILLE — It was a beautiful day for diocesan teachers to travel to the Triad for a Diocesan In-Service Day at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School (BMHS) March 8.

Some teachers started the day with an 8 a.m. Mass celebrated by Father Christopher Roux, the school chaplain.

During the homily, Father Roux reminded the teachers, "God must be the center of your lives. Then, all else will flow from there. If we keep the children from walking through the gates of the Kingdom of God, you and I will not be able to walk through those gates."

The in-service started at 9 a.m. with a prayer by Father James Hawker, diocesan vicar for education. Father Hawker said the two great commandments are "intimately integrated and must be proclaimed throughout the world. In response to these commands, you folks are here."

Somewhat sadly, he told his audience, "This is the last opportunity I have to publicly express my thanks to Dr. Michael Skube," diocesan superintendent of schools for the last 13 years. Father Hawker told Skube that everyone would miss his presence greatly.

Skube, who finishes supervision of the 17 diocesan schools on June 14, will become superintendent of the 50 schools in the Diocese of Youngtown, Ohio.

Skube thanked Janice Ritter, assistant superintendent, and Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation of schools, for their time and energy in putting the in-service together.

"This format, last used four years ago, gives us the opportunity to target diverse needs and to pinpoint what is most sensitive to individual teachers," said Ritter. "It also gives them an opportunity to share ideas and successful techniques with their peers."

Each teacher had the opportunity to attend any four of the 113 sessions presented primarily by teachers and staff within the system. Topics ranged from "Improving Test Taking Skills" to "Image and Social Justice." Many teachers felt that the return to this format was needed, and they gave this year's in-service high marks for creativity and interest.

In the session entitled "The Teacher in the Catholic School: Witness of Christ," Father Hawker told his audience that the practical issues were good and necessary but that the most basic tool was the cross.

"(The cross) reminds us of the degree of the love that Jesus has for us as sinners," said Father Hawker. Using the words of Richard Cardinal Cushing, he said, "Every Christian is a good tool in the hands of God. New or old, sharp or dull, impressive or not, in the hands of a skilled craftsman — in this case God himself — the work is unbelievable."

Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs, presented the workshop "Listening to the Foreigner." Throughout his presentation he showed that the Eucharist, the cross and the sacraments were seen in a different light as knowledge and language changed.

According to Villapando, there is "no truth which is not culturally enfleshed." At the same time, "diversity is the real gift of God, which can be seen when viewing the contributions made by the African, Asian and Hispanic populations within the church and within this country," he said.

"This workshop was important because it clarified that our culture is of our truth, a part of who we are," said Sister of Saint Joseph Anne Thomas Taylor, BMHS dean of students. "Each of us needs to respect and understand where the other is coming from and that their truth in faith is the same as everyone else's."

Detective John Sturm of the Greensboro Police Department gave the most sought after session entitled "New Drugs in a New Age." In a "facts-only" presentation, Sturm bluntly told his listeners that rave parties are nothing more than all night drug parties. He described the effects of the drug "ecstasy," a mild hallucinate that stimulates the brain and heightens the senses while causing extreme dryness and an inability to be still.

Like with all street drugs, one can never be sure of a pill's dosage, said Sturm. A single pill may be OK, but a single pill another time can be lethal, he said. Sturm also said that at raves, a dealer can make a $25-$40 profit on a 12-cent pill plus charge $10 for a bottle of water.

Lisa Blanton, a Charlotte Catholic High School teacher, attended the workshop on "Perfectionism." Blanton said, "I have a lot of students who are perfectionists who feel they are not good enough. This workshop helped me by demonstrating methods of overcoming their feelings of inadequacy."

At the end of the day, teachers were given longevity awards, with one for 40 years of service going to Ofelia Alverez, a Spanish teacher at Immaculate Heart of Mary School. Each school had an award for a distinguished teacher. The award for principal of the year went to Betsy Desnoyer of All Saints School in Charlotte.

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*



PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**Dr. Michael Skube, diocesan superintendent of schools, discussing the days events with several vendors at the Diocesan In-Service Day for teachers at Bishop McGuinnes's Catholic High School March 8.**

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# Veteran CCHS teacher dies at 87

LANGHORNE, Pa. — Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart Sister Terese Matthews, 87, died Jan. 21 at Frankford Hospital-Bucks County, Langhorne, Pa., in the 69th year of her religious life.

Sister Terese lived in Charlotte for nine years from 1983 to 1992, during which she was assistant librarian at Charlotte Catholic High School, and taught two years of calligraphy classes at Central Piedmont Community College. At St. Ann Church, at the request of Monsignor John McSweeney, then-pastor, she instituted classes for the senior citizens in calligraphy, oil painting and ceramics.

Petite, gentle of manner and with a touch of Ireland in her voice, Sister Terese shared her beautiful gift of art with students of all ages before retiring to the Motherhouse in June 2000.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was held Jan. 25 at the Grey Nuns Motherhouse. Memorial contributions may be made to the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, 1750 Quarry Rd., Yardley, Pa. 19067-3998.

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# Catholic and Lutheran churches celebrate Lent together

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

HICKORY — For the second consecutive year, members of the churches belonging to the Hickory Roman Catholic/Lutheran Covenant came together in the middle of the Lenten season for dinner and worship at St. Aloysius Catholic Church March 6.

The theme for the service was unity among the churches in their common Lenten journeys. Each of the pastors in the four-church covenant chose a hymn to be sung at the service and gave a brief meditation before the chosen hymn.

Father Ed Sheridan of St. Aloysius chose "We Walk by Faith," written by Henry Alford and based on the biblical text of John 20:24-29. "It does give us a challenge to reflect on what we believe and why we believe it," said Father Sheridan. "It has to be by faith — in good times and bad times, when it's convenient and inconvenient."

Rev. Richard Fritz from St. Andrew's Lutheran Church spoke about the hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," written by Isaac Watts. "The man who wrote this hymn would have disapproved of (our worshipping together) mightily," said Rev. Fritz. "He was a Puritan ... but the Holy Spirit used him to write glorious hymns."

Rev. David Keck of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church spoke about the hymn "In Christ There is No East or West," written by John Oxenham. The hymn is based on the biblical text of Galatians 3:28 that says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

"This Christian author himself crossed many of these boundaries, as Jesus did," said Rev. Keck. "The tune of the hymn also crosses boundaries — it's an African-American spiritual."

Rev. Bob Shoffner from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church chose the Lutheran hymn "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus," written by Sigismund von Birken. Rev. Shoffner said that the hymn was meant to be used during Holy Week. "It welcomes us into a certain kind of journey — one led by Jesus Christ," he said. "The walk will not be without its distractions... but in giving ourselves as the body of Christ, we too are called to die to our passions."



Photo by Ellen N. Sigmon

**Father Ed Sheridan and St. Aloysius Catholic Church choir members look on as Rev. Bob Shoffner of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church leads the confession of faith during the Hickory Roman Catholic/Lutheran Covenant Lenten service at St. Aloysius March 6.**

The service also included a prayer of thanksgiving for baptism during which the pastors used evergreen branches to sprinkle water from the font on those in attendance.

Marie-Alix Geisler of St. Aloysius, a member of the covenant committee, presented a written meditation that included slides and music, and other members of the committee read the Scriptures. Rev. Deborah Michaels of Holy Trinity led the prayers with various members of the four churches reading the petitions from their seats in the sanctuary.

Members of St. Aloysius prepared and served the meal before the service. St. Aloysius also hosted the event last year.

The four churches signed a local covenant in 1994, and members of each church have been meeting as a committee on a monthly basis since then for conversation, study and prayer, and for planning joint services and other events. The group also co-sponsors the Aquinas/Luther conference each year, along with the Lenoir-Rhyne College Center for Theology.

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# Parishioners give hope to others through Diocesan Support Appeal

**From STAFF REPORTS**

CHARLOTTE — Diocesan and parish-level leaders and workers here in the Diocese of Charlotte are "Planting Seeds of Hope." Now, as Diocesan Support Appeal Sunday Weekend approaches, March 16-17, parishioners across the diocese are asked to support these men and women through their endeavors in their various ministries. This year's theme focuses on the work and dedication of campus ministers, youth ministers, parish catechetical leaders, permanent deacons, lay ministers and many others from which all people of the diocese benefit in some way.

The appeal is the diocese's main fund-raising effort, which provides funds for 35 ministries supported by the DSA. The focus areas include Catholic Social Services, Multicultural, Educational Ministries and Vocations. While letters and pledge cards have already been mailed to registered Catholics in the diocese, DSA Appeal Sunday Weekend and a second letter from Bishop William G. Curlin, mailed the week ending March 9, invite those who have not yet made a pledge to respond to give.

As of March 11, 52 percent of this year's $3,550,000 goal has been pledged at the halfway point for a total of $1,856,562 from 8,444 donors.

"All things considered, we are within just a few percentage points of where we were this time last year," said Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development.

Gaddy said that the response to the initial mailing further supports the way people in this diocese embrace stewardship as a way of life. "The generosity of the people is something that has always been gratifying, and it shows that people do look beyond their own immediate needs."

# Auction helps school's future

The Charlotte Catholic High School Foundation annual Gala and Auction was held at Carmel Country Club March 2. More than 250 parents, alumni and friends of the school attended the sold out event and vied for fabulous auction items, such as fur coats, international gourmet baskets, fine jewelry, sporting event tickets, restaurant gift certificates and so much more.

Sheri Lynch from radio station 109.7 the Link was the auctioneer for the live auction.

The highlight of the evening was when a prime parking space for a CCHS student was sold for $3,000. CCHS Principal Father Jim Cassidy then approved the sale of a second parking space that also sold for $3,000.

The winner of the Grand Spree trip to Hawaii, Bermuda or Caribbean Cruise was Charles McNealy, a parent at CCHS.

Proceeds from the 2002 Gala and Auction are being used to furnish a new 350-seat chapel at CCHS. Past fundraising efforts have allowed the Foundation to contribute to the purchase of a campus-wide security system, new crosses and lettering for the school building, numerous computers and other necessary items requested by the teachers not covered in the school budget.


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***HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE***

***Holy Tuesday, March 28, 11am***
*Chrism Mass: Blessing of the Holy Oils*
*Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant*

***Holy Thursday, March 28, 7:30pm***
*Mass of the Lord's Supper*
*Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant*

***Good Friday, March 29, 3pm***
*Stations of the Cross*

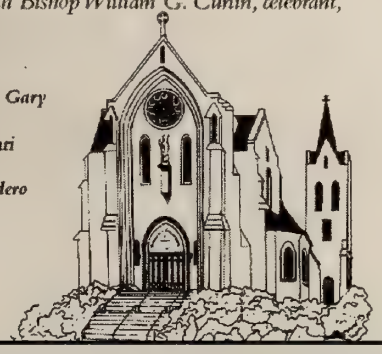
***Good Friday, March 29, 7:30pm***
*Sacred Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross*
*Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant*

***Holy Saturday, March 30, 8pm***
*Easter Vigil Mass*
*Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant*

***Easter Sunday Masses***
*8am, 9:30am,*
*11am with Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant,*
*12:30pm*

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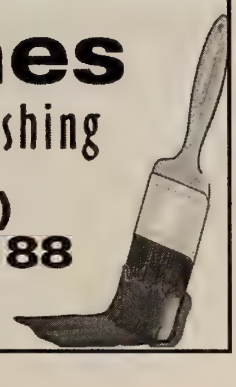


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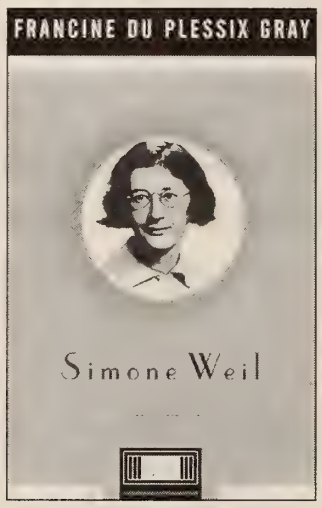


**Book Review**

# Writer offers insight, reflection of Catholicism

REVIEWED BY WAYNE A. HOLST
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In 1940 Simone Weil, the French philosopher raised in a secular Jewish home, wrote: "If there is a religious tradition I consider my patrimony, it is the Catholic tradition. The Christian, French, Hellenic tradition is mine; the Hebrew tradition is foreign to me."




Who was Simone Weil, and how seriously should modern Catholics take her writings? In "Simone Weil," a carefully developed study by author Francine du Plessix Gray, much can be learned about the church's spiritual influence in Western secular societies. Many of Weil's concerns have become our own.

In spite of her great adoration of the Eucharist, her intrigue with Catholic mysticism and her acceptance of many of the church's teachings, Weil remained unbaptized until just prior to her death at age 34. An unordained friend performed the "baptism."

"Go ahead," she motioned with a certain resignation as she spoke, "it can't do any harm."

A simple plaque marks her grave in an English cemetery. It states: "In 1942 Simone Weil joined the Provisional French Government (under Charles de Gaulle) in London, but developed tuberculosis and died in Grosvenor Sanatorium, Ashford. Her writings have established her as one of the foremost modern philosophers."

Weil's gift to us is the alternative perspectives she offers. It would not be the first time God has worked through seeming heretics.

The principal features of her character and thought are her asceticism, her quest for moral purity and martyrdom, as well as her striking insights into how the world's poor are dominated and oppressed. Weil's penetrating mind offers startling insight while at the same time provoking serious reflection. Some of her ideas were impractical and absurd. Yet Pope Paul VI considered her one of the three most important influences on his intellectual development.

Gray writes, "It was clear, by the time she was 14, that the most singular trait of Simone's character was her almost pathological receptiveness to the sufferings of others, and her strong tendency to cultivate her own. A former schoolmate recalls: 'Physically, she was a little child, unable to use her hands, but of extraordinary intelligence. She looked as if she belonged to another order of being, and her mind didn't seem to belong to our age or our milieu. She felt like a very old soul.'"

Weil not only wrote about the sufferings of the poor, she also worked in the fields and the shops with them. Her factory journal, for example, records in often harrowing detail the tasks she was assigned to do for pitifully modest wages, her impressions of her fellow workers and her own states of mind. It does not take much expertise to adapt her insights to immigrant farm workers and sweatshop seamstresses in North America.

It is still too soon for a final stock-taking on Weil's life. Catholic readers will doubtless find considerable merit in Gray's assessments. A more spiritually attuned biographer might have better appreciated and elucidated Weil's deep mysticism and her powers of religious insight. There is ambiguity in Gray's attitude toward her subject. In the end, whether Weil was a mystic or a masochist is a matter Gray rather enticingly leaves unanswered.

*Holst is a writer who has taught religion and culture at the University of Calgary.*

# Word to Life

Sunday Scripture Readings:
*March 17, 2002*
**Cycle A Readings:**
March 17, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1) Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalm 130:1-8
2) Romans 8:8-11
3) Gospel: John 11:1-45

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

On an unseasonably warm afternoon in late January, my two youngest grandchildren and I had just finished feeding the ducks, a ritual for all our visiting grandchildren. However, it's an activity that can lead to serious conversations concerning the mysteries of life. This day would be no exception.

We spotted a great blue heron fishing from the opposite bank. In a blink of an eye, the bird caught an unsuspecting fish and brought it back to shore. Shelby and his younger sister Olivia watched the bird eat his afternoon "snack" with intense curiosity. Shelby, the kindergartner in our little group, said, "Grandma, does Jesus take care of that fish after the bird eats it?"

I think I gave a reasonably satisfactory answer. However, it triggered a discussion of God's role in creating the world as well as incredulity over God's logic for creating bugs, spiders and snakes. The three of us sat in the winter sun, enjoying each other's closeness, the blessed bond that unites grandparent and grandchild. Then Shelby said, "I have two papaws but only one grandma."

I said, "That's right, Shelby."

Looking up at me with wrinkled brow, Shelby asked, "Grandma, do you think you'll be alive when Olivia and I get big?"

I hugged these two precious children and looked into two sets of brown questioning eyes. "Oh, Shelby," I said, "I hope God lets me live until you and Olivia are as big as Mommy and Daddy."

Then he looked straight into my eyes, cutting to the heart of matter, his question like a scalpel in the hands of a skilled surgeon. "What if you don't?" he asked.

Long after I am gone, I know these two children will remember my response. "Shelby," I answered, "no matter when I die, I will always love you and Olivia because love never dies. Remember God sent Jesus to us so that we would know how much God loves us."

"Will you be with Jesus?" he asked with that soul-piercing look of innocence.

"Yes."

"Grandma, will you miss us?"

"Yes, but I'll be there, waiting for you."

"Grandma, when you're with Jesus, will you be able to see?"

"Yes, Shelby. Wherever Jesus is, it's light."

On this fifth Sunday of Lent, God assures us through Jesus that we will never be stranded in some dark place.

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of March 17 - March 23**

**Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Lent),** Ezekiel 37:12-14, Romans 8:8-11, John 11:1-45; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, John 8:1-11; **Tuesday (St. Joseph, Husband of Mary),** 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16, Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22, Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, John 8:31-42; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Genesis 17:3-9, John 8:51-59; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 20:10-13, John 10:31-42; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Ezekiel 37:21-28, John 11:45-57

**Scripture for the week of March 24 - March 30**

**Sunday (Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion),** Matthew 21:1-11, Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Matthew 26:14—27:66; **Monday (Monday of Holy Week),** Isaiah 42:1-7, John 12:1-11; **Tuesday (Tuesday of Holy Week),** Isaiah 49:1-6, John 13:21-33, 36-38; **Wednesday (Wednesday of Holy Week),** Isaiah 50:5-9, Matthew 26:14-25; **Thursday (Holy Thursday),** Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15; **Friday (Good Friday),** Isaiah 52:13—53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1—19:42; **Saturday (Holy Saturday),** Exodus 14:15—15:1, Romans 6:3-11, Luke 24:1-12

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# "The Time Machine"

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Though possibly unfair, moviegoers are likely to have high expectations for an adaptation of H.G. Wells' novel, "The Time Machine," directed by his great-grandson, Simon Wells. But instead of preserving the political and social implications of the novel, which made the story layered and thought-provoking, director Wells strips them away, churning out a very Hollywoodesque fluff piece, and a poor one at that.

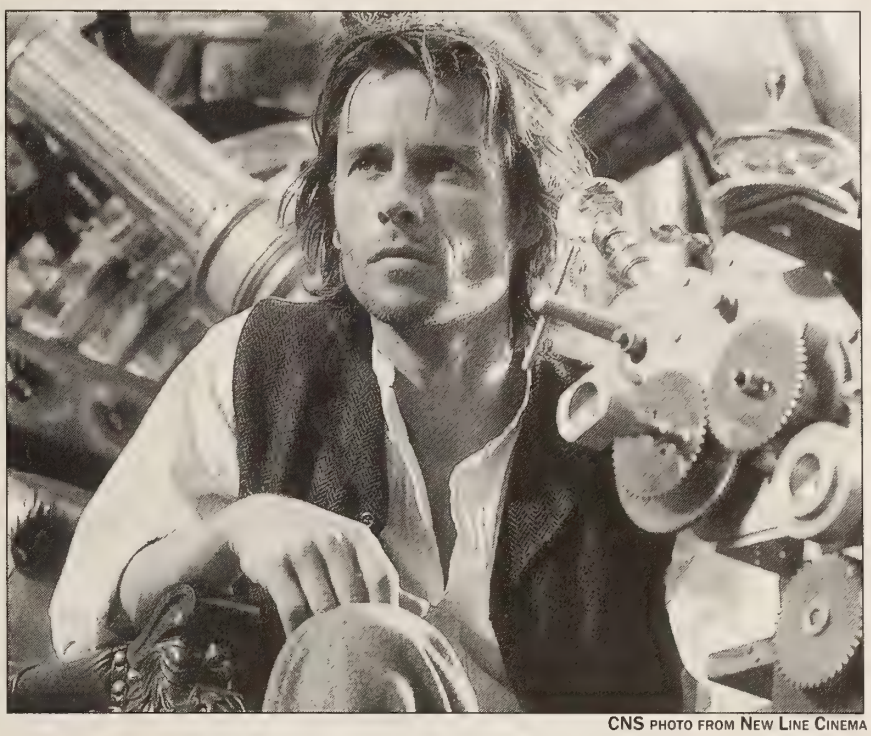
In "The Time Machine" (DreamWorks), 1890s scientist and inventor Alexander Hartdegen (Guy Pearce) is hurtled 800,000 years into the future — using his own time-travel contraption — in an effort to change the past. His fiancee (Sienna Guillory) was murdered four years ago, and his mission is to change the past and prevent her death. But traveling back in time does not change things. Convinced that the answer then must lie somewhere in the future, he lands in a mysterious time where Earth's population is divided into the above-ground Eloi and the monstrous, subterranean Morlocks.

In H.G. Wells' novel, these two futuristic races represented the working and leisure classes of his time. The Eloi enjoy life above ground while the Morlocks toil away in underground caves, working to preserve the Eloi's lifestyle. But Wells gave the classes a twisted symbiotic punch. The enjoyment of the Eloi comes at a high price, as they serve as the Morlocks' principal food source.

In director Wells' film, this warped relationship barely sees the light of day. Sure we see the Morlocks (which look like a fusion of the simians from "Planet of the Apes" and the creatures from "Battlefield Earth") attacking and scurrying away with the poor Eloi. And yes, the Morlocks' leader (Jeremy Irons, looking creepy in long white hair and opaque contact lenses), gives some kind of explanation for the world in which Alexander finds himself. But none of it is the least bit coherent or engaging.

The screenplay written by John Logan lacks cohesion and is littered with inconsistencies and loose plot strands. The film devolves from romance to sci-fi to action without capturing the audience's attention. Alexander's original quest to bring his fiancee back to life is inexplicably abandoned to save an Eloi woman, Mara (Irish pop singer Samantha Mumba), and her brother (Omero Mumba, the pop singer's real-life brother) from the deadly Morlocks. There is little time to develop any affection for the Eloi, most of whom don't speak English, or warm up to the new relationship Alexander seems to be forging with Mara (although the nearly see-through fishnet shirt Mara wears may explain why Alexander suddenly feels compelled to be a hero).

Pearce, who was so good in last year's "Memento," is stiff and unsure here, forcing out his lines and unable to make a connection with the audience.



CNS PHOTO FROM NEW LINE CINEMA

**Scene from movie 'Time Machine'**

**Guy Pearce stars as time traveler Alexander Hartdegen in the film "The Time Machine." It is the latest film adaptation of the novel by H.G. Wells. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

Mark Addy, whom movie fans will recognize from "The Full Monty," does an admirable job as Alexander's close friend, but the role gives him little opportunity to stretch. Orlando Jones, making no particular mark, pops up as a computer-generated character able to survive 800,000 years and run without electricity.

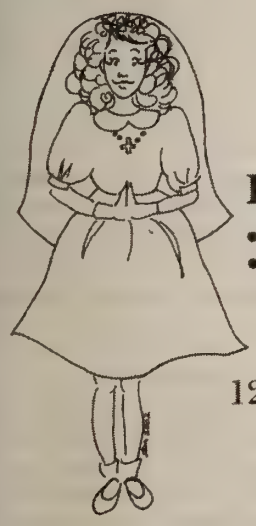
The special effects are nothing out of the ordinary, although the sequence where time speeds forward is neat. The time machine itself looks pieced together from discarded bits of a lighthouse beacon, its many glass panels reflecting light in all directions. Early scenes of 19th-century New York are evocative, if a bit staged, as ladies skate on a lake in feathered hats and corseted dresses down to their ankles.

It is interesting to note that, no matter what Alexander does, no matter how he tries to control or manipulate time and circumstances, he cannot change death. From a Catholic perspective, it is reassuring to know that death has been conquered for us, and the living can find comfort in faith.

Because of intermittent sci-fi violence with a few grisly images and scantily clad women, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

*Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

### Pope says religious leaders should help facilitate Middle East peace

BY JOHN NORTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Meeting Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders from the Holy Land amid a surge in Israeli-Palestinian violence, Pope John Paul II said religious believers must do everything possible to stop the bloodshed.

"We are all saddened by the daily instances of violence and death in Israel and the Palestinian Territories," he said March 13 at the end of his weekly general audience.

"Our mission as men and women of religion impels us to pray for peace, to proclaim peace and to do everything in our power to help bring an end to the bloodshed," he said.

The pope made his remarks to a high-level interreligious dialogue group from the Holy Land that included Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem, Sheik Tal el Sider, the Palestinian authority's minister of state, and Rabbi Michael Melchior, Israel's deputy foreign minister.

They gave the pope a framed copy of their January "Alexandria Declaration of the Religious Leaders of the Holy Land," which condemned violence, pledged respect for each other's faiths, and called for negotiations.

Rabbi Melchior said the group's declaration, drafted at a meeting in Egypt that lasted 48 straight hours, had the unprecedented support of Sheik Mohammed Tantawi of al-Azhar University in Cairo, spiritual leader of the world's Sunni Muslims.

Speaking March 12 at a panel discussion in Rome to mark the second anniversary of the pope's trip to the Holy Land, the rabbi said "now more than ever" Israelis needed the "involvement and care of the Vatican and the pope."

Cardinal Achille Silvestrini, a panel member and former head of the Vatican's Congregation for Eastern Churches, suggested that international emphasis on Israel's right to exist might help give the Jewish state more confidence to enter peace negotiations with Palestinians.

He said Israel did not need to capitulate to terrorists, "but neither to respond in such a way that terrorism finds fertile ground and nourishment."

### Letter From the Vatican, Feb. 28, 2002

*Dear Bishop Curlin,*

The Holy Father was saddened to learn of the death of Bishop Michael J. Begley, and he has asked me to convey his deep sympathy. With gratitude for Bishop Begley's apostolic labors as the founding bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, he offers fervent prayers that God our Father will grant his faithful servant the fullness of eternal life and will comfort all who mourn in the hope of the Resurrection.

To you and all the faithful of the Diocese of Charlotte, His Holiness cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of strength and peace in the Lord.

*Sincerely yours in Christ,*
Leonardo Sandri
*Substitute*

### Homelessness in America

This year we will reach the five-year limit set for those on welfare. Thousands upon thousands of poor people all over America will lose their rent subsidies and become homeless.

Some will be fortunate enough to find shelter in a relative's apartment, becoming part of the "hidden homeless." Others will be forced out on the street to scramble for a bed in some emergency shelter. Many will be turned away in the cold, even homeless women and children.

Obviously the government cannot return to the old welfare system, but neither can we turn a deaf ear to the cries of the poor.

We the people, including the churches, the synagogues, the temples and the entire private sector, are going to have an enormous rescue challenge on our hands. At a time when millions of men and women in the work force have lost their jobs, Congress' domestic agenda will be stretched to the limit.

As the former director of one of New Jersey's largest poverty programs, Eva's Kitchen and Sheltering Programs Inc., located in Paterson, N.J., I can tell you that shelters all over America will be bursting at the seams.

We should not help freeloaders and cheats, but we do need government assistance to offset the coming emergency.

Many elderly, handicapped and destitute people are already receiving assistance from various government agencies, but a number of them are frauds who should be exposed. Many more, however, are people who are truly deserving, have been denied help.

The system needs an overhaul.

Poverty programs, shelters and soup kitchens nationwide are now the last refuge of the poorest of the poor, and they are often denied the federal assistance they need.

How can we strike a reasonable balance?

The concept of public welfare began in England during the Victorian era when many charitable initiatives were instituted to alleviate the social ills of the times. They all had the same noble idea of restoring people to self-sufficiency and eventually to a full participation in society.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt had the same idea during the Great Depression when he introduced Social Security and many other rescue programs to help the unemployed. But no one ever envisioned the extent to which the welfare bureaucracy would grow.

Lord Shaftesbury, a wise English philanthropist who wanted to keep the government out of the poverty problem entirely, once said, "State benevolence tends to debase a large mass of people." He was right. When the poor become dependent on the state, many of them do little or nothing to improve their condition. This kind of passive dependence only perpetuates the poverty problem.

But we just can't have tens of thousands of the homeless out in the cold.

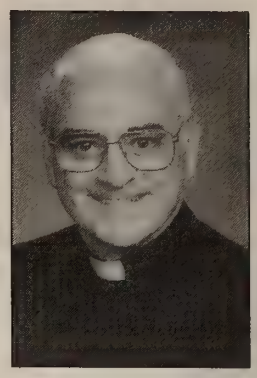
Let's face it, the problem of homelessness in America is soon going to become a national heartache.

Jesus called the church to have a preferential option for the poor. We have never turned our back on the poorest of the poor, and we never will.

May God help us in the days ahead. There are no easy answers.

# Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



# Guest Column

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF TIFFIN, OHIO, AND ASSOCIATES

### A Response to the War on Terrorism

*In our General Assembly meeting Feb 3-6, we have ratified the following response to the war on terrorism:*

In response to the war on terrorism, we, the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio, and Associates, gathered in General Assembly, hereby proclaim that:

We recognize our oneness with all peoples as brothers and sisters, and abhor the violence within the human family.

We call upon our Church leaders to find an alternative to the Just War Theory and to use their moral authority to work for peace and justice through nonviolent conflict resolution.

We challenge the leaders of our nation to address the roots of terrorism by reducing the political, economic, and social injustices that cause disparities among nations and the oppression of peoples.

We denounce the use of violence as a response to violence. We urge our political leaders to maximize the use of dialogue and diplomacy in resolving conflict and responding to unjust aggression.

We believe that a just response to terrorism can be achieved through such avenues as: following international law; utilizing national and international tribunals; using multinational law enforcement in place of further military force for the capture of terrorists; cooperating with multinational intelligence gathering on the activities and location of terrorists, while at the same time safeguarding individual rights; adhering to the Geneva Conventions in the treatment of prisoners and detainees; endorsing and implementing international treaties that reduce arms trade and the proliferation of land mines; formulating a foreign policy that enhances the human rights and human development of peoples.

As a community rooted in the Gospel, we take seriously the call to be peacemakers, and we follow the example of Jesus who publicly forgave his executioners. With the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the Franciscan Federation in the United States we endorse the establishment of a global nonviolent standing peace force to support local and regional groups striving to resolve conflict.

With the strength that comes from prayer and fasting, we commit ourselves to be forgivers and reconcilers wherever we are. We call on the people of our country to join us in our efforts to break the cycle of violence in our world and to create the conditions necessary for a just and lasting peace.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### On the benefit of the doubt — and being human

Ever have one of those days when you're going along, feeling fine and then somebody does something to really aggravate you?

After all, whether a driver snags your parking space or a co-worker infringes on your turf or a friend criticizes your child's behavior, it's their fault. There's no doubt about it, it's hard to cut other folks any slack when they are so obviously unreasonable. What is the matter with people? They can be so thoughtless. Or worse, what they're doing is so stupid and wrong, it must be intentional.

Well, maybe. When we calm down, most of us know that making mistakes is one part of being human. Here's a quote by the often-wise Anonymous that I find appropriate in a lot of situations:

When the other person acts that way, he's ugly . . .
When you do it, it's nerves.
When she's set in her ways, she's obstinate . . .
When you are, it's just firmness.
When he doesn't like your friends, he's prejudiced . . .
When you don't like his, you're showing good judgment of human nature.
When she tries to be accommodating, she's "apple-polishing" . . .
When you do it, you're using tact.
When he takes time to do things, he's slow . . .
When you take ages, you're deliberate.
When she picks flaws, she's cranky . . .
When you do, you're discriminating.

None of us want to be judged on the occasional foolish things we do, but on our overall conduct and character. We want to be given the benefit of the doubt. More than that, we want to see ourselves as open-minded and large-hearted people who are willing to offer that gift, as well.

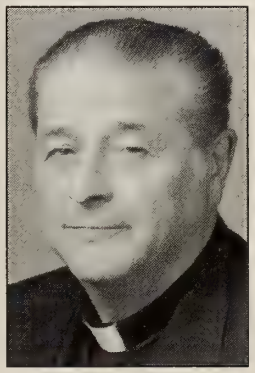
As time goes by, though, I become more and more convinced that it is in the small everyday moments of life that we show what we are really made of. Your personality, your beliefs, your values, as well as your virtues and vices, don't just wait for a crisis or a life-changing event to come into play. And that's why we need to be generous and gentle and truthful with one another.

Alan Paton, the great South African writer who spoke and worked against apartheid for decades, wrote:

"Life has taught me . . . that active loving saves one from the shortcomings of society and the waywardness of men. . . . (Life) has taught me to seek sustenance from the endeavor itself, but to leave the result to God. To try to be free of self-deception, to try to see with clear eyes oneself and others and the world, does not necessarily bring an undiluted happiness. Yet it is something I would not exchange for any happiness built on any other foundation. There is only one way in which one can endure man's inhumanity to man and that is, to try in one's own life to exemplify man's humanity to man."

God never meant "being human" to be something we should be sorry about, but rather something to rejoice about.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Adult children and the practice of Catholic faith

*Q. We have five children. All went 12 years to Catholic schools and never missed Mass while they were growing up. We went through some rough times because of their father's alcohol problems, but now at least that is stopped.*

*Now one misses Mass constantly and receives Communion when he does go. Another is a devout Methodist. Another goes to Mass and the sacraments regularly. The fourth attends church only on Christmas and Easter. Our fifth goes fairly regularly, but doesn't mind missing.*

*All of them have good families and raise their children well, but practicing their faith isn't important. We usually get along well together, big holiday celebrations and so on. I keep wondering why God is letting them lose their souls. What is your opinion of this mess? (Kentucky)*

A. My first reaction is, and I don't mean this at all flippantly, join the crowd. I hardly know a family today which, at least to some degree, doesn't have a similar story to tell. That may be no great consolation, but at least it starts to put your experience in perspective.

If I understand correctly, it seems you're asking two questions: What is the spiritual condition of your children? And what can you do about their religious lifestyles?

To address the second first, the answer is "not very much," at least directly. You've done your best to give them a good religious education and training. It's now their life and their responsibility. The most you can do is to support them with your prayer and example, and help them, in every way they are open to, to be good spouses and parents now for their families.

This is the hard part for parents in situations like yours. After years of caring for the large and small aches and hurts of their children, parents come to feel as if there should be a solution to everything, something that will make things "well" again, the way they want them for their children.

It's a major step to peace of heart to acknowledge this just isn't true and never has been. Some things are possible, as I said, but there is much you will never be able to control, nor should you. They're adults, and the burden is on them.

Second, it is wrong to assume they will "lose their souls." There is no way you can possibly know how they stand before God.

You regret that they are missing something very important to you, the advantages of a full Catholic life of prayer, the Eucharist and the sacraments. I understand that regret and share it with you.

But God has a unique relationship with every human being, and that relationship is conditioned, on our side, by countless factors. Even the same circumstances (same parents, same education) affect each child differently.

According to their diverse personalities and emotional makeup, children react with greater or lesser adaptability to traumatic circumstances in their environment. The alcohol problem you mention would be one; but others too, which may not be as visible, inevitably affect children's spiritual and religious strengths and outlook in future years.

It seems clear to me from your description of what is happening in your family today that God's grace is working in their lives and producing much good. Maybe you need to be satisfied with that for now.

What you have done for them out of love will never be lost, though the results of your caring may not be evident in the way or at the time you would like. Have confidence in the ways God's grace has worked through you, and try to continue loving them and be present for them in the ways I said.

# Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

### Finding new meaning in the Gospels

The story of the man born blind from John's gospel poignantly shows how the truth of the gospel is revealed not all at once but little by little. This is also true in families. We begin to see more clearly over time as we grow and develop.

The intricacies of the story-Jesus making the saliva and dirt compound for the man's eyes, his command to "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, the miraculous cure, the contemptuous Pharisees, the parents under scrutiny-and all the political posturing in the story make this important transformation so subtle it can easily be missed.

The truth about Jesus-God's compassionate love for humanity-was to open up to the man born blind in stages and after four separate inquiries. After he was cured of his blindness the man born blind was asked by his neighbors and others, "How were your eyes opened?" In his reply to this first query he attributed this great miracle to "the man called Jesus."

When later quizzed by the Pharisees and others, he referred to Jesus as "a prophet." After much clamoring over this amazing event the Pharisees summoned him again and pressed him asking, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" This time his response was that Jesus was "from God."

Finally, Jesus himself asked him if he believed in the Son of Man, and revealed himself to him. And the man born blind believed in him and worshipped him.

As children learn about Jesus, their understanding unfolds over time and develops as they mature into adulthood. Even as adults we begin to see God's redeeming action through Christ as we traverse life's tragedies and setbacks.

Every time a family relationship is broken and restored, for every reconciliation between married partners, for every new dream that arises from a broken promise, for every loving action in the face of disillusionment, we see Jesus more clearly for who he is.

The intricacies of family life-from the drama of birth through the many marking events of growing up: school, sports, vacations, graduations, hopes and joys, disappointments an sorrows, etc.-can easily push our faith development into the background as a subplot to our story.

Yet, the transformation from blindness to seeing Jesus as he is-the Son of God-is perhaps the most riveting story of our lives. It is truly amazing grace! I once was lost but now I'm found; was blind but now I see.

*Questions for reflection:*

- How has your understanding of who Jesus is changed over time?
- How have you been blind to the gospel?
- Read John: 9:1-41
- Who is Jesus to you?

# Maryfield goes all out to thank benefactors

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

HIGH POINT — The Poor Servants of the Mother of God Sisters Community opened the doors of Maryfield Nursing Home to new and old friends alike for a St. Patrick's Tea March 10. A deep-seated tradition of 42 years, the Poor Servants continue to recognize and thank the people of High Point, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Jamestown and other communities for their deep moral and financial support, which keeps the dream of Maryfield ever growing.

In some cases this assistance goes back for generations. Others have just begun helping in this endeavor.

The Bishop Hafey Council, #4507 of the Knights of Columbus plays a large role in the festivities of the day. The 3rd-degree Knights handled valet parking for visitors to the day's events, while 4th-degree Knights, dressed in tuxedos, were on hand to make and serve Irish Coffee to the over 300 guests.

According to Emily Ragsdale, chairperson of the Advisory Council for Maryfield, she and Frances Craycroft began preparations for this event in early January. After all of these years, "it has become a well-oiled machine," said Ragsdale.

Preparations included designing and printing 1,000 invitations for mailing in mid-February to all friends of Maryfield. In past years there were "addressing parties" to accomplish this awesome task; this year it was done by databases and computers. Ragsdale said the community actually misses the parties.

"Preparation of the food has been easier in recent years," noted Ragsdale. "In the last few years, all the food is catered in-house. The fun thing is that we get to try out the menu long before the tea itself."

The menu consisted of ham and Swiss cheese biscuits, a herb and cheese pinwheel, assorted canapés, shrimp and chicken salad in pastry bites, a vegetable tray with cheeses, assorted fruits, petite fours, strawberries dipped in chocolate, fruit punch and Irish coffee.

"It's been fun," said Craycroft. "It is truly amazing how everything just falls into place and — here it is."

The entire community of Poor Servants Sisters was on hand for the tea. Everyone involved was pleased that so many people were able to attend.

Among those in attendance was Dick Douglas, great-grandson of Steven Douglas of the Lincoln-Douglas debate. Douglas, a benefactor of Maryfield long before the beginning of the St. Patrick's Tea, was instrumental in having Maryfield become incorporated. Douglas said that both his mother and father were residents at Maryfield and that both have long since passed away.

George and Virginia Frank were at the tea to learn more about the living accommodations and the cottages. There were impressed by the motivation of the Poor Servant Sisters and the concept behind the non-profit Maryfield facility. Both said they were at the age where they needed to look for potential accommodations for their future.

Another benefactor, Ann Pope Baumgardner, felt very connected to Maryfield because her brother was a resident of over two years before he passed on. "The Poor Servants absolutely give the finest care to their residents," she said.

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*



Photos by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**Above, three generations of volunteers and benefactors at Maryfield Nursing Home from left are Katharine, Emily and Margaret Ragsdale. Below, Poor Servant Sister Lucy Hennessy, president of Maryfield, is flanked by Joseph Deering, George Coppedge and Robert Lodding, 4th degree Knights from Bishop Hafey Counsel #4507.**



TAC News Bytes

# Network offers many benefits for diocese

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — The 46-county Diocese of Charlotte continues to get a little closer as its new technology expands.

Now up and running is the new diocesan high bandwidth WAN (Wide Area Network), a network that allows schools and parishes to connect and share information with the diocese and each other. Benefits of the network include reduced costs, less maintenance and better updating and protection for participating schools and parishes.

"The diocese has invested in the resources for top-notch security. We've got the best software and equipment in here," said Kevin Geter, director of Information Technology for the Diocese of Charlotte.

With the market saturation of DSL, cable modems and the increase of high-speed Internet connections in other schools, the diocesan network — a product of the Technology Plan to enhance the ministry of the diocese — is intended to meet the growing demand of diocesan employees and students for high bandwidth connections.

High speed Internet access is only the first application of this network. Video conferencing, online training and more accessible diocesan information are potential future additions.

Utilizing one network means one firewall, a program used to prevent unauthorized access to a network. The network's firewall, considered by Geter to be one of the best in the country, will provide security for all sites, files, confidential documents, e-mail and more. The firewall's content filtering package will also be extremely beneficial to the schools, said Geter.

"Parents can worry a lot less about their children viewing inappropriate Web sites online," he said.

E-mail and domain names are another plus of the network. Each participating location will have access to the diocesan e-mail server and use of the diocesan domain name (charlottediocese.org). Centralizing e-mail will allow for better maintenance and support, as well as better utilization of features, such as distribution lists.

Network availability is open to all parishes and schools within the diocese. Because of the frame relay, distance is not a restriction, said Geter. "If they have a phone line, they can be on the network," he said.

Currently on the network are nine outside entities — the seven local schools in the Charlotte area, St. Gabriel Church and Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Winston-Salem.

Being on the network would offer better and more consistent technical support, said Geter, as supporting multiple Internet access methods is inefficient and costly. The diocese recently restructured its Information Technology Department to facilitate better management of the Information Technology infrastructure and offer one point of contact for all technology-related issues.

Geter encouraged other parishes and schools to consider joining the network. "The more entities on the diocesan WAN, the greater the information flow," he said.

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# Aging is a gift to be cherished

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — Richard Von Stamwitz provided the presentation "Faithful Living in Later Life" to a group of 30 people at St. Benedict the Moor March 5.

"This is the most creative time of my entire life," said Von Stamwitz to his audience.

Hailing from Brooklyn, N.Y., Von Stamwitz received his master's degree from Fordham University and taught high school Latin for six years in his native Brooklyn. From there he became a counselor and then a manager for the Department of Labor Employment Security Commission, where he remained until retirement 26 years later.

At age 59, Von Stamwitz went back to school to study gerontology at Caldwell College in New Jersey. Armed as a national certified and licensed professional gerontological counselor, he taught for five years at New York University.

From that point on, Von Stamwitz, a motivational speaker, has given over 100 presentations and workshops at assisted living communities and senior residences. He has written a booklet published by the Ligouri Press entitled "Creative Aging: Making a Difference in Later Life."

"We carry on in place of those who pass life on to us because we need what has gone on before," he said. "And we are needed to pass on what we have to those who follow after. Everyone is needed."

Von Stamwitz said no one should be afraid of aging. "Aging is part of ministry. Vocations do not stop at retirement. Everyone can make a difference by launching out into the deep."

Stressing "we are all someone," Von Stamwitz went on to say that "we need to celebrate age." Even though you may be wounded, love and God are in this present moment. "Therefore, accept...redefine who and where you are in order to live in God's present moment," he said.

"You are living in a secret garden, a paradise where you can blossom. Without getting stuck in the past or worrying about the future, you need to embrace the present circumstances of your life," said Von Stamwitz. "The mission God gave us at birth is not over."

Since aging is only a part of a continuum, Von Stamwitz asked, "Why are we told to step aside? Who is helping us with these new transitions? The world needs to help launch people from middle life on into later life. There is already a yearly renewal of baptismal vows. Why not renew also our confirmation promises to call upon the Holy Spirit to renew his strength, wisdom and joy in our lives."

Von Stamwitz pointed out some interesting statistics. "We are growing older and yet, healthier. There are more over the age 65 than there are teenagers. The fastest growing age group is over 85 years," he said. "Therefore, we must tell today's culture and community that we are not over the hill but close to the top."

Quoting an unknown author, Von Stamwitz said, "Today I am as old as I will ever be ... from this moment on I grow younger to eternity."

"God accepts you just as you are. From this point on he takes us and makes our failings come out OK," he added. "His grace builds on our natural gifts and talents. God consecrates them and uses them. That is why we should not be afraid. That is why we must move on to become mentors, mediators, monitors and motivators."

Then Von Stamwitz encouraged his listeners by saying, "Older people need not be people to be taken care of. Let us contribute to society by ministering to people our own age."

Concluding, Von Stamwitz said, "Aging is a challenge. To be successful we must be full of love, compassion, and humility while keeping a sense of the sacred. Above all, we must persevere. We may not be young anymore, but we are wonderful."

"I am rare," he said. "All rarity has great value."

"The presentation helped me take a closer look at a broken family relationship and allowed me to understand that forgiving and forgetting does not mean hiding the past but coming to peace with it," said Agnes Umstatter, a St. Benedict the Moor parishioner. "We cannot destroy it. We cannot change it, but we can give it to God and learn to live in his present."

Another parishioner, Mary Turner, 79, thoroughly enjoyed the presentation. "I try to be an example to younger people. I agree 'we are not getting older, we are getting better.' I still have much to be thankful for and continually count my blessings."

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com*


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# Deacon triumphs over adversity to serve God

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — It was the first time that Pierre K'Briuh had ever seen snow. Even though the winter weather in the nation's capital amazed him, his mind was never far from the lush landscape of the mountainous regions of South Vietnam. It was 1966, and he and other young men from his country had traveled to study English at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), an independent federal government agency working in areas of humanitarianism and international economic development.



Rev. Mr. K'Briuh

He had more opportunities for education than anyone in his family, and he had taken advantage of his good fortunes. His people, Vietnamese from Montagnard descent, were farmers and because labor was needed in the rice fields, many people were not educated. K'Briuh's parents could not read or write, so he is not sure of his exact birthdate. However, he thinks he was about 6 or 7 at the end of World War II.

His family practiced a form of polytheism, the worship of many gods, and made offerings and sacrifices to their gods or their ancestors during planting and harvesting seasons. K'Briuh served as the "buffalo boy" in charge of his father's buffalo that helped to plow the fields in the province of Lam Dong.

"We depended on nature and vice-versa. In the forest, birds were everywhere, and everything was green," said Rev. Mr. K'Briuh. "There was a kind of freedom you can't have when you live in the city. The air smelled fresh. You can almost suffocate by civilization in the city."

In 1948, he began attending a French-run elementary school. He later transferred to a boarding school where he met children from other Montagnard provinces. He began learning French and other languages while making new friends from all walks of life. "I met other kids and was exposed to different dialects, but I was so far away from home and was isolated. I missed my family, friends and the freedom from roaming around," he said.

He had his first exposure to Catholicism in elementary school where teachers talked about Jesus. He learned about the church from his host family while in school. He also accepted invitations to Mass from another of his teachers and became fascinated with Christianity.

"One of my teachers brought us to catechism classes. I had always admired a Catholic neighbor back home and was curious about the religion," said Rev. Mr. K'Briuh. "I learned Catholic doctrine and how to live a Christian life."

He was baptized in the Catholic Church on Easter in 1954 with one of his teachers serving as his godfather and chose Pierre-Marie as his baptismal name. He was confirmed in 1955. "My father was sad about it (his becoming Catholic). He was stubborn and didn't want to convert. He followed in his ancestors' footsteps," said Rev. Mr. K'Briuh. "After my siblings later converted to Catholicism, my father looked grim during his sacrifices. I would not participate with him after I was baptized. I thought about becoming a priest, but my father wouldn't allow it. He wanted me to bring honor to the family."

After returning home from middle school, he and four others were selected for high school scholarships from the French Embassy. It was the opportunity of a lifetime for K'Briuh. Most of the students attending the school were from wealthy and prominent families in his country and neighboring countries including the children from the royal families in Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. "I went from a buffalo boy to someone who knew big shots in school," he said.

After high school graduation in 1961, he was able to go to Dalat University to study French. During his time in college, he met Anna and married in 1963. They had the first of eight children in 1964.

He earned his degree, also in 1964, which led to a teaching position in the middle school he had attended. He was the first to go to college, and he wanted to make his family proud and be a role model. His attendance at Georgetown University led him to Southern Illinois University for two years where he earned a bachelor's degree in education. He retuned home to become an assistant principal working with student teachers.

His political affiliation began when he accepted a position as part of the Ethnic Minority Council advisory team with the Vietnamese Congress. He moved through the ranks and served as the director general for operations for the Ethnic Minority Ministry, the vice minister for politics and the secretary general. "The higher up you go, you believe you can serve your people. I knew the needs of the people and developed human rights programs and could talk to different ministers of South Vietnam," he said.

The world K'Briuh had built up came crumbling down in 1975 at the end of the Vietnam War when the Communists from North Vietnam overthrew the government. The family lost everything. "I was at the top, then, boom, I was nobody. The North Vietnamese came to conquer our lives, and the government was in disarray. It was terrible; we weren't prepared for it. My wife didn't have a job, and she was pregnant at the time," he said. "The government in Saigon provided everything, and the Communists seized everything. We were literally on the street."

The family moved back to Mrs. K'Briuh's childhood home, while K'Briuh was taken to a re-education camp. For several years, he existed on meager meals and worked for hours in the fields. He was reminded of his days as a buffalo boy, but those memories did little to comfort him. He was imprisoned with others who had served in top government positions. Many committed suicide.

"You think you are better off if you didn't exist. It is a very humbling experience to come from so high. I think what helped me was my faith. My wife had put a rosary in my bag, and I began to pray. Somewhere in the misery, you find God," he said. "I felt I still had some life to live."

After he was released, he returned to his in-laws' home where over 60 children, some orphaned, were living along with his family. "You worry how you will eat the next day. That is why I decided to escape," he said.

With the help of a priest, he and 22 others escaped via boat and were picked up by a French freight in the midst of sharks and a typhoon. K'Briuh spent time in Singapore before writing to the U.S. government to be admitted as a refugee. In 1983, through the help of Catholic Social Services in Sacramento, Calif., he came to the U.S.

He worked in a bakery and as a teacher before becoming the resettlement director for Montagnard refugees in 1986. He moved to Greensboro in 1986 with hundreds of his people and settled at St. Mary Church. Although he had worked for years to bring his family out of Vietnam, they were not able to come to the U.S. until 1993 because of his government association.

His knowledge of several dialects of his people helped him to translate for them. He became the voice of his people in the parish. When the permanent diaconate was mentioned, he thought it was a natural next step. He was ordained in 2001 and works primarily with Montagnard Ministry.

"I thought I could serve God in that capacity. I think I was called to the ministry, and I am happy to be a deacon. Part of my being involved with the diaconate is in thanksgiving for what God has done for me," said the grandfather of 13. "Here we are in a strange country, and we can celebrate the Eucharist together in our own atmosphere. At least we can keep our heritage alive."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

— Colossians 3:1-4



# The Meaning of Easter

The sun that rose that first Easter morning saw Mary of Magdela hurrying to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus. She had witnessed His death on the cross; now she would offer Him her final act of love. An empty tomb awaited her. Yet, within moments, she heard her name, "Mary," and she turned to look upon the Risen Christ. From that graveyard of death she hurried with the message of eternal life: "I have seen the Lord!" Her words echoed throughout the centuries and will continue until the end of time.

If the message of Easter is a message of joy, it is because it is the assurance of eternal life beyond the grave. But, if we would share in the life offered by Christ, we must first be willing to share in His death. As Christ died for sin, His followers must be willing to die to sin. The message of Easter is essentially spiritual; it has nothing in common with a philosophy that teaches that life on earth has no relationship with eternal life.

America is very slowly emerging from the tomb of grief created by the tragic events of last September. Yet, reports of moral corruption and terrorist attacks continue to destroy innocent lives daily. This is ample proof that, as long as men and women forget God and fail to see Him in their neighbor, selfishness, cruelty and hate will rule the human heart.

Our world needs Jesus — it cannot do without Him. Before He came, "might made right." Without Him, that evil principle will prevail. If you and I would do our part to set the world right, we must be willing to follow Christ with an undivided heart. Discipleship with Christ demands an identity with Him. His life flows into our lives as members of His Body on earth. Nourished and strengthened by His presence in sacrament and prayer, our words and deeds become the extension of His life on earth. God has willed that the Good News of His love and mercy be placed in our hands.

Yes, for Christians, Easter solves the riddle of life and death. It points beyond the grave to the world to come. There we will one day lay down the burdens of our years and, homeward bound, pass to life with Christ and immortality.

William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

### Israeli gunfire topples Virgin Mary statue at Bethlehem church

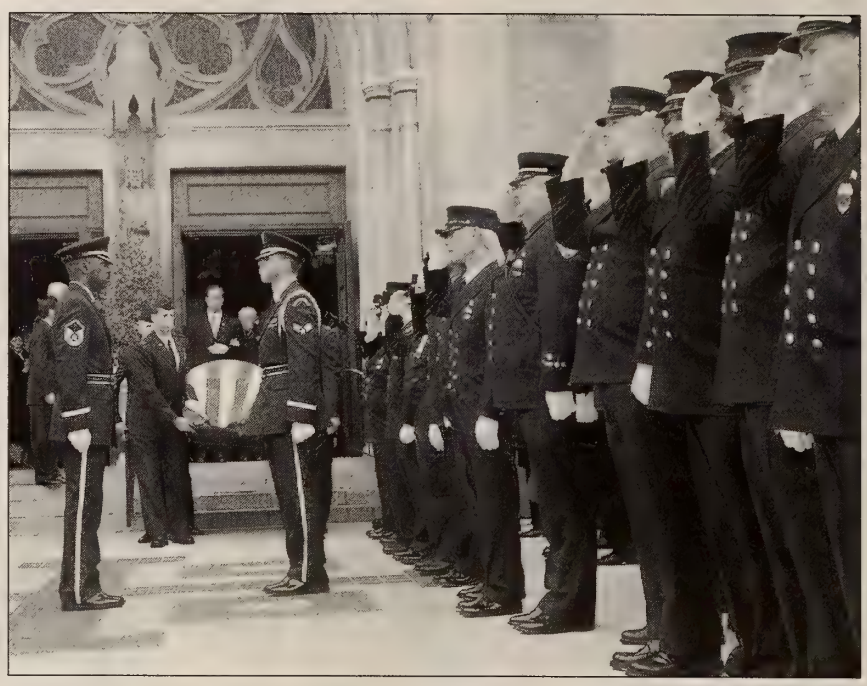
JERUSALEM (CNS) — A 120-year-old statue of the Virgin Mary was toppled off the top of a Bethlehem church by Israeli gunfire in the early hours of March 14. According to Holy Family Maternity Hospital director Dr. Robert Tabash, Israeli tanks rolled down to the Bethlehem-Beit Jalla junction a few yards away from the hospital and started shooting "all over." There were Palestinian gunmen in the area, said Tabash, but there was "absolutely no shooting" from the hospital compound where the church is located. An orphanage is also part of the Holy Family compound.

### Irish bishops refute reports of secret deal tied to referendum

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Irish Catholic bishops criticized media reports that suggested the bishops supported a narrowly defeated government-backed abortion law in exchange for a favorable settlement of child abuse cases. The March 6 abortion referendum was criticized by several pro-life leaders, who said the proposed law would weaken Ireland's constitutional laws protecting the unborn. "It has been suggested by some commentators in the media that the unanimous position of the bishops regarding the proposed constitutional amendment was in some way linked to the contribution that religious congregations have agreed to make to the government's compensation scheme for victims of child abuse. We wish to place it clearly on record that this suggestion is absolutely untrue and has no basis in fact," the bishops said in a statement.

### House passes Born Alive Infants Protection Act

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The House of Representatives passed a bill March 12 that amends the legal definitions of "person," "human being," "child," and "individual" to include "every infant member of the species homo sapiens who is born alive at any stage of development." According to the bill, H.R. 2175, a child is alive if it "breathes or has a beating heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, regardless of whether the umbilical cord has been cut, and regardless of whether the expulsion or extraction (from the mother) occurs as a result of natural or induced labor, Caesarean section, or induced abortion." However, the bill, written and introduced by Rep. Steve Chabot, R-Ohio, makes no attempt to define life "at any point prior to being 'born alive.'" Rep. Chabot said in a statement that the legislation will firmly establish "that an infant who is completely expelled or extracted from his or her mother, and who is alive, is considered a person for purposes of federal law."



CNS PHOTO BY THOMAS MOLONEY, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC

**Air Force Reserves salute slain Long Island priest**

**Air Force Reservists salute the casket of Father Lawrence Penzes at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, N.Y., March 15. The pastor of Our Lady of Peace Church in Lynbrook since 1994 and a former Air Force chaplain, Father Penzes was shot and killed while celebrating daily Mass.**

### Albania to rename international airport after Mother Teresa

TIRANA, Albania (CNS) — The largest international airport in Albania is being renamed after Mother Teresa of Calcutta, an ethnic Albanian. Speaking March 11, government spokesman Sokol Gjoka said Albanian premier Pandeli Majko had accepted the suggestion to rededicate Tirana's Rinas airport "as a way of honoring the work and personality" of the late charity worker. Mother Teresa, who was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu of Albanian parents on Aug. 26, 1910, in Skopje, now in Macedonia, lived most of her life in Calcutta working for the poor. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

### European bishops pledge to 'deepen reconciliation' in Balkans

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — European Catholic church leaders have pledged to "deepen reconciliation" in the war-torn Balkans by improving links with Orthodox and Muslim communities. A church spokesman said "serious practical proposals" for promoting democracy and pluralism in the region also had been tabled, but cautioned that "real progress" depended on local efforts. A statement issued after the March 12-13 meeting at Celje, Slovenia, said presidents of European bishops' conferences agreed to work for a "new evangelization" throughout southeastern Europe by promoting youth exchanges, media contacts, prayers for peace and historical studies.

### Bishop Sullivan of Fargo, N.D., resigns, is succeeded by coadjutor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignation of Bishop James S. Sullivan of Fargo, N.D. Bishop Sullivan, 72, is automatically succeeded by Bishop Samuel J. Aquila, who was appointed coadjutor bishop of Fargo last June. The changes were announced in Washington March 18 by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, papal nuncio to the United States. Samuel Joseph Aquila was born in Burbank, Calif., on Sept. 24, 1950. He studied at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver, where he earned a master's in theology, and at San Anselmo University in Rome, where he earned a licentiate in sacred theology. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Denver Archdiocese in 1976.

### Pope says church difficulties include lack of Christian values

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Today's church faces unprecedented difficulties in proclaiming its message to the world, Pope John Paul II said. The greatest problem was the failure of schools and families to transmit Christian values to younger generations, he said March 16. Speaking to participants in the plenary meeting of the Pontifical Council for Culture, the pope called for the development of "new ways of evangelization" to reach modern men and women. "The transmission of the Gospel message in today's world is particularly difficult, especially because our contemporaries are immersed in cultural environments that are often void of any spiritual or interior dimension, in situations in which essentially materialistic aspects dominate," he said.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**March 28 — Holy Thursday**
7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**March 29 — Good Friday**
7:30 p.m. Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**March 30 — Holy Saturday**
8 p.m. Easter vigil
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**March 31 — Easter Sunday**
11 a.m. Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**April 6 — 11 a.m.**
Mass and blessing of Marian Center, convent and Cardinal Gibbons Chapel
Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, Belmont

## Diocesan planner

**March**

**28** ASHEVILLE — St. Joan of Arc Church, 91 Haywood Rd., will be celebrating the following events: a potluck supper sponsored by the Parish Life Commission at 5:30 p.m. and a bilingual Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7 p.m. tonight; 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross and 7:30 p.m. bilingual Veneration of the cross and Eucharist on March 29; 8 p.m. bilingual Mass followed by a reception sponsored by the Catholic Daughters on March 30; and 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. Masses on March 31. For further details, call the church office at (828) 252-3151.

**April**

**1** CHARLOTTE — The bereavement support group will meet tonight from 6-7:30 p.m. and every first Monday in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. This support group is for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. For details, call Ruth Posey, CSS counselor, at (704) 370-3238.

**1** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight and every first Monday at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on April 2 and every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**1** CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on May 6. For more information, call the church of-

### Vatican official says Catholics, Muslims should draft guidelines

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics and Muslims engaged in dialogue for decades should draft practical guidelines and suggestions for those who will follow them in the search for improved Catholic-Muslim relations, a top Vatican official said. Cardinal Francis Arinze, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, led a four-member Vatican delegation to a mid-March meeting with the World Islamic Call Society in Tripoli, Libya. Clerics, intellectuals and politicians from 70 countries attended the meeting to discuss methods for creating "a culture of dialogue in an era of globalization." Cardinal Arinze's text was released March 18 by his Vatican office.

### Guatemalan bishop faces threats because of support for peasants

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini Imeri of San Marcos, Guatemala, is again facing threats because of his support for landless peasants. A diocesan priest also has received renewed threats. "What they really want to do is terrorize us, make us afraid, while at the same time de-legitimize our pastoral work among the poor," Bishop Ramazzini told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview. "The conflicts in this diocese are just a few of the many conflicts over land throughout the country, and the landowners are worried that what's happening here could be the spark that will set off a big fire. So they want to stop it here." At issue is Bishop Ramazzini's support for some 350 peasant families who in early February seized the San Luis plantation near Malacatan, Guatemala. The peasants claim they were awarded ownership of the land by a 1953 government decree, part of an ambitious land-reform program dismantled when the U.S. government overthrew Guatemalan President Jacobo Arbenz the following year.

### Bishops' Conference Urges Support for Brownback/ Landrieu Human Cloning Prohibition Act, S. 1899

WASHINGTON (USCCB) — An official of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) urged the Senate to support "the real human cloning ban" — S. 1899 — and to reject supposedly alternative bills which do not really ban the use of the cloning procedure in humans.

Gail Quinn, Executive Director of the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said the decision faced by the Senate on human cloning is being obscured by efforts to redefine the term "cloning" for political purposes.

According to Ms. Quinn, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Institutes of Health, longstanding federal law, and the National Bioethics Advisory Commission all agree on the essentials of what constitutes human cloning: it is the creation of a new organism that is genetically identical to a previously existing organism. In human cloning, a technique known as somatic cell nuclear transfer is used to create a human embryo, a new living organism of the human species.

"By this agreed-upon definition, the Brownback/Landrieu Human Cloning Prohibition Act (S. 1899) is the only pending bill that bans human cloning," Ms. Quinn wrote in a letter (March 1) to the Senate. "It is also the only bill found acceptable by the House, and the only one President Bush has said he is willing to sign into law."

Ms. Quinn said bills introduced by Senators Feinstein (S. 1758) and Harkin (S. 1893) do not ban use of the cloning procedure in humans at all, for any purpose. "Rather, they facilitate such cloning for purposes of research — research that does not have, and may never have, any possible clinical use," she said. "This approach is strongly opposed by the President, and was rejected by the House by a 71-vote margin."

"The effort to ensure that human clones will be mass-produced in our nation, but only in order to be killed for speculative benefit to others, is as ineffectual in preventing human cloning as it is irresponsible in its attitude toward developing human life," the USCCB official wrote.

Materials sent by Ms. Quinn to help clarify the issues faced by Congress included fact sheets on What is Human Cloning? Does Human Cloning Produce an Embryo? and a Life Issues Forum column, How Not to Ban Human Cloning.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Pakistani police officer stands guard at Islamabad church**
**A Pakistani police officer stands in front of a Protestant church in Islamabad that was the site a day earlier of a grenade attack that killed five people, including a U.S. Embassy employee and her daughter. The U.S. State Department decried the terrorist act and warned that other attacks against U.S. interests may be imminent.**

### Florida House passes ban on human cloning

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — Florida lawmakers passed a bill March 12 banning so-called "therapeutic" human embryo cloning for research and reproductive cloning. Some Florida university researchers and others contested the hard-fought legislation in the Florida House of Representatives, but pro-life and other organizations say a message has been sent to U.S. lawmakers to follow suit with a federal ban on cloning. The Florida vote was 70-42. An identical bill in the state Senate faces a potentially tougher fight before the ban would become state law.

### Pope offers prayers for fathers, asks them to be models of faith

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II offered a special prayer for fathers around the world, asking them to be models of everyday faith for their children. The pope made the comments two days before the feast of St. Joseph — March 19 — which is celebrated as Father's Day in Italy and some other countries. The pope said St. Joseph accepted his difficult role by listening to God and trying to understand God's will. His attitude of respectful reflection and obedience to God's design earned him the Gospel's definition as a "just man," he said. "The just person, in fact, is the one who prays, who lives the faith, and who tries to do good works in every concrete circumstance of life," the pope said. He said the greatest treasure left Christians by St. Joseph was his life of prayer.

fice at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

**3** CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will be having a meeting with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information about the group or Knights of Columbus-sponsored bingo held every Monday night at 7:30 p.m., call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**3** WINSTON-SALEM — The St. Clare Fraternity Secular Franciscan Order will be sponsoring an Order Inquiry to take place this morning at 11:30 a.m., April 4 at 7 p.m. and April 5 at 11:30 a.m. The orientation will focus on helping people learn about living the Gospel way of life with St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi as their guides. Call Be' Haver at (336) 722-3898 or e-mail behaver@triad.rr.com for details about the gathering location and other information.

**4** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable interparish group, will be having a meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Ladies' Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

**6** BOONE — A workshop on centering prayer will be conducted by Rev. Thomas Morris, pastor of Trinity Episcopal Church, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way. The workshop is designed to assist people in developing a more intimate relationship with God. For more information and reservations, call the church office at (828) 264-8338 or Trinity Episcopal Church at (828) 765-4331.

**6** FOREST CITY — Immaculate Conception Church, 1024 W. Main St., will hold a mini-health fair sponsored by the parish nurse program from 8-11 a.m. this morning. The fair will include glucose and cholesterol blood tests. For further information call Claire Feldmeth at (828) 245-6053 or the church office at (828) 245-4017.

**7** BOONE — St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way, will be hosting an information session on the LIMEX graduate education and certificate program. Those interested are encouraged to gather from 2-3:30 p.m. in Pat Jones Hall to discover if this theological reflection process is geared for them. Loyola University of New Orleans offers this distance learning opportunity as preparation for ministry and religious education. For more information, call Connie Milligan at (704) 364-3344 or Peg Ruble at (704) 391-0445.

**7** CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will be gathering today at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information please call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 545-8133.

**7** SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**7** SWANNANOA — St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, will be celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday with Mass and the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 p.m. followed with refreshments. All are invited to attend. For questions, call the church office at (828) 686-8833.

**9** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Arthritis Support and Education Group will meet this morning from 10-11 a.m. in Room D of the parish ministry center located at 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 20 days prior to the publication date.*

# "Anything Goes" with Bishop McGuinness students

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — After six weeks of intense preparation, practice and rehearsal, the students of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School (BMHS) performed the Cole Porter musical "Anything Goes" at the North Carolina School of Arts in Winston-Salem March 14, 15 and 16. The performers put forth their finest effort to date, according to students, parents, faculty and friends who attended the final performance.

It was no accident that this type of fine arts program came into being at BMHS. St. Joseph Sister Anne Thomas, who came to BMHS as a music teacher six years ago, recently became the dean of students and used her influence and talents to become the driving force behind the fine arts program.

"Whenever you can get 80 kids together, working as hard as they did on a performance like this, it is bound to be the huge success that it was," said Sister Anne.

The 21-piece orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Alan Hirsh, "performed beautifully," said Hirsh. "They had had a long hard road to tow, especially during the last three weeks before their five performances."

Hirsh had personally arranged all of the music to suit the instruments and levels of talent as well as the individual needs of the student members.

The chorus and dancers practiced strenuously for the last one-and-a-half months. "These determined students, with varying degrees of experience and levels of expertise, poured a lot of time and effort into these performances," said Hirsh.



Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**Mary Kate Foley, a Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School junior who played "Reno" in the school's "Anything Goes" musical, takes her bow after the final performance at the North Carolina School of Arts in Winston-Salem March 16. In the background from left to right are student-performers: Matthew Renegar ("Billy"); Gina Neari ("Hope"); and Christopher Eklund ("Sir Evelyn Oakleigh").**

An old friend of Sister Anne, Micki Sharpe, was the director and choreographer of "Anything Goes." Sharpe, an actress who performs in musical murder mysteries on weekends in Philadelphia, has directed the last eight BMHS productions at Sister Anne's request.

The newest BMHS faculty member to become involved with the production was St. Joseph Sister John Christopher. Sister John, who had assisted with performances in several other schools at which she has taught, said that her stage crew and she have been busy "many a week" getting everything perfected. She highly commended both Patrick Leonard III and his son, Patrick IV, a senior at BMHS, for taking charge of building the set.

Of the parents, Sister John said, "they all will do almost anything to help." She noted that Susan Renegar and her crew spent much time and effort in making costumes and lunches for the long weekend rehearsals.

In addition to the BMHS students who participated in the show, there was also a children's chorus consisting of students from Our Lady of Mercy and St. Leo schools in Winston-Salem, St. Pius X School in Greensboro, Kernersville Middle School and Piney Grove Elementary in Kernersville.

Matthew Olster, a BMHS sophomore who played "Ling" in the performance, said he enjoyed doing the play. "It took a lot of practice and opened new horizons for me," said Olster. "And it turned out really well."

Beth Hurley, a BMHS sophomore and chorus member, said "the cast did a wonderful job" and that she truly "enjoyed being in the chorus this year."

Reilly Jackson, a BMHS senior who played "Ching," said "it was a lot of dancing and a lot of fun doing the play."

BMHS junior Christopher Eklund played "Sir Evelyn Oakleigh." Although this was Chris's third play at BHMS, it was the first year that he performed a solo. "The rehearsals may have been strenuous," he said, "but I thoroughly enjoyed the entire production."

The star of the show was junior Mary Kate Foley, who played "Reno." It was Mary Kate's third play, as well, but it was her first starring role. "It was very nerve-wracking," she said, "but there was a lot excitement in the air. The cast was well-prepared, and I think we all performed beautifully."

Parents Steve and Maureen Wittner, whose daughter Maggie was in the chorus, thought the show was a wonderful, professional experience for all involved. Mary Lou Barry Schline, a teacher at St. Leo, came to the performance to see her past and present students perform.

"It was really a great energizing performance. It is truly amazing to see how many introverted students (in the classroom) do so well on stage," said Schline.

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*




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# Sisters tackle multiculturalism, more

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

BELMONT — Opposites have been known to attract. When it comes to cultural understanding, sometimes it is the differences that make us all the same.

The Sisters of Mercy held a multiculturalism and anti-racism meeting for sisters, Mercy Associates and guests at the Sisters of Mercy campus March 9. Their goal was to move toward a greater understanding and a conversion of heart by exploring their own cultures and dynamics involved in multicultural situations.

"All of us have prejudices; all of us have stereotypes that weren't explicitly taught but were implicitly learned," said Mercy Sister Maria Elena Gonzalez, president of the Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC) in San Antonio, Texas.

Sister Maria presented several sessions along with Humility of Mary Sister Tobin Lardie, outreach project director for MACC. The sessions were geared to help participants understand cultural differences and their effects on individuals, relationships and ministry.

Sisters Maria and Tobin helped the sisters to examine majority and minority mindsets and attitudes. One session involved the sisters working in groups and sharing their personal experiences with racism and prejudice.

"We looked at our own culture and then looked at how we see other cultures, and how we relate and react to them," said Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams, faith formation director and pastoral associate at St. Benedict the Moor in Winston-Salem.

The sisters explored the external and internal components of cultures. External components — such as food and dress — can be changed, but internal components — such as attitudes — cannot be changed. Then the sisters were encouraged to examine the external and internal components within themselves.



Mercy Sister Mary High Mauldin and Mercy Associates Regina Pastula and Mary Pickett discuss the internal and external manifestations of cultural heritage during the multicultural workshop at the Sisters of Mercy campus March 9.



Photos by Kris Jordan

Mercy Sister Mary Matthew Snow, Mercy Sister Joann Ury, Mercy Sister Teresa Susana Dandison and Mercy Sister Martha Hoyle participate in the multicultural workshop on the Sisters of Mercy campus March 9.

"This workshop reminded me that I have my own prejudices. It's good to be aware of them," said Mercy Sister Teresa Susana (Susie) Dandison, Hispanic outreach volunteer at St. Francis of Assisi in Mocksville. "I need to accept the differences of the people with whom I work. I cannot try to change them, which is a very hard thing to do."

Sister Susie, originally from Argentina, had gone to MACC to learn about the Mexican culture. "Most of the people to whom I minister in Mocksville are Mexican," she said. "I speak the language, but our backgrounds are very different. People have a tendency to lump all Spanish-speaking cultures together."

Sister Susie said she learned culture is like an iceberg — what is above the waterline is apparent, but there is so much more beneath the surface. Many of the sisters agreed that the multicultural meeting was beneficial to understanding and accepting not only other cultures, but their own.

"I have a greater sense of self-knowledge," said Mercy Sister Ray Maria McNamara, a doctoral student at Berkeley University in California. "The workshop supports a long commitment to working to not be tolerant of other cultures, but to accepting and working with the ambiguities of the differences."

Originally from Guam, Mercy Sister Cabrini Taitano, vocation ministry director, said she had a tendency to negate her own culture when it came to fitting in with the crowd. "I need to be more assertive to my need to express my own way of singing and praying," she said. "I can adapt without losing my own culture."

"I can continue to have courage to be myself and act out of my own culture and not be inhibited to express myself as an African-American," said Sister Larretta.

Sister Ray said the differences between cultures had always been more of a liability than an asset. "When cultures are mixed, good things come out of it," she said.

"You just have to accept people for who they are," said Sister Larretta.

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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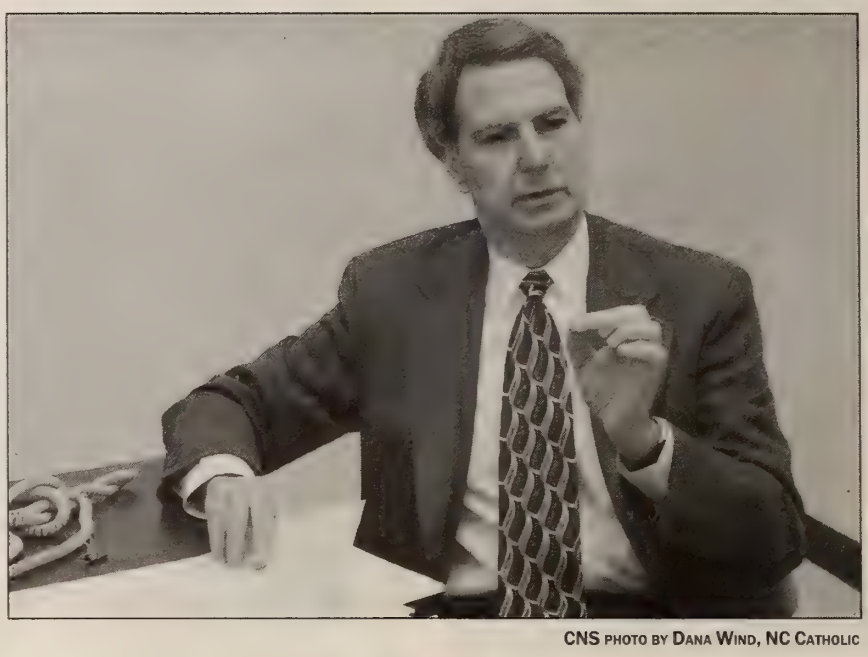
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### Army Ranger's family, friends share memories at his funeral

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (CNS) — As proud as they were of his military heroism, the family and friends of fallen Army Ranger Marc A. Anderson wanted people to know that he was a wonderful person long before he was killed trying to save a Navy SEAL in Afghanistan. Through their shared memories, those who gathered for Anderson's funeral Mass March 11 at St. Raphael Parish in St. Petersburg saw many aspects of the 30-year-old who died March 4 serving his country. He was a child who got scared when his brothers put on a grotesque mask, a teacher who would come in early and stay late to help kids with their schoolwork, an uncle who loved his niece, and a broad-shouldered son who always seemed to be smiling. "Marc loved his country, he loved his students, but most of all, Marc loved his family," said Father Michael Smith, associate pastor of St. Raphael Parish.

### Faith helps New York's 'singing cop' persevere

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Until six months ago, New Yorkers knew Officer Daniel Rodriguez as the city's singing cop. But since the Sept. 11 terror attacks that brought down the World Trade Center, America and the world also have begun to know the talents of the Catholic policeman. Rodriguez has sung "God Bless America," "America the Beautiful" and "The Star-Spangled Banner" at baseball's World Series, the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, and a host of other public events. "Faith" is how Rodriguez says he has gotten through the past half-year knowing that his growing fame is the result of a collective national tragedy — and thousands of individual tragedies. Rodriguez, a lyric "spinto" — a tenor with the range to reach lower notes — is on leave from the New York Police Department for three months of lessons with opera star Placido Domingo, artistic director of the Washington Opera.



CNS PHOTO BY DANA WIND, NC CATHOLIC

**Rep. Walter Jones of North Carolina**

**Rep. Walter Jones Jr., R-N.C., has introduced the Houses of Worship Political Speech Protection Act in the U.S. House of Representatives. He told the NC Catholic in Raleigh that the legislation would allow churches to become more engaged in politics without fear of losing their tax-exempt status.**

### Mother of Catholic News & Herald editor dies at 77

Mrs. Jeanne S. Seeley, 77, of Charlotte, mother of The Catholic News & Herald Editor Joann S. Keane, died March 18, 2002, following a courageous, albeit brief battle with cancer. She was born October 13, 1924 in Cleveland, Ohio, the daughter of the late William Leonard Seubert and Alba Seubert Davies. She attended Ohio University where she studied Home Economics. While devoted to her family and home, she worked as a secretary for many years prior to retirement.

In recent years, her life was particularly marked by an unequivocal affection and commitment to her grandchildren. She will be remembered, too, as a dedicated and caring friend to many.

Jeanne's survivors include her husband of 56 years, Gerald, of the home; sister, Joann Scheele of Portland, Ore.; four children, Barbara Baker and her husband, Don of Winston-Salem, Jane Seeley of Mt. Shasta, Calif., Joann Keane and her husband, Jim of Charlotte, and David Seeley of Lake Wylie, S.C.; and six grandchildren, Elizabeth and Cameron Baker, Chris, Paul and Daniel Keane, and Jarod Seeley. She is also survived by five nephews and two nieces.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations are made to the American Cancer Society, 500 East Morehead Street, Suite 211, Charlotte, N.C. 28202.

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Jeanne Seeley, officiated by Bishop William G. Curlin, was held March 22 at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.


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*Rev. James Costigan, St. Mary on the Hill, Augusta, GA*

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# New Hispanic pastoral plan in the works

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

HICKORY — Before one can minister to a community, one must understand the needs of that community.

Approximately 30 Hispanic community members from the Hickory, Asheville and Hendersonville areas and diocesan leaders met to offer input on a new Diocese of Charlotte Hispanic pastoral plan at St. Aloysius Church March 14. It was the first of five area meetings over the next two months to help shape the plan to be implemented within the next three years.

"We met to prioritize the ideas brought up in the meeting on January 30," said Sister Andrea Inkrott, O.S.F., director of Hispanic ministry, who is coordinating the meetings.

The January meeting, held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, was arranged for coordinators of Hispanic ministry, social service personnel and vicars forane to discuss pastoral, health and human services to the growing number of Spanish-speaking persons in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The plan will be an updated and diocese-focused version of three previous national Hispanic pastoral plans — "The Hispanic Presence: Challenge and Commitment" (1983); "Prophetic Voices" (1986); and "The National Pastoral Plan" (1988) — developed by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.



Photo by Kevin E. Murray

**Sister Andrea Inkrott, O.S.F., director of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte, works with Hispanic community members during the first of five meetings to critique and develop a new Hispanic pastoral plan for the diocese at St. Aloysius Church March 14.**

"We came up with a lot of ideas," said Sister Andrea. "We had a small task force of volunteers that worked hard to put those ideas into four categories. We worked on those categories tonight."

"They (the task force) did a good job of bringing the info to us tonight," said Jesuit Father Frank Reeves of Sacred Heart Mission in Burnsville, who had participated in the original January meeting. "They didn't lose what we did there in Hickory."

The four categories were evangelization, missionary option, team ministry and formation. Each had numerous subcategories such as: offering liturgies in Spanish where there are none; offering diaconate formation programs in Spanish; and raising the awareness of the Hispanic communities' needs.

"It's been a hard and tiring process, but it is very important what we're doing here tonight," said Eduardo Bernal, Hispanic coordinator for the western vicariates. "If we don't know where we're going, we'll end up where we don't want to go."

The meeting's participants broke off into groups and rated the subcategories in order of importance to each individual. Then the groups tallied and reported the results to Sister Andrea and Bernal.

"Everyone was participating," said Sister Andrea. "People said it was a productive meeting. That's what I was hoping for."

Sister Andrea noted that the differences in the category ratings given by the groups were minor. "What was important to one was important to others," said Sister Andrea. "And by and large, the priorities of the Hispanics were the same as those of the Anglos at the meeting," said Sister Andrea.

"One of the objectives of the meeting was to see if everyone was in the same mindset," said Bernal. "We saw that — everyone was voting the same way."

Once all of the meetings are finished in April, the task force will review the responses and formulate a preliminary plan, which will be critiqued again in another series of community meetings. Once the final information is collected, it will go before the bishop for approval of the new Hispanic pastoral plan.

"I think this is an excellent methodology," said Father Reeves.

"We've taken a firm second step in the process," said Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry. "We've got good footing."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*




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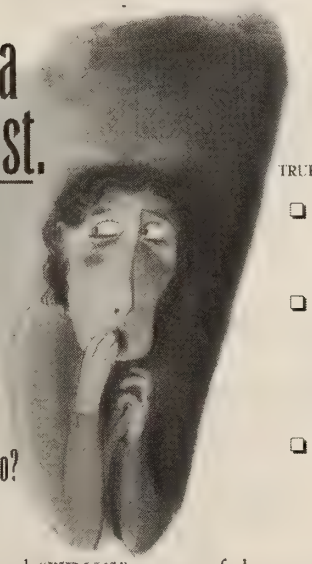
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# Nephew chronicles the life of St. David

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

MONROE — A small box in a china cabinet was a curious item to a small boy, who lived in Buenavista de Cuellar, Mexico. It was a sacred place with candles and a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe keeping vigil. Relatives prayed the rosary daily in front of the handmade wooden item, but until Jose Gabriel Arizmendi Uribe was nearly nine years old, he only recognized it as something very special at his grandmother's house.

As Uribe began inquiring about the contents, his grandmother explained that the box contained dirt, hair and dried blood from his martyred great uncle, Father David Uribe Velasco, who was canonized on May 21, 2000, by Pope John Paul II. St. David's feast day is May 25.

For Uribe, questions and answers came as he grew in wisdom and understanding. He discovered that his mother was the last person to be baptized by Father Velasco with the sacrament administered secretly in his grandmother's home, which was a dirt floor adobe house.

It was disheartening to find out that for three years, Father Velasco's remains stayed in the shallow grave dug by a train worker at the spot where he died due to fear of persecution. Yet, it was also amazing for Uribe to learn about the travels in years to come of Father Velasco's remains.

Three years following his death, Uribe's grandfather — brother to the murdered priest — dug up the grave placing the bones in a small box. He took them to Las Nueces, a place in the Buenavista countryside where family members could gather to pray secretly at night. The remains were then taken to his sister Vicenta's house in Buenavista, where after a prayer gathering, they were buried inside the house under a bed (the house had dirt floors). Only the family knew of the body's whereabouts.

Years later, the remains were entombed near the altar at St. Anthony of Padua in Buenavista where Father Velasco served. Then in 1942, they were moved to a wall near the entranceway with a plaque recognizing his martyrdom. Upon his canonization, his remains were buried under the altar where they remain today.



Courtesy Photo

**Pictured left is Father David Uribe Velasco, who was canonized on May 21, 2000 by Pope John Paul II. St. David's remains were originally entombed near the altar at St. Anthony of Padua in Buenavista, Mexico, where he had served. Upon his canonization, his remains were buried under the altar of the church where they remain today.**

In May 2001, 10 priests concelebrated at the first anniversary Mass of Father Velasco's canonization. Uribe, who is now warehouse supervisor at Arley Corporation in Matthews and helps support his parents in Buenavista, sent money for the celebration feast after the Mass.

After arriving in Monroe nine years ago seeking employment, Uribe became close friends with his ESL class teacher, Tom Shortell, at Southern Piedmont Community College. Shortell, who also teaches Spanish at Our Lady of Lourdes Church where they are both members, was invited to join Uribe's son on a visit to Buenavista, where Shortell learned about St. David. Knowing a direct descendent of a saint inspired him to delve into researching the life and death of St. David with the help of Uribe.

Shortell discovered that Father Velasco's attributes included a great love and devotion to the Eucharist and Our Lady of Guadalupe. He was known for his strength of character, oratory and teaching skills and a humble and suffering obedience to church authority. Since early childhood, Father Velasco demonstrated a desire and willingness to answer God's call and make the ultimate sacrifice to defend God, the church and his fellow man.

In his sermons, he preached Mexico's devotion to their queen and prayed that this devotion would continue. He was outspoken on three very important topics: religion, union and independence. His remarks condemned the policies of the government to try to eradicate the Catholic Church and establish a new Mexican church.

"I want to return to Buenavista and talk to my uncle, Luis Uribe, who is 94 years old and remembers Father Velasco," said Uribe. "Although I have asked many questions, I'm still drawn to him to hear every little detail. I want to know everything."

St. David was born Dec. 29, 1888, in Buenavista de Cuellar, in the state of Guerrero, Mexico. He entered the Seminary of Chilapa Guerrero when he was 15 years old and was ordained 10 years later. He celebrated his first Mass in his home church of San Antonio de Padua (St. Anthony of Padua) in Buenavista on March 12, 1913. Shortly thereafter, he became the personal secretary for Bishop Antonio Hernandez Rodriguez of Tabasco.

Within a year of his ordination, persecution of the Catholic Church spread throughout Mexico. At that time, Father Velasco and the bishop were ordered by church officials to leave Tabasco and go to the city of Chilapa back in the state of Guerrero.

Father Velasco carried on his pastoral ministry with prudence and zeal. His first arrest came on a return trip from the coast in Guerrero. His crime: being a priest. He was held for eight days and sentenced to death. On the way to his execution, he was released.

When Plutarco Elias Calles became

Continued next page


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## From previous page

president of Mexico, he focused on destroying Catholicism in Mexico. When the Mexican National Press published Archbishop Monsignor Jose Mora Del Rio's request that the five Articles of the Constitution — articles positioned against the Catholic Church — Calles seized the opportunity to twist the intent of the article into a declaration of war. In June 1926, he enforced the Constitutional Provisions and also signed a decree reforming the penal code, which was very specific regarding the treatment and punishment toward the church and clergy.

The Cristeros, as the rebelling Catholics were known, fought against the government from July 1926 through 1929 in what became referred to as the Cristera War. On July 20, 1926, at the request of the Mexican bishops and with the approval of the Vatican, all Catholic priests abandoned their churches and public worship was nonexistent. Dutifully following orders, Father Velasco left his parish church of San Francisco de Asis (St. Francis of Assisi) in Iguala, encouraging his parishioners to be calm, prudent and patient.

Before leaving, he protected the Blessed Sacrament by hiding it in the home of a neighbor. He secretly ministered to his flock through letters and brief visits.

In all, Father Velasco was arrested three times. His final arrest was on April 7, 1927, in Iguala. He was taken by train to Cuernavaca, Morelos — a ride that took him through his hometown of Buenavista. During this train ride, Father Velasco was offered a pardon if he would renounce the Catholic Church and accept a position as bishop in the new Schismatic Mexican Church. He declined.

On April 11, 1927, Father Velasco wrote his last will and testament from his jail cell. He was taken from his cell early in the morning on April 12, 1927, the Tuesday of Holy Week and driven to a remote site near San Jose Vidal. Getting out of the car, Father Velasco kneeled and prayed to God for forgiveness of his sins, for the salvation of Mexico and for the church.

Rising and with a paternal voice he addressed the soldiers, "Brothers, kneel to receive God's blessings. I forgive you with all my heart and I only ask that you pray to God for my soul. For my part, I will never forget you when I am before him."

Then he blessed the men who were about to murder him and distributed among them his watch, rosary, crucifix and other personal items.

Father Velasco was shot once in the back of the head and left by the side of the road. Daniel Casarrubias, a native of Buenavista and worker in the nearby train station, heard the shot. He sent his son to investigate, since a boy wandering in the countryside would not arouse suspicion. When the son confirmed that it was Father Velasco, Casarrubias telegraphed the news of his death to his hometown.

# The youth are the millennium's watchmen

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

HUNTERSVILLE — Sometimes you find leaders in the most unexpected places — and people.

St. Mark youth ministry and diocesan youth ministers gathered to hear Franciscan Father Dave Pivonka's "Morning Watchmen for the New Millennium" presentation at St. Mark Church on March 7. Many were surprised to learn that Pope John Paul VI had named the youth as the millennium's new "morning watchmen."

"They're going to be the ones who decide what comes into the new millennium," said Father Pivonka.

Morning watchmen read the signs and warn people of danger, said Father Pivonka, by keeping each other awake and standing firm side-by-side. The youth will help guide the future of our culture and faith; not the rich, powerful, or the theologians.

Father Pivonka, a Franciscan friar and director of youth outreach at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, travels the country inviting Catholic teens into a dynamic, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The university has sponsored a "life-changing" annual Catholic high school youth conference for 25 years that now sees approximately 27,000 teens a year.

"The youth are a culture in and of themselves," said Father Pivonka. "Because they're young, passionate and zealous, they have something to offer the church."

The youth need positive influence and guidance in their lives to become effective watchmen, said Father Pivonka.

"For the first time, we're seeing a generation that's being raised without intimacy or with false intimacy," he said, referring to interacting with strangers over the Internet. "There's a sense that they can be intimate (with someone) without seeing them."

Father Pivonka also noted that the youth culture knows no absolutes, has no sense of right or wrong, is full of fear, and has no continuity in their lives. This must be changed, he said.

"(The youth) may get evangelized in high school, but they don't get it in college," said Father Pivonka. "We must root them in the sacraments ... in God and the Scriptures. That is the connection that will lead them because their whole world is disconnected. Even if their environment changes, the core stuff is still with them. God is still God."

Father Pivonka said the youth have a spiritual hunger. "Young people want to be challenged. They want someone to tell them there's a reason for living...that they can be the kind of person that want to be. They hunger for the truth."

Part of the responsibility lies with the youth ministers, said Father Pivonka, because the strength of the messenger gives credibility to the message. "We have a tremendous responsibility. Teens need to be able to see people who are being faithful to what they believe," he said. "We must be able to influence them."

Youth ministry is about making disciples, he said. "If we're not making disciples — where kids' lives are being transformed and being changed — then it's not youth ministry," said Father Pivonka.

"I think it's definitely what we were called to do," said Andrew Doss, 18, of being a morning watchman. "It will be rough, but God never gives you anything that you cannot handle."

"It's a big responsibility, but with the support I have in my church, friends and adults, I can handle it," said Tim Rupar, 17.

"We are watchmen. We need to show the love of Christ ... talk about what God has done in our lives through our words and actions," said Doss. "The results may not be immediate ... but may put a thought in someone's mind that can be fostered later on."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*


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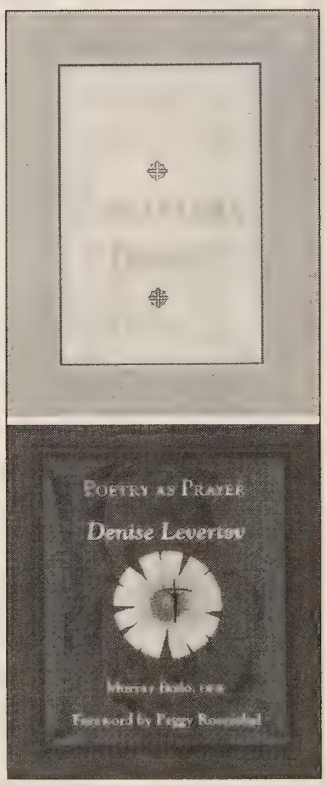
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**Book Review**

# Poetry for the soul

REVIEWED BY ELIZABETH RACKOVER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

John O'Donohue's "Conamara Blues" had me right out of the box with a simply structured poem in which dead twigs, gathered by a crow, taken back to the "vacancy" of the parent tree, become a nest to fill with dreams.




That is poetry — to be able to take common images from nature's wintry bracken, seen through anybody's window on any given January day, and make them suddenly magical, even hopeful.

O'Donohue's cadences and rhythms are smooth and confident. The reader doesn't have to work at the images; on the contrary, they must almost be fought off, forced to recede so that the next lines can be absorbed.

It is delightful to encounter a poet whose work lands somewhere between Hopkins (less manic) and Yeats (slightly laid back). Fiercely proud of the Irish landscape, not to say state of mind, the writer gives us outlines not just of topography but of the soul itself. Is it fair to say it's a given that the works of nature in and of themselves glorify God? They do, in O'Donohue's poems, but with a certain wildness that feels as scary as God himself might be if you met him on the moor around sundown.

And hey! How does this guy manage to get inside Mary's head in his poems "The Annunciation" and "The Visitation"? In both I felt the revelation of the human self meeting and mingling with the divine. Chief among many notable lines: "She awakens a stranger in her own life" and "An anxious moon doubles her among the stone." In the poem "The Nativity," the last two lines both glorify and humanize the moment for mother and child, and the spiritual intensity is conveyed through achingly simple words. It is deftly and beautifully done, and I wonder who he talked to, where he got his information, to strike such female chords with such thrilling accuracy.

"Conamara Blues" is just the right size for traveling — slim and sturdy. It is poetry that first makes you feel, then think — it is food and drink for the hungry, traveling soul.

Less inspiring is Franciscan Father Murray Bodo's "Denise Levertov" volume from the Pauline Books' "Poetry as Prayer" series. This book begs some knowledge of — passion for, if you want the truth — Levertov's poetry as a body of work. It is some way into the book before the reader encounters snippets of poetry. We are then told where Levertov was when she wrote the poem in quéstion — physically, emotionally, and spiritually, of course. I found myself wanting less information about Levertov from a third person, and more information from the writer herself, since that is the unique property of poetry — the transubstantiation of the writer's heart and soul into language, then into a sometimes tangible experience for the reader.

Having said all that, I reiterate that this is a warm and loving reflection and dissertation about Levertov. Father Bodo first admired, then became acquainted with his subject through poetry. But ultimately this book fails to charm because the bottom line for any poet is the work itself; telling me about the inspiration and leaving out the poetry is like giving me a comprehensive run-down of the kitchen utensils without feeding me any dinner.

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings: March 24, 2002*
**Cycle A Readings:**
**March 24, Palm Sunday**
1) Matthew 21:1-11
2) Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm 22:8-9, 19-20, 23-24
3) Phillipians 2:6-11
4) Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

BY BOZENA CLOUTIER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

We were stationed in Hawaii when our 7-month-old daughter, Marie, developed an eye infection. The base pediatrician told us to take her to the hospital to consult with specialists.

Once there, a team of doctors examined Marie. Some were for keeping her overnight, but the final decision was that we could take her home providing we brought her in the first thing the next morning or if there was any change in her condition.

Next morning, just as we were leaving for the hospital, the pediatrician called asking about Marie. On hearing that she was not in the hospital he became uncharacteristically angry and literally ordered us to take her there right away. Again the team of doctors saw her and to our joy pronounced that she was significantly better. Trying to understand our pediatrician's anger, I asked if Marie's infection had been serious. Yes, they replied, it had been serious. My mind raced to the worst scenario. Could it have caused blindness in the eye? No, probably not, but it was very close to the brain and could have been fatal. "She could have died."

"Could have died" — the words were comprehensible, but unbelievable. Wordlessly, numbly, we took Marie home. There we wept and gave thanks.

Days such as these are so momentous and our emotional response so deep and complex that they leave us wordless and spent. Those days change us.

I thought of that day as I looked over the readings for Palm Sunday. I experienced a multitude of feelings and found myself secretly wishing that somehow those familiar passages would be different.

This year I did not want the readings to end with death and desolation. I wanted Jesus to be honored, for the crowd to take his side, for him to be recognized for who he was and spared the cruelty of torture and slow death.

Perhaps more honestly I wanted to be spared the pain, helplessness and sorrow I feel as we listen to those Passion readings. But the readings stand as they are, and so does the reality that our (my!) salvation was obtained at such a high price. I can only accept, grieve and weep. I can resolve to change. And ultimately I must give thanks for such love and such a Savior.

QUESTIONS:
*Examine your own reactions to these passion readings. What disturbs you? What pains you? What challenges you?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of March 24 - March 30**

**Sunday (Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion),** Matthew 21:1-11, Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Matthew 26:14—27:66; **Monday (Monday of Holy Week),** Isaiah 42:1-7, John 12:1-11; **Tuesday (Tuesday of Holy Week),** Isaiah 49:1-6, John 13:21-33, 36-38; **Wednesday (Wednesday of Holy Week),** Isaiah 50:5-9, Matthew 26:14-25; **Thursday (Holy Thursday),** Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15; **Friday (Good Friday),** Isaiah 52:13—53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1—19:42; **Saturday (Holy Saturday),** Exodus 14:15—15:1, Romans 6:3-11, Luke 24:1-12

**Scripture for the week of March 31 - April 6**

**Sunday (Easter Sunday),** Acts 10:34, 37-43, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, John 20:1-9; **Monday (Easter Monday),** Acts 2:14, 22-33, Matthew 28:8-15; **Tuesday (Easter Tuesday),** Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18; **Wednesday (Easter Wednesday),** Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35; **Thursday (Easter Thursday),** Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48; **Friday (Easter Friday),** Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14; **Saturday (Easter Saturday),** Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15

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CNS PHOTO FROM 20TH CENTURY FOX

**Characters from animated film "Ice Age"**
**Diego the saber-toothed tiger, Sid the sloth and Manfred the woolly mammoth are the star characters in the animated movie "Ice Age." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of Am erica rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

# Movie Capsule

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — Following is a capsule review of a movie recently reviewed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.

**"E.T. The Extraterrestrial" (Universal)**

Ugly-duckling fable in which a boy (Henry Thomas) befriends a stranded alien creature from outer space and helps him to his home. Director Steven Spielberg fashions an inspiring image of youthful innocence and courage in a story that some may find overly sentimental. Nevertheless, the childlike fantasy conveys some genuine emotion and a message of trust and peace that the family might enjoy. The 20th anniversary re-release has some computer-generated enhancements, a digitally re-mixed soundtrack and a few minutes of extra footage. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.


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# Video Reviews

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

**"A.I. Artificial Intelligence" (2001)**

Visually striking futuristic tale in which a boy robot (Haley Joel Osment), who has been programmed to deeply love his adoptive mother (Frances O'Connor), struggles to survive abandonment in order to become a real boy his mother can love. Writer-director Steven Spielberg creates a combination fairy tale-dark fantasy of haunting imagery but leaves underdeveloped the narrative's intriguing philosophical questions about technology clashing with humanity. Stylized violence to robots, some sexual innuendo and minimal profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Warner Home Video)

**"Heist" (2001)**

Betrayals proliferate in this icy crime drama focusing on four thieves (led by Gene Hackman) who are forced to partner with the nephew (Sam Rockwell) of their boss (Danny DeVito) on a major heist. Writer-director David Mamet's intricate plotting telegraphs its many double-crosses while the soulless greed of every character leaves the viewer unengaged by their murderous mission. Some intense violence, benign view of theft, fleeting sexual innuendo and constant rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Warner Home Video)

**"Joy Ride" (2001)**

Ugly thriller in which two brothers (Steve Zahn and Paul Walker) driving cross country use a CB radio to play a prank on a lonely trucker who turns out to be a psychotic killer intent on getting even with the siblings. Though the territory is familiar, John Dahl's direction produces briskly paced suspense and a few goose bumps, but the narrative's mean-spirited tone is as disturbing as the actual terror. Some violence with a few gory images, brief nudity and much rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Fox)

**"The Last Castle" (2001)**

Set in a military prison, a new inmate who was a three-star general (Robert Redford) gradually unites the prisoners behind him to wrench control from the prison's barbaric warden (James Gandolfini). While marred by simplistic characterizations, director Rod Lurie's engrossing prison drama uses military strategies to achieve social justice. Some brutal violence, frequent rough language and an instance of profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (DreamWorks)

**"Less Than Zero" (1987)**

Failed cautionary tale about the terrible consequences of the drug scene for three bright high school students in an affluent California community. Director Marek Kanievska spends most of his energies depicting the high-gloss drug scene so that none of the main three earn viewer sympathy or interest. Several excessive scenes of simulated sex and a pervasive atmosphere of the sordid depths of the drug culture. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Fox)

**"Life as a House" (2001)**

Contrived drama about a dying man (Kevin Kline) who sets out to fulfill his dream of building his own house while enlisting the help of his estranged son (Hayden Christensen), hoping to salvage the relationship before it's too late. As directed by Irwin Winkler, this tearjerker's few life-affirming moments are sullied by several distasteful episodes, while the rudimentary story about the measure and meaning of a man's worth is emotionally manipulative. An attempted suicide, a few sexual encounters, sporadic drug use, implied male prostitution, brief rear nudity and some rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (New Line)

**"Sexy Beast" (2001)**

A volatile British gangster (Ben Kingsley) shows up at the Spanish villa of his retired partner (Ray Winstone) insisting he return for one more heist, but matters go badly awry with deadly consequences. Director Jonathan Glazer's shrill, violence-drenched drama presents a benign portrait of a criminal in a smug, high-style tale of evil triumphant. Excessive and gory violence, fleeting orgy scene with nudity and constant rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Fox)

**"Zoolander" (2001)**

Goofy comedy satirizes the male modeling business as two dimwit models (Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson) and a reporter (Christine Taylor) try to prevent a prime minister's assassination at a fashion show. Also directed by Stiller, the silly proceedings lack razor-sharp wit but are never mean-spirited although the film flirts with a comic view of promiscuity. Implied orgy with recreational drug use, fleeting, stylized violence, sporadic profanity and crude references. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Paramount)

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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Pope says God has power to overturn normal course of events

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Like the Blessed Virgin Mary's Magnificat, the thanksgiving hymn of Hannah in the Old Testament is a mother's profession of faith in a God who takes the side of the poor and humiliated, Pope John Paul II said.

Both prayers recognize God as the Lord of life and death, the one who has the power to turn the normal course of events upside down, the pope said March 20 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

The pope's reflection on Hannah's hymn was part of a continuing series of audience talks on biblical texts used in morning prayer.

Hannah's prayer is recited in the temple as she offers God her son, Samuel, whose birth was seen as miraculous because she was sterile.

"Hannah's sterile womb was like a tomb, and yet God made it bring forth life because 'in his hand is the soul of every living thing and the life breath of all mankind,'" the pope said.

"In this, we see a foreshadowing of the Resurrection, when life definitively triumphs over death," he said.

The pope said that, like Mary, whose Magnificat speaks of God casting rulers from their thrones and filling the hungry with good things, Hannah sings a hymn praising God who "overturns destinies."

In Hannah's hymn, "the strong are humiliated, the weak are girded with strength, the well-fed go in desperate search of food, the hungry are seated at a sumptuous banquet and the poor are raised from the ashes and given glorious thrones," he said.

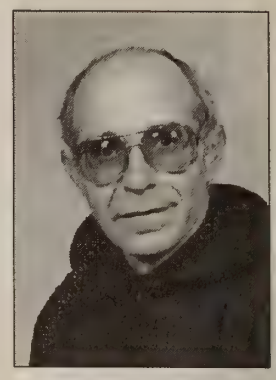
"These are professions of faith pronounced by two mothers in the face of the Lord of history who comes to the defense of the least, the poor and unhappy, the offended and humiliated," the pope said.

At the end of the audience, Pope John Paul offered his prayers and condolences to the family of Marco Biagi, an Italian government economic adviser murdered March 19 outside his home.

Biagi was working on a hotly contested reform of Italian labor law, and the pope prayed that a climate of harmony and peace would mark the debate and its settlement.

# Guest Column

FATHER JOHN C. AURILIA, OFM CAP
Guest Columnist



### Easter is falling in love again

There is something peculiar about the greatest celebration of the liturgical year.

We actually celebrate this great event at a different date every year because we still go by the phases of the moon; in fact, we celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the spring equinox, obviously set to coincide with the rebirth of life that erupts from an ugly bulb planted in the winter ground, representing a message of hope from nature. So be it! Rabbits, eggs, butterflies and lilies really don't make Easter, but they are powerful signs of fertility, resurrection and hope. In a cartoon called "The Family Circus," two children have discovered their Easter baskets and are busily enjoying the contents. One of the children asks, "Who colored all these eggs?" The other child replies, "The Easter Bunny." Then, the philosophical exchange continues: "Who gave us the jelly beans?" ... The Easter Bunny. "And the chocolate rabbit?" ... The Easter Bunny. Clearly, for those two little children, nothing was impossible for the Easter Bunny. Then the family went to church. They heard the preacher say, "They came to the tomb and saw the stone had been rolled back. Who could have done this? To which the two children cried out in unison, "The Easter Bunny."

For me the most powerful symbol is the empty tomb. I have been in many cemeteries blessing tombs, and yet I have never seen an empty tomb. I also know that usually people die after some illness. The Lord, to the best of my knowledge, was perfectly healthy, and yet his days were numbered.

A little boy in summer camp went to the infirmary complaining of a cold. The nurse said to him, "I'll give you an aspirin, and you'll feel much better. By the way, you have a fine record. You've never been sick before, and this is your thirty-fourth day here." Later, the boy wrote home: "Dear Mom and Dad, today I got sick and guess what! The nurse said my days are numbered."

The two Marys who went to the tomb were also astonished in seeing the tomb empty, and I don't blame them. By reading the account of the resurrection, we clearly understand that the empty tomb is as important as the cross. Were it not for the empty tomb, the cross would have been a tragedy. The two Marys were determined to see the Lord again. Perhaps the crucified Lord was only the beginning of their spiritual journey. Their love story had to continue. Once you fall in love with the Lord, he becomes a magnet in our lives. We search for him because we want to be with him. We don't know everything about the God-Man who died for us, until we become part of his love story.

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What makes the resurrection an historical event, rather than a marketing item, is the fact that the two Marys and the disciple who were at the Calvary were also the first ones to witness the empty tomb. The resurrection, therefore, is about "witnessing" the cross and the empty tomb. The reality is that whenever we experience or witness Jesus, we celebrate his life and our lives. Easter must be more than lilies, rabbits, butterflies and eggs when we really listen to what the Gospels tell us about the resurrection. We Catholics are the Gospels' people, who see the real Jesus, not simply the picture or the statue.

Actress Arlene Francis was strolling in the park one day when she saw a very beautiful little girl at play — so beautiful, in fact, that Ms. Francis could not resist congratulating the child's mother, who was nearby. "Your daughter is the most beautiful child I have ever seen," she said. She looks so healthy too: her skin, her hair, her eyes, her teeth, everything. I don't think I've ever seen a child so beautiful as she." "Oh, that's nothing," said the mother, "you should see the picture!"

Happy Easter Season ... and enjoy the real person of Jesus in our Eucharistic banquet.

# The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist



### The healing power of laughter

I was reading the latest issue of "The Joyful Noiseletter" and, as usual, found myself laughing at one of the items. An Indiana priest, Father Gregory Chamberlin, had sent it in, and it went like this:

"One Sunday morning before the beginning of Mass, I asked a group of children 'What do you have to do to get to heaven?'

"One young theologian yelled at the top of his voice, 'Ya gotta die!'"

For reminding me of the importance of laughter, I once again silently thanked Cal and Rose Samra, founders of "The Fellowship of Merry Christians." Theirs is a ministry of getting Christians to smile, precisely because they are Christians.

I especially applaud them for proclaiming April as "Holy Humor Month." Because, Cal Samra says reverently, this is Eastertime, and it was at Easter that the biggest joke in the world occurred. "The joke that God played on Satan by rising from the dead was indisputably the greatest and most imaginative practical joke in the history of the world."

Explaining the fellowship he founded in the early '80s, Samra says: "Our modest aim is to recapture the spirit of joy, humor, unity and healing power of the early Christians. We try to be merry more than twice a year!"

That resonated with me. I often have wondered why more emphasis isn't placed on humor in liturgy and worship. After all, humor, like everything else in life, is part of God's invention, so why have we ignored it so when it comes to remembering the Lord?

Not that the saints did. Many of them were infamous for how they accentuated the positive — with, I'm sure, a smile. St. Francis of Assisi did some pretty funny things in his life, and he strongly advised: "Leave sadness to the devil. The devil has reason to be sad." And St. Teresa of Avila would pray, "From somber, serious, sullen saints, save us, O Lord."

There's a little-known fairy tale that I always remember, precisely because it is about a woman who never laughed. She got married and couldn't have children. She was told she couldn't have children until she laughed five times.

The story goes on about how she learns to laugh and then the laughing woman becomes this beautiful woman, who now has new life. And because she has new life, she can now give new life, and she is able to have children. Interesting that the key to having new life in this tale is laughter.

Laughter is wonderful for relationships. The famous comedian Victor Borge said it best: "A smile is the shortest distance between two people."

I have found so many wonderful quotes from respected people who understood the importance and need for humor. Abraham Lincoln said, "If it were not for my little jokes, I could not bear the burdens of this office." I quite agree with the theologian Reinhold Niebuhr who once said that "humor is a prelude to faith, and laughter is the beginning of prayer."

I'm convinced, by the way, that heaven is a fun place, full of joy and laughter.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Close to home heroes

I was called recently to officiate at the funeral for a high school classmate's Dad. He was a true nobleman, his father, always doing for others. Jim Nevins not only went to church regularly, he also put his faith into action. There are countless families, down on their luck, who had occasion to seek his help through decades of service in the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He never turned his back on anyone.

At home, Jim faced his own challenges. He had a beloved daughter in a difficult marriage. After three beautiful babies arrived, her husband walked out. Jim Nevins and his equally devoted wife welcomed their daughter and her children into their home.

The Nevinses put aside their own longtime plans and got on with the business of raising a new generation of children. I know from my classmate Tom, the uncle to these three children, that the going was not always easy. Children are the greatest miracle in the world, but they don't come with instructions. You learn by doing, and sometimes that includes mistakes. The key is faithfulness, being there through the valleys and mountaintops of daily living. Jim Nevins was there for those children, always.

At the funeral service, one of those children, now a grown and married man in his twenties, got up to speak. His name is Jonathan, and his words were simple, eloquent, and powerful testimony to the power of one life well lived for others: "In so many ways, my Granddad was the only real father figure I had. Everyone talks about love in the family. His was real. In fact, it was unconditional. For a long time I think we just thought that's the way it's supposed to be. Didn't realize how great was his giving, his sacrifice for us."

Jonathan continued, "For a lot of my life, I looked for heroes. In my teenage years, the heroes were mostly professional athletes. Their power and success, the adulation they enjoyed, made them bigger than life. They were my heroes for a time. Then as I got older and more career oriented, I came to admire money and those who made a lot of it. So people like Bill Gates became my heroes.

"Recently, watching my grandfather struggle with illness, I got focused on what really makes someone a hero. And remembering my grandfather's devotion to us, his self-sacrifice, his great sense of humor even in difficult times, his absolute, and always freely-given love, I realized who my truest hero is. It's my Grandpa."

So many of us seek someone special to emulate, to admire, to look up to. Maybe we look too far. There could be some truly remarkable people close to home, if we only have the eyes to see. Sometimes they come in the form of stooped and wrinkled figures. Sometimes those worn out bodies hide hearts of radiant gold.

Jenny, Jonathan's sister also spoke that day. Her eulogy took the form of a poem:

You are in my heart, Grandpa
No matter where I am
You are to me like
A warm and bright sunshine amidst the cloudy gray
A spot of colorful joy that doesn't fade away
Rising in me and through me
And our whole family eternally.

Faithfulness and love leave their own legacy. Jim Nevins, rest in peace.

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# Our Turn



THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST

### Why I'm sticking with the church even now

How can you continue to place your trust in the Catholic Church after hearing about all those priests? I hear this question a lot these days.

The topic surfaces at most play groups and moms' hours that I attend. Predictably, within the first half hour of our meeting, someone will mention the latest bit on the priest pedophilia scandal. As if choreographed, there are simultaneous shrieks of disgust and disappointing sighs.

Most of these young moms would agree with me that sexual molestation of children is the most severe violation of a young person's respect and dignity, thwarting healthy emotional, psychological and spiritual development, and often causing permanent damage.

Each morning when I sit down with my paper and coffee and read about the most recent charge of pedophilia, I think about my little prince and imagine how outraged I'd be if a trusted priest, a friend of the family, abused him in any way.

But I won't leave the church over it. No way.

The church is dysfunctional but that it's my family. It's my home. I would no more desert it than I would a sister with a prison record or an alcoholic father.

No profession is without its bad apples. How much confidence would I have in the health-care system if I knew about every physician who had been busted with medical malpractice? I might bury life savings under my mattress if I learned about all the small Enrons out there. And I know the government is not immune to corruption. I'm not that naive.

When Bill Clinton admitted on national television that he did have an inappropriate relationship with that woman — Ms. Lewinsky — I experienced the same nausea I felt when the Boston priest scandal broke. We expect flawless character and moral purity from our political and spiritual leaders. We put them on high — too high in my estimation — pedestals.

Like most Americans, I didn't pin my disappointment over Clinton on George W. Bush just because the two share the same job. So why is the Catholic Church as an institution at fault for the grave, personal disorders of a handful of its ministers? And why have the reports of a few pedophiles tainted many people's respect for the priesthood in general?

That's not fair.

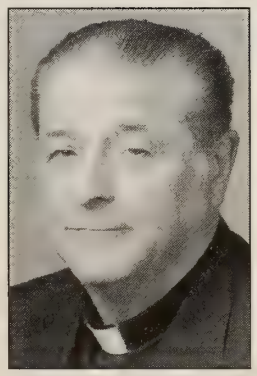
I blame the pedophiles for their heinous crimes. But I also blame the press for making pedophilia seem unique to the Catholic Church. Unfortunately, sexual abuse of children happens in churches, seminaries and offices of virtually all religions and professions.

Although the exact number of pedophilia cases in the United States is not known, Father Stephen Rossetti, a psychologist and adviser to the U.S. bishops, believes that the rate of child molestation by priests is probably no different from that of the general population.

How can I continue to place my trust in the Catholic Church after such horrifying stories?

Because of the priests I know, and the priests I love. Because of the one who married my husband and me, who never forgets my birthday, my feast day, my wedding anniversary. Because of the one whom I trust with my life and my son's life. That's why.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### The different dates for Easter

*Q. The different dates for Easter each year cause a lot of inconvenience and confusion, especially with school schedules. Why can't we celebrate Easter on a specific date, like Christmas and other feasts? (Oklahoma)*

A. Easter is determined by the lunar calendar because of its connection with the Jewish Passover, which is dated according to lunar cycles. Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring.

Arguments concerning the date for Easter, some of them quite bitter and prolonged, have been going on for centuries among Christians. Not long ago a new effort was under way to find a more consistent Sunday for the celebration (as, for example, the first Sunday of April), but agreement seems yet a long way off.

### Concern over donating organs

*Q. Your recent column about donating bodily organs bothered me. It's fine if others want to do it. But I would feel terrible knowing that my body will be divided that way.*

*Thank God it's still voluntary, I think, and we're not forced to make these donations. Does the church still encourage it? (New York)*

A. Donating organs and body tissue after death will always be voluntary, of course. As I've explained previously, however, the church, and the pope very explicitly, urge us to respond generously to the need for transplant organs.

Perhaps better than any further comment of mine is the following letter I received, also responding to the same column. It comes from a 72-year-old father of eight children, who carries it in his wallet:

To: Doctors, Hospitals, Emergency Medical Personnel,

At a certain moment a doctor will determine that my brain has ceased to function, and for all intents and purposes my life has stopped. When that happens, don't call this my death bed. Call it my "bed of life," and let my body be taken to help others lead fuller lives.

—Give my sight to a man who has never seen a sunrise, a baby's face or love in the eyes of a woman.

—Give my heart to a person whose own heart has caused nothing but endless days of pain.

—Give my brain to: Brain and Tissue Bank for Development Disorders, 655 W. Baltimore St., Baltimore, MD 21201-1599. My hope is they can find a way to cure dystonia and Tourette's syndrome, both of which I have.

—Give my blood to the teen-ager who has been pulled from the wreckage of his car so that he might live to see his grandchildren play.

—Give my kidneys to one who depends on a machine to exist from week to week.

—Give my lungs to someone who could not quit smoking soon enough.

—Take my bones, every muscle, fiber and nerve in my body, and find a way to make a crippled child walk.

—Take my cells and let them grow so a speechless child will shout at the crack of a bat and a deaf girl will hear the sound of rain against her window.

—Send what is left of my body to be used for study and training of new doctors. If you must bury something, let it be my faults, my weaknesses and all my prejudice against my fellow man.

—Give my sins to the devil. Give my soul to God. If you wish to remember me, do it with a kind word or deed to someone who needs you.

If you do all I have asked, I will live forever.

I am grateful to this Ohio reader for sharing with the rest of us this much-needed and hopeful reminder of the good we can do even after we die.

# Charlotte native honored for commitment to public service

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College announced Charlotte entrepreneur, Robert M. Gallagher, as this year's recipient of the annual Grace Award in a special gala on campus March 11.

The Gallagher family was in attendance, as well as Bishop William G. Curlin of the Diocese of Charlotte, Dr. James Gearity, president of Belmont Abbey College, and Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B., chancellor of the college.

The Grace Award, presented by the Belmont Abbey College Associates and the Board of Advisors, is presented to an outstanding individual whose contributions and commitments have significantly improved the quality of life throughout the region and whose life serves as an inspiring example to others. The award is named for Charles L. "Chuck" Grace, president of Cummins Atlantic, Inc., of Charlotte and a longtime supporter of Belmont Abbey College.

Others who have received the Grace Award include, Herman Blumenthal, Bynum and Rebecca Carter, Howard A. "Humpy" Wheeler, Jr., Felix S. Sabates, Thomas Efird, and Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Gallagher has served on the college's Board of Advisors and its Board of Trustees. A 1972 graduate of the college, Gallagher earned the Belmont Abbey College's Alumnus of the Year in 2000.

Holding degrees in economics, business, and tax law, Gallagher currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of his own company, Good Will Publishers, Inc., one of the largest publishers and distributors of religious and value-oriented books in the country.

In addition to his work for the college, Gallegher has been active in other civic events and served on a number of church counsels and boards.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

**Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B., and Dr. James Gearity, president of Belmont Abbey, flank entrepreneur Robert Gallagher, this year's recipient of the annual Grace Award. The award was presented at a special gala on campus March 11.**

# Administrative Committee puts sex abuse of minors on agenda of General Meeting

WASHINGTON — The Administrative Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has put the problem of sexual abuse of minors by clergy on the agenda of the June General Meeting of the full body of Bishops.

The Conference's Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse has been asked to review and report on recommendations leading to "a comprehensive response on the national level" to ensure "the safety of children and the healing of victims and their families."

The Administrative Committee is made up of nearly 50 Bishops whose responsibilities are to carry on the work of the Conference between General Meetings and to set the agenda for these meetings.

The June General Meeting will be held in Dallas, June 13-15.

The Administrative Committee issued the following statement: "We, the members of the Administrative Committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, meeting in Washington, D.C., discussed with the greatest concern the problem of sexual abuse of minors by clergy which, we profoundly regret, has so wounded God's people. We recognize our responsibility as bishops to address this problem more effectively.

"We discussed a variety of recommendations for means to prevent sexual abuse and to assure a safe environment for children.

"The Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse was given the charge to review these suggestions and others which it may surface to recommend a comprehensive response on the national level at our June General Meeting that ensures the safety of children and the healing of victims and their families.

"We affirm the five principles first announced in 1992,

"1. Respond promptly to all allegations of abuse where there is reasonable belief that abuse has occurred.

"2. If such an allegation is supported by sufficient evidence, relieve the alleged offender promptly of his ministerial duties and refer him for appropriate medical evaluation and intervention.

"3. Comply with the obligations of civil law as regards reporting of the incident and cooperating with the investigation.

"4. Reach out to the victims and their families and communicate sincere commitment to their spiritual and emotional well-being.

"5. Within the confines of respect for privacy of the individuals involved, deal as openly as possible with the members of the community.

"The full body will be asked to consider how these principles can be further developed and whether additional principles should be formulated as the foundation for future action."


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# Chocolate Sunday offers much for children

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

HIGHLANDS — Chocolate crosses and bunnies carried by members of the parish's youth group were part of the offertory procession at Our Lady of the Mountains (OLM) March 3. About a dozen youngsters participated.

Father William M. Evans blessed the unusual gifts that they might bring joy and happiness to those who receive them.

This was "Chocolate Sunday," a project to provide gifts to REACH of Macon County. The chocolate goodies were placed in eight Easter baskets that will be combined with baskets from other groups throughout the community and given to children who are victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse in their own homes.

Chocolate Sunday was also the "kickoff to youth participation in liturgy, at least on a monthly basis," Mary Beth Brody, OLM's choir director, said. "We want to support our children and to support their participation. We don't want them not coming to church when they're teen-agers because (they think) it's boring, and they didn't have a good experience."

Brody got the idea from a Catholic Church in New Orleans where youth were much-involved in the liturgy.

The OLM choir donated the baskets, Easter grass, jellybeans, plastic eggs, ribbon and the cellophane to cover the baskets. A collection the week before provided the money for the chocolate. To emphasize the Chocolate-Sunday theme, Brody said, "The boys passed out ice cream sundae glasses during Mass, and the congregation contributed."

After Mass everyone ate ice cream sundaes in the church hall.

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*




# Bible study class experiences Seder meal

CHARLOTTE — The daytime Bible study class at St. Matthew Church participated in a Seder meal as a follow-up to the group's study of the Book of Revelation March 12. Group member Elizabeth Hoffman hosted the meal, which is a Passover ceremony.

The ceremony paralleled part of the Catholic Mass, according to group member Aida Tamayo. Tamayo said that Hoffman, who is extremely knowledgeable in biblical events, spared no detail in hosting the Seder and made it a wonderful learning event for the class. The group wanted to thank Hoffman for her spiritual leadership and her incredible faith that serves as an inspiration to them.

The Bible study class uses the Little Rock Scripture's unique combination of study, reflection and prayer to lead to a transformation of faith. In April, the class will offer the Little Rock Scripture's study of the book of Exodus.



Photo courtesy of Aida Tamayo

**Elizabeth Hoffman hosts a Seder meal, a Passover ceremony, for the daytime Bible study class at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte March 12.**

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**Ecumenical Probabilities and Possibilities**
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**Tuesday, April 16 7:30 pm**
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(Queens Road and Selwyn Ave.)
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# Sister embraces vocation, develops spirituality

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Barbara Jean Warren grew up like any other young woman during the 1930s and '40s. As in many other families during that era, her mother stayed at home while her father worked as a lineman for Carolina Power and Light. Even though her father came from a strong Baptist family, he met and married a Catholic woman and moved back to his hometown of Asheville after his discharge from the service.



Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren

"My mother was a woman of great courage who always maintained her faith in the presence of great adversity. I owe my own strong sense of faith to her," said Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren.

The couple raised their girls Catholic, and Warren attended Catholic middle school. Her faith life was not filled with ministerial work; she simply attended Sunday Masses and novenas with her family. While faith and spirituality were a significant part of her life, she did not always have a clear focus. "I think I enjoyed going to the novenas more to meet people than to say prayers," she joked.

So, when she decided, at the age of 26, to enter religious life, many of her friends were surprised. "They thought that I had too much fun to enter religious life. I wasn't very pious or religious as a kid, and I didn't have this jolting experience, just this nudging inside," said Sister Mary Timothy. "At first, I just didn't want to do it. I wasn't attracted to it, and yet, the urging was there."

As a child, she and her five sisters played outside until they were called for meals. Their games of sledding during the winters and skating during the summers down the nearby hill were part of their recreation. She grew up during the Depression but says that the family made it through hard times.

"We were poor, but we didn't know it," she said. "My mother and father were able to manage even through economic difficulty."

She attended high school and had the same ideas, hopes and dreams as other young women her age. She wore sweaters, bobby socks and saddle shoes and dated young men while in high school and in college. After graduation in 1943, she attended St. Genevieve Junior College and High Point University with the hopes of becoming a laboratory technician because of a love of biology.

She moved to Charlotte in 1949 and began working for Charlotte Memorial Hospital, which later became Carolinas Medical Center, in the histology department.

She had begun attending daily Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, where Msgr. John Manley was the pastor. He had previously served as the pastor of St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville, her childhood church. She expressed her desire to become a woman religious to Msgr. Manley, and her trust in him led her to the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of North Carolina.

"I was nervous and scared. I didn't know anything about them, but they were nice," said Sister Mary Timothy, who entered in 1951. "My father wasn't too happy about it, and my mother was surprised but happy for me. In those days, I thought I would be praying a lot. I didn't know a lot about what they did."

After six months of postulancy, she taught at St. Benedict School in Belmont and realized that she had a love of teaching and a love of students. She moved into the next phase of her preparation to become a woman religious — the ritual of reception, where she received her veil and chose her name — Mary Timothy. "Timothy was my maternal grandfather's name," she said.

During her time as a novice, she spent a canonical year studying the vows and working in the motherhouse. Even though she was fairly certain that she had made the correct choice, the rules of silence sometimes tried her patience. "I think they were frustrating because I liked to talk," she said with a laugh. "I grew to understand the reason because there needed to be times of meditation and prayer."

After final vows approximately four years later, she received her black veil to replace the white one she wore, a ring to symbolize her betrothal to Jesus and a crucifix to wear around her neck. After Vatican II, the style of dress changed along with other changes in religious communities. The skirts were shortened, and habits became optional. Sister Mary Timothy chooses not to wear a habit these days, but she often thinks back to when the changes were first enacted.

"When I entered, we wore the old habit, and I remember all of the pain and agony that we went through when we were considering changing the religious dress," she said. "There were many people who were affected by that. It was shocking for some sisters who had lived for over 50 years in that dress.

"Back in those days, you packed your trunk in August and waited to find out where you were being assigned next. Now, you talk to your superior about your appointment. I've learned to make adjustments as the church has changed, and some of those changes have been easier than others," she said.

During her nearly 50 years as a woman religious, Sister Mary Timothy has worked as a principal and teacher at St. Gabriel School, St. Joan of Arc School and St Agnes School in Greenport, Long Island. She was also the dean of students at Sacred Heart College in Belmont; a cytology technician, director of continuing education and pastoral minister at Mercy Hospital; and the pastoral associate at St. Gabriel Church.

She says that she equally enjoyed working as a principal and in pastoral ministry. "I liked working with children in helping them form their consciences, and it has been gratifying to minister to and for people. One of the nice things is when you go to funerals and weddings, and you see people you taught. It's nice to see how successful they have become," she said.

Sister Mary Timothy, currently the diocesan lay ministry director and vicar for women religious, says that she has not regretted any of her time as a women religious and that her vocation has been personally fulfilling. After attending the Institute for Pastoral Life several years ago in Missouri — a three-yearlong commitment — she developed the lay ministry program for the diocese currently in place.

"Many spiritual opportunities have been available to me, and I've been able to participate in things that I would not have if I hadn't been a part of my community," said Sister Mary Timothy. "I am grateful to the Sisters of Mercy for all of the opportunities that I have been able to have, and I have enjoyed my life."

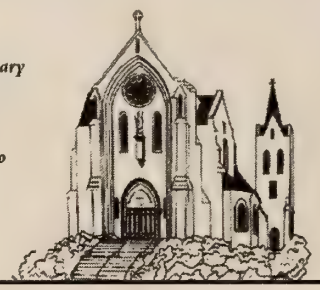
*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*


**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Holy Tuesday, March 26, 11am*** | ***Chrism Mass: Blessing of the Holy Oils***<br>*Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant* |
| ***Holy Thursday, March 28, 7:30pm*** | ***Mass of the Lord's Supper***<br>*Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant* |
| ***Good Friday, March 29, 3pm*** | ***Stations of the Cross*** |
| ***Good Friday, March 29, 7:30pm*** | ***Sacred Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross***<br>*Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant* |
| ***Holy Saturday, March 30, 8pm*** | ***Easter Vigil Mass***<br>*Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant* |
| ***Easter Sunday Masses*** | *8am, 9:30am,*<br>*11am with Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant,*<br>*12:30pm* |

St. Patrick Cathedral

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*Rev. Carmen Malacari*
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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

March 21, 2002
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Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?
We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.

— Romans 6:3-4

# Hundreds gather for chrism Mass



Photos by Joann S. Keane





**This year's chrism Mass celebrated the ministry of priesthood — a time for recommitment to priestly service. The holy oils to be used by priests throughout the year were consecrated as well. In the photo above, priests gather with Bishop William G. Curlin during the consecration. Below left is Father Matthew Kauth, parochial vicar at St. Matthew parish, and to the right, Rev. Mr. Arthur Kingsley holds a vessel filled with what will become one of the holy oils.**

By Alesha M. Price
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — During one of the Catholic Church's most solemn Masses, Bishop William G. Curlin presided over a recommitment to priestly service and blessed the holy oils priests will use throughout the diocese in the upcoming year.

Holy Week observances continued March 26 with the chrism Mass in St. Patrick Cathedral. The diocesan shepherd gathered with about 100 priests and many permanent deacons ministering in the diocese to celebrate the liturgy with the people of faith they serve.

The annual chrism Mass celebrated the ministry of priesthood and the role of the bishop as a spiritual shepherd. As principal celebrant of the Mass, presider over the priests' recommitment ceremony, and the person who blessed the sacred oils and consecrated the chrism, the bishop commended the priests in their ministry while being reaffirmed in his.

During his homily to one of the largest crowds to ever attend the annual Mass, the bishop stressed the importance of the priests' dedication to their ministry and the parishioners' dedication to their pastors especially during a time when priests and the priesthood has been under scrutiny by many because of publicized allegations of sexual misconduct.

"A great cloud has come over the United States, a terrible sorrow. I want it to be known that I speak for the Diocese of Charlotte: We have zero tolerance for any kind of abuse of a child," said Bishop Curlin. "If anyone is found guilty — priest, deacon, religious or anyone working or volunteering for the diocese — we want people to know it will be end of their ministry in this diocese, and I know all of my brother priests say 'amen' to that.

"If anyone is accused of these allega-

See CHRISM MASS, page 7

### Despite threats, Honduran priest leads fight against illegal logging

SALAMA, Honduras (CNS) — Watching the residents of his mountain parish town go hungry propelled a Catholic priest to become one of the leading environmental activists in Honduras, despite threats from loggers and government officials and admonitions from his bishop. "As a pastor, I saw the trees disappear and the rains diminish, and as a result the peasants began losing their crops and going hungry. So I decided to raise my voice in their defense," said Father Andres Tamayo, the priest in the sleepy central Honduran town of Salama. Six times in the last two years, Father Tamayo and other local environmentalists have blocked public roads to the passage of logging trucks. The government has responded by sending the Cobras, its elite counterinsurgency force, to open the roads. In one encounter last year, Father Tamayo was forced off the road at gunpoint. In another incident, witnesses said, a Cobra commander held a hand grenade against the priest's chest while threatening him.

### U.S. seminarians in Rome say abuse scandals intensify commitment

ROME (CNS) — Recent revelations of sexual abuse by clergy have shaken U.S. diocesan seminarians studying in Rome, prompting special prayer services, house meetings and a heightened emphasis on priestly commitment, the seminary rector said. Msgr. Kevin C. McCoy, head of the North American College, the U.S. bishops' seminary in Rome, compared the seriousness of the scandals' impact to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks because it was "another event that has changed the world in which we will minister." Several seminarians told Catholic News Service March 21 that students at the college, especially those from dioceses affected by the reports, felt anger, disbelief and a sense of loss. But the overwhelming reaction was a deepened commitment to priestly holiness, they said.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Bethlehem Catholics pray during Way of Cross**
**Catholics in Bethlehem mark the Way of the Cross March 22 stopping to pray at 13 places where someone was injured or killed or something destroyed in recent incursions by Israeli soldiers. The procession began at the ruins of a Palestinian police station, seen in back. Holy Week began in the Holy Land following the most deadly violence in the Middle East this year.**

### With Missal release, bishops to begin work on changes, cardinal says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Bishops' conferences around the world are expected to begin work immediately on revising texts of prayers currently used at Mass, translating the new prayers issued by the Vatican and changing ritual practices to comply with new Vatican guidelines. The new and the revised prayers and the new guidelines — contained in the third typical edition of the Roman Missal and the General Instruction of the Roman Missal — were released March 22 by the Vatican printing press. Cardinal Jorge Medina Estevez, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, said that with the public availability of the texts the new rules are church law.

### Illinois diocese celebrates ordination of auxiliary bishop

JOLIET, Ill. (CNS) — Sporting red garb in honor of the feast of St. Joseph or green in tribute to St. Patrick and the Irish heritage of their new auxiliary bishop, hundreds of people gathered March 19 at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet to celebrate the episcopal ordination of Auxiliary Bishop James E. Fitzgerald. Bishop Joseph L. Imesch of Joliet was consecrator and principal celebrant of the ordination, and Joliet Auxiliary Bishop Roger L. Kaffer and retired Bishop Daniel L. Ryan of Springfield, Ill., a former Joliet auxiliary, were co-consecrators. Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago presided over the ceremony. More than 80 deacons, 160 priests and nearly 30 bishops also were in attendance. Bishop Imesch said he was grateful that Pope John Paul II had chosen "one of our own" to be a Joliet auxiliary bishop.

### Statement urges Annunciation observance focus on pro-life message

WASHINGTON (CNS) — More than 50 national Catholic leaders have signed a statement co-written by three major pro-life apostolates to draw special attention to the pro-life dimensions of the feast of the Annunciation. Priests for Life, Human Life International and the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe drafted the statement regarding the feast, to be celebrated April 8. Usually it is observed March 25, but this year that date falls in Holy Week. "As Catholic leaders at a time when our society is beset with the evil of abortion, and when the human embryo is treated as a mere object for scientific research, we believe that the celebration of the feast of the Annunciation is more important than ever," the statement said.

### Haitian church leaders call for solution to political crisis

FORT-LIBERTE, Haiti (CNS) — Haitian church officials have called on government leaders to solve a political crisis that is crippling the troubled island nation and holding up some $500 million in foreign aid. Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, papal nuncio to Haiti, said new Prime Minister Yvon Neptune should reopen negotiations between polarized sectors of the government and the opposition Democratic Convergence coalition. Both sectors' failure to find a solution to a flawed vote count in the May 2000 legislative elections is holding up more than $500 million in foreign aid to Haiti. "The country needs people who are open to a compromise solution in order to unblock this situation," Archbishop Bonazzi said following a March 18 Mass in Fort-Liberte's cathedral.

### Social action alliance, formerly all-Christian, expands membership

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — A Portland-area social action coalition whose membership has consisted of Catholic and Protestant churches and an order of women religious now counts labor unions, a synagogue, an Islamic clerics' association and a neighborhood developer among its members. The broader membership, leaders hope, will result in greater influence over the region's job growth, energy production, health-care access, education and cost of housing. "This expansion will give us more strength," said Father Robert

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**April 6 — 11 a.m.**
Mass and blessing of Marian Center, convent and Cardinal Gibbons Chapel
Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, Belmont

**April 13 — 2 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Pius X, Greensboro

**April 14 — 6 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Mark, Huntersville

**April 15-16**
LARCUM

**April 17 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. John, Waynesville

## Diocesan planner

**April**

**7** BOONE — St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way, will be hosting an information session on the LIMEX graduate education and certificate program. Those interested are encouraged to gather from 2-3:30 p.m. in Pat Jones Hall to discover if this theological reflection process is geared for them. Loyola University of New Orleans offers this distance learning opportunity as preparation for ministry and religious education. For more information, call Connie Milligan at (704) 364-3344 or Peg Ruble at (704) 391-0445.

**7** CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will be gathering today at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information please call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 545-8133.

**7** SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**9** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Arthritis Support and Education Group will meet this morning from 10-11 a.m. in Room D of the parish ministry center located at 3016 Providence Rd. Representatives from MedAssist of Mecklenburg, a medication assistance program, will speak about the non-profit free pharmacy for eligible county seniors, age 65 and over, on fixed incomes who cannot afford prescriptions. For further details, call Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**10** CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of

Krueger, pastor of St. Andrew Parish and a longtime leader in the Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good, once known as the Portland Organizing Project. "Many more individuals will be involved. It will give us power in areas where we don't have power. Churches aren't necessarily strong in the areas of construction and power transmission, as one example," he told the Catholic Sentinel, newspaper of the Portland Archdiocese.

### U.S. bishop attends Colombian archbishop's funeral to show solidarity

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami said he attended the funeral of a slain Colombian archbishop to show the solidarity of the U.S. church. The March 16 assassination of Archbishop Isaias Duarte Cancino of Cali, Colombia, has caused serious concern within the church and in the entire society of the South American country, Bishop Wenski said in an interview with The Florida Catholic diocesan newspaper upon his return. It was important to show the solidarity of the U.S. church by having a representative of the U.S. hierarchy present at the funeral, he said. Church officials from other countries, including Germany, Ecuador and Venezuela were present, the bishop said. Bishop Wenski is chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration and had been in Colombia in February to attend a meeting with Latin American church officials and to visit people displaced by Colombia's civil war. He returned for the March 19 funeral in Cali.

### No quick conclusion to Lefebvrite talks, Vatican official says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Discussions with the main group of followers of the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre are continuing, but their reconciliation with the Vatican is likely to be a long process, said Cardinal Jorge Medina Estevez. The cardinal is a member of the Pontifical Commission "Ecclesia Dei," established by Pope John Paul II in 1988 to foster communion with sympathizers of Archbishop Lefebvre after he was excommunicated for ordaining bishops against the Vatican's wishes. One of those ordained, Bishop Bernard Fellay, leads the Priestly Fraternity of St. Pius X, the main group of followers considered not in full communion with the Catholic Church. A smaller group, the Brazil-based Priestly Association of St. John Vianney, returned to full communion with the church in late January.



CNS PHOTO BY MAX ROSSI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

**Young people carry icon during rally with pope**

**Young Catholics carry an icon of Christ on the cross during a rally with Pope John Paul II March 21 in St. Peter's Square. The event was a prelude to World Youth Day in Toronto this summer.**

### Canadians, Vatican officials put final touches on World Youth Day

ROME (CNS) — At a time when terrorism, war and even church shortcomings are making headlines, young people seem to be searching even harder for a personal religious experience — and hope to find it at this summer's World Youth Day celebration in Toronto, a group of young Canadian Catholics said. The Canadians, members of a planning team that met with Vatican officials in mid-March to put the final touches on the World Youth Day program, said enthusiasm for the July megagathering continues to grow. They said the ongoing pilgrimage of the World Youth Day cross throughout Canada has awakened unprecedented interest in the faith. Registrations for World Youth Day continue to pour in, apparently unaffected by terrorism apprehensions in the wake of last September's attacks in the United States.

### Salvadorans mark 25th anniversary of Jesuit priest's martyrdom

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Most Salvadorans agree that the significant turning point in the late Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero's ministry took place when his close friend, Jesuit Father Rutilio Grande, was assassinated for speaking out against the harsh economic conditions of El Salvador's poor. From that point forward, Archbishop Romero also began to identify more closely with the plight of the poor and speak out publicly against their oppression. March 12 marked the 25th anniversary of the martyrdom of Father Grande and March 24, the 22nd anniversary of Archbishop Romero's martyrdom. Father Grande was gunned down, along with an altar boy and an elderly helper, in a rural village. The priest was one of many clerics who had received death threats at that time for their work among the poor.

### Thousands express support for priests at chrism Mass in Texas diocese

SAN JUAN, Texas (CNS) — In a show of support for their priests, about 4,000 Catholics in the Diocese of Brownsville gathered with Brownsville Bishop Raymundo J. Pena and all the diocesan priests for a March 21 chrism Mass in San Juan at the National Shrine of the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan. Catholics representing the 65 parishes in the diocese attended the annual liturgy for priests to renew their commitment to service. Some parishioners even chartered buses to get to the shrine to represent their parishes. During the Mass, Bishop Pena delivered a reflection on the priesthood, pointing out that religious faith and the priestly office are not imposed on people, but "arise universally from within the spiritual dimension of our human nature." Referring to the current clergy abuse cases cropping up around the country, he said, "Be neither discouraged by your own difficulties nor crushed by the failures of brother priests."

*The next edition of*

**The Catholic News & Herald will be published on April 12**

*The editor and staff of your diocesan newspaper extend Easter greetings to our readers in the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte*

St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Bobbe Conlin at (704) 643-1376 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

**10** CHARLOTTE — Larry DeWalt of Hospice of Charlotte will present "Dealing with Loss in the Years that Follow" tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. The session will focus on the grief process beyond the first year of death. For further information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

**10** CHARLOTTE — The Office of Justice and Peace will be sponsoring as session entitled "Building Paths to Peace in Northern Ireland," this morning at 11 a.m. in Biss Hall at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Presenters will include Dr. Robert Mulvihill, professor of political science at Rosemont College in Philadelphia and Colin Craig, director of TIDES, a non-profit organization focused on building a sustainable peace in Northern Ireland. The same presentation will be held at Our Lady of Grace School, 2205 W. Market St. in Greensboro at 7:30 p.m. tonight. Call the Office of Justice and Peace at (704) 370-3231 or e-mail justicepeace@charlottediocese.org for more information and reservations.

**11** CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., will be hosting its annual card party from 7-10 p.m. tonight. Food, beverages and door prizes will be included at the event. For reservations and other information, call Doris Reinhardt at (704) 552-2026 or Anne Kinney at (704) 552-0376.

**11** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be hosting ultreyas on the following dates and times: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. tonight for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1:15-2 p.m. on April 21 with a School of Leaders at 1 p.m. and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on April 28 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665.

**13** CHARLOTTE — There will be an attic and crafts sale held at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., today from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Set-up will take place at 7 a.m. For further details, call Carol Milton at (704) 554-0553.

**13** CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo community will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight and every second Saturday of the month for a school of leaders at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For further information, call Ky Do at (704) 532-9094.

**13** GASTONIA — St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael Lane, will be having its 6th annual international dinner at 6 p.m. tonight. Attendants will able to gather for food, entertainment, a raffle and cash bar. For tickets and other information, call the church office at (704) 867-6212.

**14** CHARLOTTE — A Byzantine Catholic liturgy will be celebrated this afternoon at 3:30 p.m. in the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel, 1400 Suther Rd. Byzantine Catholics and anyone interested in the Byzantine Catholic rite are welcomed to attend. For more details, contact Olga at (704) 948-6471.

**16** CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church Respect Life Ministry will be sponsoring pro-life educational programs. Father Matthew Kauth will be the speaker for the series, which will discuss the following topics on the following dates from 7-9 p.m.: "Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research" - tonight, "The Ethical Aspects of Human Cloning" - May 2 and "End of Life Issues" - May 31. For more information, call Pat Rodite at (704) 541-9744.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 20 days prior to the publication date.*

# Sister of Mercy helps women check their baggage

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — "Check Your Baggage" was the theme of the Third Annual Women's Day at St. Matthew Church March 23. Two hundred twenty women gathered in the parish center for a day of spiritual growth, reflection and sharing.

Guest speaker Mercy Sister Helen Marie Burns, coordinator of the Sisters of Mercy Commission on Women, journeyed verbally from biblical days to modern society, identifying the importance of storytelling as a means for women to reflect on their experiences as women of faith. Songs, prayers and skits intertwined with the theme of a trip — a journey of remembering one's roots and reaching out to continue the story day by day.

Sister Helen, a member of the Sisters of Mercy Institute Leadership team, which provides leadership and administration to the 5,200 Sisters of Mercy serving in 12 countries, holds a bachelor's in English from Catholic University of America, a master's in English from University of Wisconsin and a doctorate in religion from University of Iowa.

She pointed out that stories are not just for nostalgia; they help us remember who we are, where we come from, our pains and trauma and where we are going. Stories tell us about families and their values. The characters in the story — relatives, friends and acquaintances — shape it. From them, we learn compassion. But we also must be aware that our stories can have excess baggage, she said. We must be conscious of what we carry, retaining the positive and helpful and letting go of that not needed.

Drawing parallel to Scriptures, Sister Helen said, "Stories as profound as suffering, death and resurrection are sources of continual renewal and rebirth. The story of the paschal mystery culminates with the gathering of people and family, serving as a source of identity, purpose and community."

Sister Helen encouraged all to look at the hidden meanings in Scripture. "For example, in the story of Martha and Mary, there is nurturing, caregiving and prayer. It doesn't say one is more important than the other. It is a simple story of two women. Jesus engages them in mutual modality," she said. "We tend to focus on the fact that when Martha asks Jesus to have Mary help her, Jesus replies that Martha is anxious, and Mary has chosen the better of the options."

Sister Helen said it was important to look at the first line of St. Luke where Martha welcomed Jesus to her home. "This welcome indicated that she was the homeowner, a women of independence," she said. "It also shows that Jesus was comfortable with both of them in their home. The roles of Martha and Mary change."

This Scripture, said Sister Helen, showed that the action of service and prayer are not against each other but compliment one another. "This tells us something about ourselves. To be whole, we must be outgoing — reaching out to others, but if this becomes all consuming taking us from our prayer life, then we must pull back; eliminate some baggage," she said.

Sister Helen stressed that there is a lot to be learned from the stories of Scripture where community is important. Human beings are only complete in relationships, she said. Scripture tells us about our journey, our faith and our need for one another.

Women can relate to the women of Scripture. "What did Mary do after she learned she was to be the mother of Jesus?" asked Sister Helen. "She went to another woman, Elizabeth, who immediately accepted her, giving her strength for her journey."

"In the epistles of St. Paul, women are shown as community leaders in prayer. In Mark 14: 3-9, when the woman poured a jar of perfumed oil on Jesus' head, he responded, 'she has done what she could do,'" said Sister Helen. "The things we do will be different because of the community we are in. But there is a great deal for us to be conscious and aware of."

Sister Helen said that in our faith journey, we sometimes seek too high a goal. "We want to make it all different and better, and we can't," she said. "But we must seek what we can do and do it as stated in the Scriptures. Where do you want to go now that can free you of your baggage?"

Sister Helen offered future guidance saying, "The story is not over yet. We are in the midst of discovering who we are as women. We stood as Christian people during the season of Lent. This allowed us to understand that death and redemption are always occurring. It is this mystery that enables us to have hope in humanity. Goodness can happen from suffering and death."

"I encourage you to take more seriously that glory is ours, and redemption is among us," she said. "This is our story, our history. We have a lot to carry. Let us rejoice and be glad."



Photo by Mary Marshall

**Mercy Sister Helen Marie Burns, coordinator of the Sisters of Mercy Commission on Women, speaks at the Third Annual Women's Day gathering at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte March 23.**




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# Knights raise money and awareness for mental retardation

By SUSAN DeGUZMAN
Correspondent

CLEMMONS — The Knights of Columbus have done it again.

Four councils (districts 11 and 24) presented checks totaling $37,023 to 23 area schools and agencies that work with people with mental retardation at the Knights of Columbus Operation LAMB Disbursement Dinner at Holy Family Church March 21.

"I never expected we would collect this much money," said Bruce Libke, this year's Operation LAMB director. "Donations across the country have been down due to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. This figure isn't far off from the approximate $47,000 we were able to give away last year."

The $37,023 represents only 85 percent of what was collected. Fifteen percent goes directly to the state Operation LAMB Fund.

The Operation LAMB program, derived from the biblical quotation, "...whatsoever you do the Least Among My Brethren, that you do also to me" (Matthew 25:40), is an annual Tootsie Roll drive that takes place annually in November. Many people have come to recognize the Knights with their Tootsie Rolls and yellow aprons at various retail locations such as grocery stores and malls. Shoppers are offered the opportunity to donate money to the mentally handicapped during these drives.

One hundred percent of the money collected goes directly to helping those for which it is intended. Various corporations donate the Tootsie Rolls, and all the labor and administrative work involved with running the program is done through the volunteer work of the Knights and their families and friends, as it has been since the statewide drive first began in 1973.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal service organization founded in New Haven, Conn., in 1882. Today their membership of over 1.6 million can be found in all 50 states as well as in Canada, Mexico, the Philippines and many other parts of the world.

The four councils of Knights that worked on this drive were Santa Maria council (2829) from St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, Our Lady of Mercy council (10504) in Winston-Salem, Holy Cross council (8509) from Kernersville, and Bishop Greco council (9499) from Holy Family Church in Clemmons. The state Operation LAMB program raised more than $850,000 in 2001 and has raised over $10 million since its beginning.

John Harrison, supreme directory of the Bishop Greco council and a former grand knight, said, "We often look at those with mental disabilities as having insurmountable problems, yet they oftentimes help us out more than we help them."

A special part of the evening program was the presentation by the Inner Rhythm Choir, which is made up mentally disabled adults from area group homes. "They sang a lot of songs about the Lord," explained Harrison. "They're followers of Jesus, and they look to him for strength. This is a message we all can share."

Each individual member of the choir was given a name badge.

"They were so pleased and happy with these that they were like children at Christmas," said Bill O'Neill, a former grand knight.

Libke said, "If all the volunteers and donors could see the happiness and joy that their efforts brought to the mentally handicapped, and even to the representatives of those schools and agencies, they would be overjoyed."

Ron Caviness, principal of Lowrance Middle School in Winston-Salem, said, "The Knights are always able to elevate the meeting so people remember the purpose of Operation LAMB. And we get to see folks from other agencies. There is a lot of excitement generated."

Lowrance Middle School received the Dick Gooley Award, which is given to the most outstanding agency that helps the Knights with Operation LAMB. Caviness explained that three classes of mentally handicapped students were able to go to the mall last November to work several shifts with the Knights. The school also won the award in 1997.

Caviness accepted a check for $1,200 and will use the money for an adaptive reading book series to expand the vocabulary of 97 students. Having worked with the Knights since the mid-1980s, Caviness has been able to improve his program with adaptive computer technology (such as simplified keyboards), handicapped doorways and many other enhancements that his budget cannot support and that have made a world of difference for his students.

Other recipients of Operation LAMB included Amos Cottage; The Enrichment Center (ARC of Forsyth County); Forsyth Special Olympics; Group Homes of Forsyth, Inc.; The Special Children's School; Horizons Residential Care Center, Inc.; Jefferson Elementary School; Marvin M. Ward Elementary School; Southwest Middle School; Konnoak Elementary; and others.




COURTESY PHOTOS



**Above, members from four Knights of Columbus councils present a check for $37,023 to local agencies and schools that work with the mentally disabled at the Knights of Columbus Operation LAMB Disbursement Dinner at Holy Family Church in Clemmons March 21. Left, the Inner Rhythm Choir, made up of mentally disable adults from group homes in the Clemmons area, performed at the dinner.**

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Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

### Irish missionary involved in peace talks killed in Uganda

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — An Irish missionary priest was killed in a roadside ambush on his way home from peace talks in northern Uganda. Mill Hill Missionary Father Declan O'Toole, 31, was traveling in one of two cars that were attacked March 21 along the road from Moroto to Kotido. Two other people in the cars, local parish workers, also were killed. News reports said the attacker was wearing a "military-style uniform." The ambush took place near Kalosaric, a village no more than two-and-a-half miles from a Ugandan military encampment. Father O'Toole was born in Headford, Ireland, and was ordained a priest in 1997. He had been working in Uganda for about four years.

### Franciscan nun offers 'ministry of presence' on Oregon campus

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — A Franciscan sister is enlivening the faith of students at Lewis and Clark College in Portland. Sister Loretta Schaff, admittedly a curiosity on the largely secular campus, works by inviting students to consider the strengths of church social teaching and the deep consolation of Christian prayer. "My goal is to bring a ministry of presence, both Catholic and Franciscan, to Lewis and Clark," said Sister Loretta, a Franciscan for 40 years. "It is important for me to be in relationship with not only students, but staff and faculty. From that starting point, invitations to different opportunities can come."

### Head of White House office says Mother Teresa changed his life

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jim Towey, newly appointed director of President Bush's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, does not want to get so caught up in his work that he forgets why he is there in the first place. That's why he starts his day by attending daily Mass at 6:30 a.m., before heading to his office across the street from the White House. Towey, a lifelong Catholic, said going to Mass helps him to "keep things in perspective." His uncluttered office in an old renovated townhouse also contains subtle faith reminders. A sketch of Mother Teresa shares a wall with a photograph of President Bush, and an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe hangs on a side wall near the U.S. flag. When he was appointed to the office Feb. 1, succeeding John DiIulio, media reports highlighted the fact that Towey had been the legal counsel for Mother Teresa for 12 years and also had lived for one year as a full-time volunteer in her home for people with AIDS in Washington.



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

**Youngster stops to tie shoe during Easter-egg hunt**
**Three-year-old Darby McGrath stops to tie a shoe during an annual Easter-egg hunt at St. Mary Parish in Otis, Ind., March 24.**

### Canadian siblings tell pope how father's death Sept. 11 changed them

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The grief of ground zero and the spiritual healing it required took center stage in St. Peter's Square when two young Canadians spoke of their father's death in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. At a preparation rally March 21 for this summer's World Youth Day celebration in Toronto, Pope John Paul II and some 20,000 Italian young people listened as Erica and Brennan Basnicki described how, with the help of their faith, they learned to find hope in the wake of tragedy. "When I received word of the terrorist attack I was in complete denial," said 17-year-old Brennan Basnicki. "I started to feel anger and rage at those who had so cowardly taken the life of my father. I wanted revenge." But after attending several Masses and reflecting on the suffering accepted by Jesus, he said he realized that good eventually could come out of this evil act.

### Wartime experiences in Germany lead woman to Catholicism

WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass. (CNS) — Gisela Lehovec's mother was raised Catholic and her father was an atheist. They called themselves "free thinkers" and did not instill any religion in their children. But looking back over her life, Lehovec, 77, said she "was born to be a Christian even though my parents didn't want this." Her parents, she said, "had values, but what was missing was a moral backbone." In a recent talk to her fellow parishioners at St. Patrick/St. Raphael Parish in Williamstown and in an interview with The Catholic Observer, newspaper of the Springfield Diocese, Lehovec talked about her childhood growing up in pre-World War II Germany and how her faith grew through war and other experiences.


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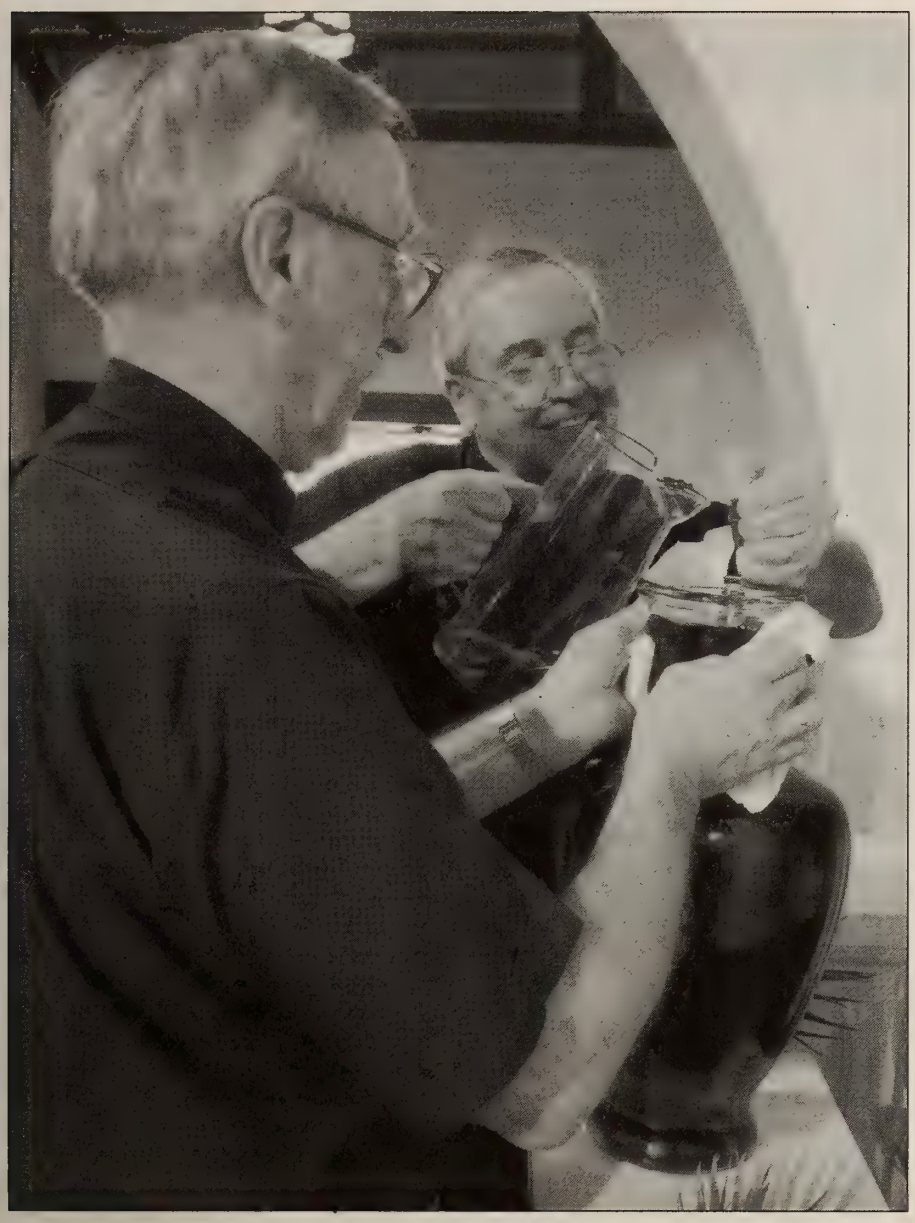
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*For more information contact Gina Rhodes, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320, or Jim Kelley, Director of Development, 704-370-3301, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203, gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org*







PHOTOS BY JOANN S. KEANE



**Top, Rev. Messrs. Arthur Kingsley and Philip Killian Jr. help disperse the consecrated oils for every parish and mission church in the diocese. Above left, Father Anthony Marcaccio looks on as Bishop William G. Curlin pours into the chrism oil the fragrant balsam, a naturally derived aromatic essence, which was then consecrated. Above right, Rev. Mr. Carlos Medina helps distribute the Communion wine. Left, at the chrism Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, the attending priests re-dedicate themselves to their mission in life as spiritual advisors and leaders within their parishes and the diocese.**

## Chrism Mass, from page 1

tions, it is certain that the church and civil authorities will deal with the case. We will not allow it in our diocese," he said.

The bishop also talked about his love of his flock and his possible retirement from the office of bishop after he reaches the age of 75 this year.

"I have reached that venerable age where this may be the last time I celebrate this holy Mass with you," said the bishop. "That decision is up to the Holy Father, but I would hope that when I am no longer here, whether from retirement or death, I want people to say that I taught them how to recognize Jesus in their neighbor and in themselves."

The bishop said in order to aid their people in this endeavor, priests need to remain constantly in prayer, fully embrace the sacraments and their priestly vows and maintain a sustained faith in Jesus Christ. He reminded his brother priests of their ordination vows and their pledge to serve their parishioners and lead them toward a deeper devotion to Jesus.

"We made a promise when were ordained that we would pray for our brothers and sisters every day of our lives. We have to step forward to embrace Jesus. Our lives have many demands which means that we must take care of our physical, emotional and spiritual health," said Bishop Curlin.

"People should see the mark of Christ in us. ... Through prayer, we can sustain our relationship with Jesus. Prayer is our breath, and without it, we die inside. Prayer nourishes the soul like water nourishes the earth," he said.

At the end of his homily, the bishop led the congregation, many standing in the side aisles and in the narthex of the cathedral, in resounding applause for their priests who have dedicated their lives to ministry.

The recommitment ceremony, which followed the Liturgy of the Word, included the priests' renewal of dedication as ministers of Christ, of striving to be more like Christ, and of being faithful to the sacred mysteries and sacramental life of the church.

Also during the Mass, Bishop Curlin blessed three different oils used in sacramental and liturgical practices for all of the faithful throughout the year.

The oil of the sick, used to anoint the ill and dying, was blessed first. Next came the blessing of the oil of catechumens, which is used during the rite of baptism. The consecration of the chrism — a duty that belongs to the bishop alone — took place near the close of the Mass. Chrism — perfumed with balsam, an aromatic oil derived from trees — is an oil of consecration used after baptisms and during confirmation, the ordaining of bishops and priests, and the blessing of churches and altars.

Vials of the oils are dispersed to every parish and mission church in the diocese. With the sacred oils — and having recommitted themselves in the ministry they and their bishop share — the priests returned to their parishes rededicated in spiritual union with the bishop and their parishioners.

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

## Dioceses, colleges funding scholarships for lay ministry

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dioceses around the country and Catholic colleges and universities recently contributed more than $9 million over a 12-month period to support education for lay ministry.

The funds came in the form of tuition assistance for men and women who are studying to become religious educators, youth ministers, pastoral associates, or for other parish leadership roles, according to a new report.

The information on support for lay ministry training is contained in a study called the Financial Assistance Survey. It was prepared by the Life Cycle Institute of The Catholic University of America and released by the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee on Lay Ministry in mid-March.

"The study shows that lay ministry is becoming a part of the institution of the church," said Bishop Joseph P. Delaney of Fort Worth, Texas, who is chairman of the subcommittee.

"This is a sign that anyone who ever has paid a tuition bill can understand," he added in a statement.

The bishop also noted that the report highlights the need for further funding in this area.

"We want top-flight, professional people involved in lay ecclesial ministry," he said. "These are people to whom we entrust souls, people who help others find God in the world around them and who are vital to faith development of children and adults alike."

According to an executive summary, the financial survey looked only at assistance given to lay women and men, including vowed religious, who are candidates for graduate degrees in theology, ministry, pastoral and theological studies, religious education, spirituality and canon law.

Of the dioceses polled, 153 (81 percent) returned completed questionnaires. Of the 124 graduate institutions listed in the 1999 CARA Catholic Ministry Formation Directory, 85 (69 percent) returned completed questionnaires.

The survey indicated that of the more than $9 million awarded, $1.6 million was from dioceses and $7.7 million came from the graduate institutions. Financial assistance was available from 56 percent of the responding dioceses and 79 percent of the responding institutions.

The form of assistance was somewhat different for each group: 88 percent of the graduate institutions awarded tuition waivers or grants; 98 percent of the dioceses gave funds for tuition. Both groups reported that low-interest loans are one form of financial assistance (12 percent of institutions and 11 percent of dioceses). Twenty-five percent of the graduate schools estimated that their financial aid covered 50 percent or more of a student's total tuition costs. The dioceses were not asked to make that estimate.

# Teammates create family through sports

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Frank Lide and Darryl Thaxton both have full-time jobs and families of their own. So, why did they commit to coaching a team of teens in basketball? They say that their volunteer work involves building community morale and offering youth alternatives to TV and "hanging out." With odds against them, their dedication to a group of boys, many from single parent homes and less than desirable neighborhoods, led the Our Lady of Consolation Church (OLC) ninth-grade boys' basketball team to a 12-2 season overall, second place in their division, third in the tournament and winning the season-opening Tip-Off Tournament in the Interfaith Basketball League.

The league, which has been in place for over 25 years and has changed during that time, now includes 10 teams from six Catholic churches, the Jewish Community Center and Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral consisting of young men who want to play basketball. That is the motivation for the OLC players and the coaches, but their association transcends the popular sport.

"I wanted to give back to the community, and this was an opportunity for me to get further involved with the church," said Lide, coach for four years. "One of the focuses of the church is to attract more youth, and I think that one of the ways we can do that is through athletics."

Recruitment for the team, which has existed at the church for years, comes from teens involved in parish youth ministry. The members of youth ministry include registered Catholics and those from other faith traditions. While all of the players are members of OLC youth ministry, many of them were not raised in the Catholic Church.

"This is part of the evangelization efforts of our church — to involve people from all faiths," said Lide. "We are called to bring more people into God's home."

For many of the players, this is the only religious interaction they have on a regular basis. "I don't go to church all of the time, but I go with my coach," said Larry Adams, 15, one of the players. "I like the way they (the parishioners) get involved in the service."

Fourteen-year-old Ralph Suah said that he "fits right in" because "he knows what they are talking about" during the Mass.

"There is a big challenge with the kids we have because they all come from disadvantaged neighborhoods, so we have to constantly work with them," said Thaxton, coach for two years. "We have grown really close to them. They are great kids with great heads on their shoulders. We are pulling them into the church through athletics. They have to attend church functions, and we try to keep their heads in the books and from roaming in the wrong direction."



Photo by Alesha M. Price

**The OLC basketball team gathered for a picture before the OLC Athletic Association Award Ceremony on March 24. Pictured standing from left to right are Coach Darryl Thaxton, Brandon Horton, Darell Graham, Larry Adams, Antonio "Mickey" Horton and Coach Frank Lide. Kneeling from left to right are Obinna Ezechukwu, Javentes Ezechukwu and Ralph Suah. Not pictured is Demantre Rice. Recipients of the awards included: Brandon Horton, most valuable player; Ralph Suah, best rebounder; Demantre Rice, sportsmanship; Larry Adams, leadership and most improved player; and Javentes Ezechukwu and Darell Graham, high scorers.**

The team faces many obstacles: no transportation, little to no parental involvement, little money and no parish gym. However, the coaches have worked together to solve their problems. Not only do they pick up all of their players for Tuesday night practices, they also frequently pick them up for Sunday Masses and youth ministry activities. They play at a gym for several hours and gather at each other's houses for social and recreational time. The coaches do this willingly and say that the benefits outweigh any struggles that they may have to overcome.

"This gives them an opportunity to do some other things and to be around positive role models," said Lide. "We are trying to impart some of our knowledge into their lives. You never know who you will reach, but if you reach one, you don't know what kind of an impact that will have on a person."

Their interaction is like that of a family. Most of the teens grew up in the same neighborhoods and some in the same household for brothers and OLC parishioners Obinna, 14, and Javentes Ezechukwu, 16. The players agreed that their association with the team has offered them the type of support they may not have experienced on a normal basis.

Obinna Ezechukwu said that they "gave 110 percent" and were able to win the majority of their games. "Sometimes we beat ourselves because we would start arguing. If we lost, we would start thinking about the next game and what we could do better."

"(I like) the friendship and the community that we have with each other. If one of us messes up, we support each other to make it work," said Brandon Horton, 15, whose teammate is his brother, Antonio, 17. "We don't argue, and we take time out with each other. If we lose our motivation, we take the time to grab a teammate, pull him to the side and help him calm down. We won our games because we help one another and play for the fun of it as a team."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottedioces.org.*

# CharlotteSaves launches pilot program at Pastoral Center

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Social Services and the Diocese of Charlotte will be piloting the CharlotteSaves Campaign — part of a national savings campaign — at the Pastoral Center during the next three months.

CharlotteSaves is a coalition of financial institutions, community organizations, large and small employers, religious institutions, neighborhood groups, and others with the goal of changing the savings habits and attitudes about wealth building among low-to-moderate income earners. These interested groups have come together to communicate the message that saving is possible regardless of one's income.

The organizations are working together to create affordable financial security vehicles for savings and to actively encourage participation from those in need who are financially vulnerable. Charlotte Saves operates as a free-membership organization with each member setting a savings or debt reduction goal upon joining.

Members will have access to motivational and wealth-building workshops, financial coaching, no-fee savings accounts, hotlines, financial planners and other benefits.

The official campaign for the broader Charlotte community will be launched in July of this year.

"Catholic Social Services is looking forward to eventually extending the opportunities available through CharlotteSaves to its direct client base," said Geri King, director of the Charlotte regional office. "This is a proactive program in which everybody wins. So be ready and look for the opportunity to come to you."

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# Women share their Stations of the Cross

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — Their quiet voices spoke of betrayal, loss of loved ones, pride and concern for a son, hope and resurrection. Women from St. Eugene Church told their stories in the context of the Stations of the Cross.

Sarah Fahy's experience, reminiscent of Jesus and Judas, paralleled the first station, "Jesus is Condemned to Death." "I felt singled out and betrayed," Fahy said. "If only the key person involved hadn't once been my friend, it would have been a lot easier."

She told how she had been forced out of a job she loved. Many coworkers had supported her vision for the organization she worked for, but a key few did not.

"I handed in my resignation, letting go of the dream of seeing realized hopes I had cherished for years," Fahy said. "It felt like a coup. At the end, my former friend, so key in swinging the decision the way that it went, came up and kissed me."

The March 22 program, "The Stations of the Cross: Women Tell Their Stories," came out of a meeting of WINGS (Women In God's Service). Parishioner Rita Pisano visited the group to propose the concept.

"I've been doing Stations of the Cross with kids for years," Pisano said. "We did a women's stations last year that was written by a man, and it was very unfulfilling. It really didn't tell women's stories."

At the WINGS meeting, Pisano asked the women, "When you think of each station, what words do you think of, what emotions? Then, are there stories in your life that speak to those emotions?"

"When we began, we were sharing things that were so personal," Flora Sipes said. "The air was so charged (during the first meeting). I left the room emotionally drained; I was actually physically exhausted. It was amazing. And you know what? You feel different about those people."

"I was very impressed with it," her husband, Allen, said of the program. "I guess it's a male thing, (but) it's difficult for me to understand how people can share things so close, so private."

Mary Marsh and Sheila O'Connor coordinated the project; each woman wrote her own story and an accompanying prayer.

"Since there were not enough women in the group, invitations were offered to other women (from the parish) to help us out," Marsh said. "As we talked, we invited musicians and liturgical dancers to help us out."

Because of ongoing construction at St. Eugene, the program was held at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church. The church was full when, accompanied by music from pianist Nora Vetro and vocalists Janet Hart and Kathleen Kasben, the women — each carrying a long-stemmed red and yellow rose — processed in through the sanctuary and took their seats in the congregation. Sue Hintz performed a liturgical dance, which the musicians accompanied with "Shepherd Me, O God."





Photos by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**Left, Sue Hintz performs a liturgical dance and, below, Catherine Ball places a rose in a vase before telling her story at St. Eugene Church's WINGS (Women in God's Service) program, "The Stations of the Cross: Women Tell Their Stories," at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Asheville March 22.**

Ginny Britain's story, "Madres," related to the fourth station, "Jesus Meets His Mother." Britain told of her son Jim, who "makes me laugh ... makes me worry," and who works with people who are chemically dependent. "Jim has never been, nor will ever be, politically correct. He is active in his community, for the most part working for unpopular causes. Fortunately he lives in a country where this is possible.

"I think of the women of Argentina, whose politically active sons have been imprisoned for years — or murdered — by a regime which secretly whisks them away, never to be heard from again," she said. "The 'Madres' never forget them. For 25 years they have marched regularly at the Plaza de Mayo in the capital, carrying pictures of the sons they have lost. Their grief overwhelms me. There are mothers all over the world whose children are lost to them through political injustice."

For the 10th station, "Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments," Linda Richardson told how she and her husband were, in effect, stripped of their son, losing him at birth. "Though we never held him alive as a child in this world, we held him in our hearts for seven months. ... Father, it was so hard to give him back, having only a few minutes with him, yet we had to trust that this was your will for us and for him. All the love of an entire life — fit into so few minutes in a birthing room."

Mary Mukosiej lost not a child, but her mother, who died in a Russian hospital during World War II when Mukosiej was 14. She had hardly been allowed to see her mother during her illness; a stranger told Mukosiej that her mother had died. She was speaking for the 13th station, "Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross," but unlike Jesus' mother, Mukosiej did not get to say farewell.

"There was no comfort of seeing her beautiful face again," Mukosiej said, "no holding her in my arms, no telling her once more how much I loved her or bringing my brothers and sisters to see her for the last time. There was no funeral, no coffin, not even a grave of her own. She was buried in a common one along with all who had died that day. I know now that she was not alone in her last hour, that you were there, Jesus, because she loved you. I did not understand it then, and my heart was broken."

There were other stories of understanding how faith plays a part in people's lives. Pisano, for instance, speaking about the seventh station, "Jesus Falls the Second Time," recalled Ruth Ford, a woman who had been a "grandmother" to her and others, in spite of suffering losses in her life.

In her later years, Pisano said, "Grandma Ford was waging two battles ... her own breast cancer and a growing affection for Bob, a gentleman of her own age whom she met at a cancer support group she led. Donnette (Ford's daughter) was beside herself with fear for her mother. What if Bob died? What if he became sick for years? How much more loss could her mother possibly bear? How much more could she give?

"But love won out, as it always had in Grandma Ford's life. Her future did not look rosy by society's standards, but because she loved completely, she was willing to pull herself up off the ground and start her journey again."

Cita Lamb spoke of her own "resurrection," relating it to the 15th station. Guillain Barré Syndrome paralyzed her for a year, leaving her "unable to move any muscle except that of my left eyebrow." However, she said, "I accepted my new situation as being exactly what it was supposed to be at this moment, although it was no place I would have chosen to go. Knowing immediately, as I prayed, that there was something I needed to learn, I waited in contemplation for God, graciously and serenely. God had to teach me how to live."

The paralysis eased one-tenth of an inch per week. "Then everything became possible and desirable again," Lamb said. "Through the gift of peace came the courage to change inwardly and outwardly. The salt regained its savor; that which had grown insipid acquired a new meaning. My faith and vocation, my integrity, my soul became stronger."

Further expressing the idea of hope, Paulette Brown concluded the evening with a liturgical dance to "You Are Mine."

"I thought it was very moving," Althea Berdynski said after the program, "and it was like every woman up there gave you a piece of themselves."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

**Book Review**

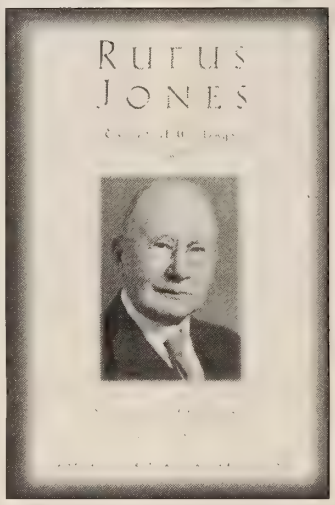
# Quaker writer offers deeper spiritualism

REVIEWED BY WAYNE A. HOLST
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Rufus Jones was an American Quaker mystic, a reformer, a man of loving kindness and a social prophet. He had significant influence during the first half of the 20th century within his own Christian community but has not been well known beyond it.

By publishing "Rufus Jones: Essential Writings," Orbis Books is to be commended for introducing readers across the ecumenical spectrum to this modern spiritual master. Jones amply satisfies those desiring a richer interior life.

In "An Interpretation of Quakerism" Jones wrote, "How brilliantly all of existence is illuminated by divine light! In such a magic-lantern world, surprises — happy accidents — are just around the corner. That light not only exists beyond us. It lives within each one of us! The 'light within' is no abstract phrase. It is an experience. It is a type of religion that turns away from dry theological notions and insists instead upon a real and vital experience of God revealed to persons in their own souls and in their own personal lives."




That lived experience of the inner light is the starting point for all of Jones' religious writings. In that, he is a natural spiritual descendant of St. Bernard of Clairvaux and St. Ignatius Loyola.

Jones was raised in a strongly religious Quaker home and was much influenced by a saintly aunt described as "a Franciscan type of person." For many years he was editor of The American Friend and worked tirelessly to reconcile disparate Quaker factions. While still in mid-career he suffered the deaths of his wife and son. Later in life he helped cofound the American Friends Service Committee, an international relief and development agency. Jones' mysticism was therefore deeply personal but it found expression communally and in service to others.

Not unlike Teilhard de Chardin, Jones was convinced that we live in a God-saturated cosmos in which all aspects of reality are woven together by the presence of the Spirit.

Jones' "affirmation mysticism" celebrated the sacramental discovery of God in the finite. There is more in the least event than the ordinary eye sees, he taught. Every situation may be turned into an occasion for transforming our stubborn human nature to gain a nearer view of God. Many modern spiritual guides have effectively picked up and developed this germane idea.

Christ did not set out specifically to found a church, according to Jones. He brought a little group of men and women into a personal experience of God. To genuinely participate in Christ's life one needs to be part of his "beloved community." The church is the here and now of Christ's life in the world and makes Christ real in the present.

Jones did not advocate a private, subjective spirituality alone. The divine light must become social movements dedicated to serving the poor. The Kingdom of God is something we do, not somewhere we go.

Many people are spiritual but churchly words don't reach them. He encouraged Christians to avoid belief statements in favor of speaking simply out of their own faith experience. In this, he anticipated effective witnesses like Mother Teresa and Jean Vanier. As St. Francis said, "Preach the gospel. If necessary, use words."

Readers more accustomed to reading Catholic spirituality may find Jones a bit quaint and stilted in places. Yet, this sleeper of a book offers a helpful introduction to one of Protestantism's leading modern mystics.

*Holst is a writer who has taught religion and culture at the University of Calgary.*

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings: March 31, 2002*

**Cycle A Readings:**
**March 31, Easter**
1) Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 16ab-17, 22-23
2) Colossians 3:1-4
3) Gospel: John 20:1-41/42

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Edith died last month. But her resurrection began years ago.

In the celebration of the Easter Triduum, our church reminds us that Jesus' passion, death and resurrection were a single event. It is likewise for the faithful joined to Christ.

By the time I met Edith, she already was in her 70s, widowed and greeting my arrival at Mass a little louder than I'd prefer — except for the fact that it made me feel I'd made her day by showing up (of course, the opposite was true).

Edith's days were filled with taking care of others. She drove friends and family on errands and appointments. She worried about missing church ministries when she would go out of town for weeks at a time to take care of a succession of sick relatives and friends recovering from various surgeries. For awhile she welcomed a nephew who lived with her while he regained his financial bearings.

I don't know when it started with Edith, but her constant attitude was selflessness and sacrifice, the passion she shared with Jesus. Sometimes she carried the cross of her own ailments — a fall, broken bones, sickness, walking with a cane — and always fought her way back to usefulness for people who leaned on her. With every sacrifice and every struggle, new life was taking hold.

For one joined to Christ as Edith was, death opened the passage to that new life's full blossoming. Resurrection is the moment of transformation. Simply put, new life is not old life. It promises more than the intellectual, emotional "remains" of a soul after the physical body has died. Resurrection is much more than "living on" in the memories of loved ones. God's universe is dynamic, constantly creating new life. The single event begins when the Christian first puts on Christ in "passion."

Edith began experiencing — and sharing — new life every time she formed love out of sacrifice. I have great memories of Edith. She gave me much joy and influenced me with her example. But this life is less than glorious, and Edith doesn't live on in it. Through infinite love and creation, Jesus has brought her something new.

**QUESTIONS:**
*How have you shared in Jesus' passion? When have you seen new life taking hold in your life?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of March 31 - April 6**

**Sunday (Easter Sunday),** Acts 10:34, 37-43, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, John 20:1-9; **Monday (Easter Monday),** Acts 2:14, 22-33, Matthew 28:8-15; **Tuesday (Easter Tuesday),** Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18; **Wednesday (Easter Wednesday),** Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35; **Thursday (Easter Thursday),** Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48; **Friday (Easter Friday),** Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14; **Saturday (Easter Saturday),** Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15

**Scripture for the week of April 7 - April 13**

**Sunday (Second Sunday of Easter),** Acts 2:42-47, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31; **Monday (The Annunciation of the Lord),** Isaiah 7:10-14, 8:10, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38; **Tuesday,** Acts 4:32-37, John 3:7-15; **Wednesday,** Acts 5:17-26, John 3:16-21; **Thursday (St. Stanislaus),** Acts 5:27-33, John 3:31-36; **Friday,** Acts 5:34-42, John 6:1-15; **Saturday (St. Martin I),** Acts 6:1-7, John 6:16-21

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**Movie Review**

# "Stolen Summer"

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Attempting to assure his entry into heaven, an 8-year-old boy takes on Jesus' command to "Go to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples" (Mt 28:18) in the sweet story "Stolen Summer" (Miramax).

Those who have been following the HBO documentary series "Project Greenlight" know that writer-director Pete Jones' film was the winner of a nationwide scripting contest sponsored by producers Matt Damon, Ben Affleck and Chris Moore.

They sifted through nearly 10,000 scripts before choosing this touching summer tale set in 1976 Chicago about an Irish-Catholic boy who tries to convert a Jewish boy suffering from leukemia so that both will reach heaven. With a $1 million budget, Miramax agreed to make Jones' movie, and the entire process was caught on tape for "Project Greenlight."

As the school year comes to a close, Sister Leonora Mary (Peggy Roeder) warns Pete O'Malley (Adi Stein) that he better change his ways or risk losing his admission ticket to heaven. But just how can Pete follow the path to Jesus when he doesn't know the way? In an amusing scene, Pete confers with his older brother, Seamus (Ryan Kelley), who relates the story of St. Paul. "Converting Jewish people is major," assures Seamus. Pete's quest, therefore, brings him to the synagogue of Rabbi Jacobsen (Kevin Pollak), where Pete's first observation is "No cross?"

Pete's lemonade stand, which includes a free trip to heaven with the cool drink and is set up right outside the temple doors, yields no candidates. But he later finds one in 7-year-old Danny (Mike Weinberg), the rabbi's only son whose leukemia is, for the moment, in remission. A willing partner in Pete's quest, Danny agrees to partake in the "decathlon to go to heaven," a series of tests, culminating in a dangerous swim in Lake Michigan.

The friendship struck up by the two boys tests their families, bringing out hidden prejudices and fears. Danny's mother worries her son actually might convert, while his father sees it as a thought-provoking experiment. Proud firefighter Joe O'Malley (an intense Aidan Quinn), whose remarks sometimes smack of anti-Semitism, just can't seem to understand his son's missionary zeal. In fact, he forbids Pete from continuing. It is this sentiment that may strike a chord with Catholic audiences. Despite a long tradition of evangelization, Catholics often are shy about spreading the Good News. And Joe exhibits this discomfort.

Regardless of its predictability, "Stolen Summer" folds in some valuable lessons on faith and religious tolerance. The two fathers gain some insight from their sons' friendship, learning to put aside preconceived notions while swallowing one's pride for the greater good. Although his original intention is more about avoiding hell than preaching the Good News or even reaching heaven, Pete's quest is a lesson in evangelization. He doesn't give up, and his determination is an example to all of us about the rewards of standing by your beliefs.

However, one thing mars an otherwise feel-good film. In an effort to comfort a grieving Rabbi Jacobsen, Pete tells him that Jesus is only a symbol; the rabbi can use anyone's name, not just the name of Jesus. This convoluted teaching, though unfortunate, should not ruin the basic principle of the story about hope and faith in something greater than ourselves — God. Jones also walks a fine line (some might say he crosses it) in representing the O'Malleys as a "typical" Irish-Catholic family with a headstrong patriarch and eight children.

The script is well-crafted, and the supporting cast (including Bonnie Hunt and Brian Dennehy as the local parish priest) offers superb performances, especially from Pollak. But it is a lot to ask of the two young and relatively inexperienced child actors to carry the whole film. And the film's technical credits are a little rough around the edges, despite the admirable job the director has done with his tiny budget.

"Stolen Summer" is nonetheless a respectable first effort that aims to please and mostly reaches its goal.

Because of issues relating to death and the afterlife and a smattering of crass language with fleeting profanity, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

*Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*



CNS photo from Warner Bros. Pictures

**Scene from the movie "Showtime"**
**Robert De Niro and Eddie Murphy star in the action comedy "Showtime." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (CNS photo from Warner Bros. Pictures)**

## Movie Capsules

By Catholic News Service

*NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

**"Blade II" (New Line)**

Gory and boring horror-action sequel about a half-human, half-vampire warrior (Wesley Snipes), out to save the human race from blood-suckers, who is compelled to team up with the very creatures he hates to fight off an uber-vampire that kills mortals and monsters alike. Based on the Marvel Comics character, director Guillermo del Toro's tedious bloodfest follows a ridiculous story line where pretentious characters engage in brutal acts while spluttering absurd dialogue. Nonstop violence, excessively brutal and gruesome imagery and recurring rough language with some profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"The Rookie" (Disney)**

Uplifting charmer based on the true story of 35-year-old Jim Morris (Dennis Quaid), a small-town Texas baseball coach and high school chemistry teacher who gets a second chance at the big leagues and becomes the oldest rookie baseball player in 40 years. In spite of a few sags in momentum, director John Lee Hancock's film pulls on the heartstrings, nudging the audience to think about forgotten dreams while pleasing and inspiring without the slightest suggestion of violence, sex or even a crude word. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

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## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Pope says during Holy Week, Christians unite with those suffering

BY JOHN NORTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter, Christians unite themselves with those who suffer under injustice and the burden of sinfulness, confident that Christ renews humanity, Pope John Paul II said.

Meditating on Christ's suffering and death "makes us better understand the tragedy of the events and situations that, even in these days, afflict humanity," he said March 27 at his weekly general audience.

Then, reflecting on Christ's resurrection "opens our existence to a renewed hope," he said, speaking a day before the start of the Easter triduum.

Before one of the most liturgically demanding periods of the year for the pontiff, he spoke clearly but slowly and skipped several sections of his prepared text.

On Holy Thursday, the pope said, contemplating Christ's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, "We will feel singularly united with those who lie under the weight of anguish and solitude.

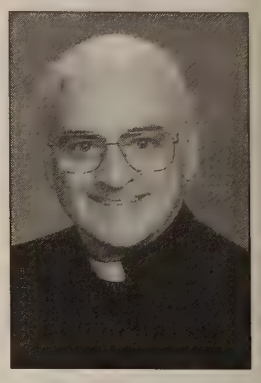
"Meditating on the trial that Jesus underwent, we will remember those who are persecuted for their faith and for the sake of justice.

"Accompanying Christ to Golgotha, along the Via Dolorosa, our trusting prayer will rise for whomever is burdened in body and spirit by the weight of evil and sin," he said.

"In the supreme hour of sacrifice of the son of God, we will place with trust at the foot of the cross the desire that resides in the hearts of everyone: the desire for peace!" the pope said.

During the Easter Vigil, he said, "the splendor of our destiny will be revealed: to form a new humanity, redeemed by Christ, who died and rose for us."

## Spirituality for Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST

**What you need is trust**

"Fear is useless, what you need is trust" (Mk 5:36).

The Easter message tells us to trust Jesus more. It is so easy to get caught in fear. The Lord instructs us to be more trusting of his love and power.

This is not to say that there is no objective danger out there. Fear has been the constant companion of the saints. Even Jesus was terrified at times. His agony in the garden reminds us of his vulnerability. However Jesus and all the saints after him prayed to the Father for peace, joy and strength.

Dorothy Day, who is being considered for canonization, tells of a time when she and a friend were coming from Mass. Suddenly objects came whizzing past their ears. At first Dorothy Day thought they were snowballs, but when another one flew past, her friend Judith Gregory cried out, "That was meant for us."

They saw where the objects landed and found bits of hard-boiled eggs. Afraid to turn back, for fear they would be hit in the face, they walked faster. When she arrived home, Dorothy Day wrote in her diary: "I should have been delighted, as Charles de Foucauld was when he was pelted in the streets of Nazareth, but my feeling was one of fear. I'm glad because it helps me to understand the fear that is eating at the hearts of the people in the world today. No one is safe. We are no longer protected by the oceans separating us from the rest of the world."

Dorothy Day prayed to be delivered from her fear, just as Jesus did that fateful night in the garden. She prayed specifically for the love that casts out fear. Here again are her words: "I pray to grow in the love of God and man, and to live by this charity.... We must love our enemy ... not because we fear him but because God loves him" (The Catholic Worker, January 2002).

People accused Dorothy Day of being mad because of her strange logic. It was strange to them, but it was always Gospel-oriented. When she felt fear she immediately turned to the Lord and prayed for protection. Then she prayed for the grace to love her assailants. She didn't have any feelings of love for them, but she prayed for the grace anyway. Her loyalty was to the Lord, not to her feelings. The Lord asks us to love our enemies.

It takes great mental discipline to obey the Lord in this. It requires grace and will power as well. Even though the Scriptures tell us that love casts out fear, we are slow to respond to the idea. Love and joy are two sides of the same coin. Joy can cast out fear as well. Joy comes from the experiential knowledge of God's love.

My recent book, "Joyfully Living the Gospels Day by Day" (Catholic Book Publishing Co.), contains a daily thought-conditioner to help you overcome your fears. If you'd like a copy free of charge and are willing to help me pay for postage and handling, I'll be happy to send you one. Write to me at Box 172, Clifton, N.J. 07011.

I have another book, the third one of my Joy Trilogy, which will be out next year: "Enjoy Your Precious Life.... Christ Came to Bring Joy " (Alba House, Staten Island).

So far, semiretirement has been fun.



## The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

**A one-man play about faith**

My daughter Mary, who lives in Manhattan, had a birthday coming up, and I suggested a Broadway play as a gift. She already had one in mind, a one-man play starring actor Kevin Bacon, with the unusual title "An Almost Holy Picture." I got the tickets, not knowing I was in for a real surprise.

I expected a Broadway show to be only entertainment, since over the last couple of decades there's been a real shortage of good drama on Broadway. This play, by Heather McDonald, was not entertainment in the ordinary sense.

The play was a remarkable work that drew you into what I believe are the rock-bottom questions of our time. Why is there so much pain and darkness in this world? Where is God, and what is the nature of God? How can faith help a person who must endure enormous losses? Is it possible for parents to protect their children from life's tough blows?

The story unfolded as Bacon, portraying a one-time Episcopal priest who gave up ministry to become a church groundskeeper, spoke of his life, or, more accurately, his difficult, often blocked, faith journey.

He begins by telling us the three experiences that shaped his personal idea of God. The first was an epiphany moment at age nine when he heard a voice whisper to him, "Follow me."

The next experience was going West to work as a priest in the desert, longing for vision and light, and again grasping a message: "I believed then that each of us has a 'good work' to do in this life, and our purpose is to discover what that good work is." But the light went out when a bus with children from his parish crashed over an embankment into water; nine children were drowned. In agony, he left the priesthood and went back East.

The third experience was his plunge into a new and devastating darkness when his only child, a daughter, was born with a congenital malady that left her face and body covered with a white-gold swirl of hair. He prays, trying to strike a bargain with God, saying, in effect, do anything to me, take anything from me, but let me have "a smooth-skinned daughter."

Because Kevin Bacon is a magnificent actor, he makes us feel this man's struggle to understand God in the face of so much pain and darkness in this world. I especially related because I am asked so often — particularly since Sept. 11 — to give talks on "where God is when there is so much pain in the world."

In a world racked by tragedy and injustice, people tell me that they, like the Bacon character, feel abandoned by God. I can only share what I have learned, that faith means to accept mystery, that God has given us all that we need but hasn't often given us the answers we may be looking for.

I have come to believe that God didn't create us to understand him but to love life and each other. This, I believe, is what Kevin Bacon conveys in his final words in the play when he comes to recognize the glorious gift God has given him in his loving and so-loved daughter.

He sees a photo of her running down a hill, with the gold-white hair that covers her blowing like a full halo, and, humbly, he knows that he is looking at "an almost holy picture."



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

**"On the first day of the week . . ."**

Called "the holiest day of the Christian year," Easter certainly is that. It completes what Christmas starts: in December's darkness and cold, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus and his promise; in Easter's springtime, we celebrate the mystery of His death and resurrection.

The perennial liturgical cycle offers the comfort of the familiar over the course of a year. But this is not just any year. Many people have had their lives turned upside down over the last few months — not only the loved ones of the three thousand men, women and children killed in the September 11th attacks, but also the rest of us in America and around the world who were stunned by the horror and grief. The Christmas holidays intensified the desire for many of us to stay close to home, to be with our families, to be grateful for all we had and to mourn for what we lost.

A little more time has passed now. Easter certainly includes family gatherings, feasting on traditional foods, children in new outfits munching on jellybeans from their baskets and hunting for colored eggs. The day, at its core, is overwhelmingly spiritual. Our own mortality and the mortality of those closest to us has a new context in this celebration of life over death and eternity over time.

It isn't a coincidence that, in the Gospel according to John, the last miracle we see Jesus perform before he enters Jerusalem for the final time is the raising of Lazarus from the grave. The event does more than foreshadow Jesus' own rising from the dead. It shows us his deep love for a friend and for each of us as an individual. When Jesus was told that Lazarus was dying, he hesitated before going to his home in Bethany. Both Martha and Mary admonished Jesus that if he had been there earlier, their brother would not have died. Jesus responds by doing three unforgettable things.

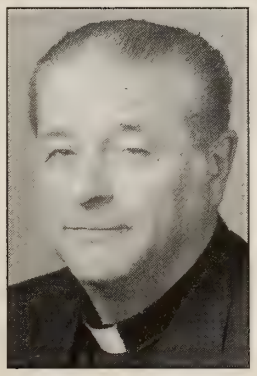
First, he spoke to those grieving as well as to the ages when he said: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (11:25-26) Then, overcome by grief for his friend and his bereaved loved ones, Jesus wept. Even knowing what he intends to do, Jesus is still as human as he is divine, and he shows it. And, finally, they all went to the tomb: "And Jesus looked upward and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'" (11:41-43)

And Lazarus did!

For 2,000 years people have probably wondered what Lazarus felt and thought in the moment he was recalled to this life. I wonder, too, but I really can't imagine. And what were his sisters and other relatives and friends going through when, in an instant, their mourning turned to joy? There are others I think about as well: on that day like every day in the history of the world, people died and others were left to grieve in the normal cycle of life and death. Until Easter morning.

For while our pain at the loss of a loved one is real, our consolation comes to us from Jesus himself whose first words on that first day of the week were to comfort the weeping Mary Magdalene. When Jesus rose from the dead, he took us with him and broke death's power over us by exchanging time for eternity.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

**The popularity of fictionalized accounts of Jesus' death**

*Q. A recent magazine article our group discussed described a theory that Jesus did not really die on the cross. He was rather in some sort of coma and revived later. The writer seemed to imply that this was a real possibility and that many people believe it. We didn't believe it, of course, but why would people really accept such notions? (California)*

A. In his definitive work, "The Death of the Messiah," the late renowned Scripture scholar Father Raymond Brown notes the embarrassing tendency of human nature that, the more fantastic the scenario, the more sensational is the promotion it receives and the more faddish interest it attracts.

People, he said, who would never bother reading a responsible analysis of the traditions about how Jesus was crucified, died, was buried and rose from the dead "are fascinated by the report of some 'new insight' to the effect that he was not crucified or did not die, especially if his subsequent career involved running off with Mary Magdalene to India."

That tendency, unfortunately, is not new. Bizarre notions that someone else actually was crucified instead of Jesus or that a conspiracy of some sort concealed the fact that he did not really die, and therefore did not rise from the dead, have floated around since early Christian times.

The Gospel of Matthew itself (28:11-15) attempts to refute one such tale that already was making the rounds only a few decades after the events of Calvary. The article you read about probably found its source, at least partly, from a book published in 1965 titled "The Passover Plot." The author, Hugh Schonfield, imagines a massive plot supposedly engineered by Jesus himself, which included faking his own death. Jesus arranged for Judas to hand him over to the Roman authorities and deliberately chose to be crucified on the day before Passover so he would be taken down from the cross quickly, after drinking the drugged wine offered by the bystanders.

According to plan, Joseph of Arimathea would revive him after claiming his body. The plan went awry when the soldier pierced Jesus with a lance and he died anyway.

Schonfield's book contains some interesting material about the circumstances of Jewish life surrounding the crucifixion, but his conjecture about the plot has not, and does not today, command much scholarly respect or attention. And in one form or another it is, as I said, not new.

As Father Brown reminds us, these theories about the passion of Jesus prove that fiction is in fact sometimes stranger than truth, and often, intentionally or not, more profitable.

**Concern about still being Catholic**

*Q. Please help! I was raised a faithful Catholic but drifted away, found myself pregnant and six months later married my baby's father outside the church. Since then we've had another child. Both are baptized, and we all attend Mass regularly. My question is: Am I still a Catholic? Can I receive Communion or do I just go away and feel guilty for the rest of my life? (Illinois)*

A. You are still Catholic. Nothing you have done would say otherwise.

Judging only from what you have told me, it should be easy for you and your husband to have your marriage validated ("blessed"), which would open your way to full participation in the sacramental life of the church.

Please talk with your parish priest, or another priest in your area in whom you have confidence, tell him your story, and he will help you live again the Catholic life you hope for.

# Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

**Finding spiritual and social support for a lifelong marriage**

***A reader writes:***

Dear Andrew and Terri, my husband and I need your advice. We are having a tough time of it in our marriage. Our children have always come first in our lives. Though we love them very much we know that we need to make time for each other. That's been very difficult to do. When the day ends, there is neither time nor energy left for us.

We also feel isolated. We don't have supportive family members and we can't find a church home to meet our needs. We are always so tired; we have a hard time balancing our lives with no support system. Where can we find the support we need? How can we get our needs met?

Sadly, the reader's experience of isolation is too common among modern marriages. Though the reader understands well what her marriage needs — primacy and protection. In our response to her, we suggested that she and her husband take initiative to create for themselves what is lacking in the area of social support (protection) and putting their marriage first (primacy).

When we joined our current parish, there was no marriage support group. So, instead of searching for a church that already had such a group, we started a monthly support/sharing group in the parish in our area.

This is also true with finding supportive family and friends. Everyone isn't fortunate to have supportive family. Married couples must search for and find good people to invite into their lives to be "family," especially as role models of a healthy marriage.

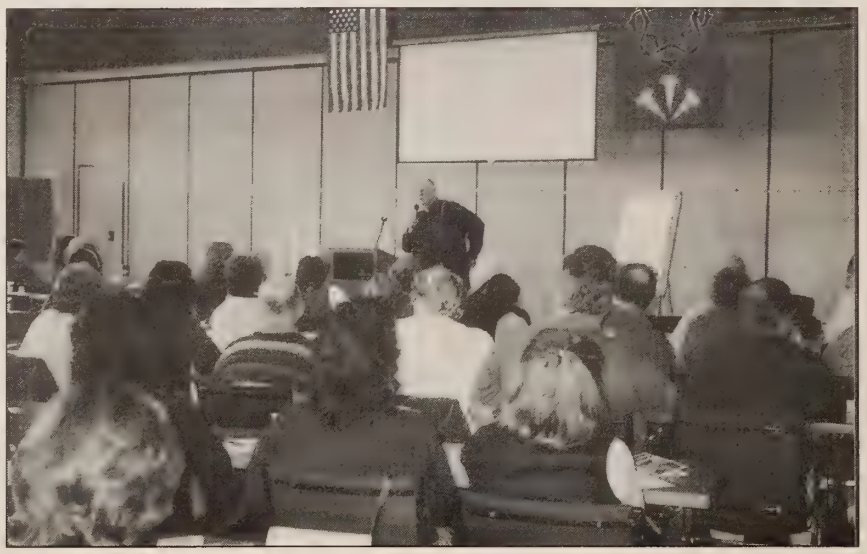
We live in a society that doesn't offer much support for lifelong marriages. We have to make sure that the norms we set for marriage are grounded in the gospel and the faith community rather than the conventional wisdom of our modern culture. When the relationship is new, love for each other seems to be enough to hold a couple together. Love seems easy. However, as the relationship grows over time they needed more than love for each other to hold it together. Their marriage belongs to more people than just themselves. They must find others to take a stake in their marriage.

This doesn't always just happen. Couples have to take the initiative to create a supportive community to protect their marriage. Only they can establish what comes first. Of course the children are a higher priority. But the couple mustn't lose sight of the fact that the kids are products of their love, not the source. To build primacy in marriage they must put it first when they can do it responsibly. They should continue to court each other. Go on regular dates. Talk about "us." Pray together and for each other. Hire a sitter and spend some "us" time together. Not only is it good for the marriage, it's good for the kids.

The most important gift we will give our children is our marriage. We mustn't cheat them or ourselves by not building primacy in our marriage.

Marital well-being isn't something that just happens. It's intentional. Couples must take initiative to create a supportive environment for marriage. We really have to work at it.

# A day of prayer and reflection



COURTESY PHOTO

**Father Francis Cancro, pastor of St. Eugene Church in Asheville, addresses those gathered for the PCL Lenten Retreat "Carrying Christ in Word and Ministry" at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory March 23. Bishop William G. Curlin also spoke at the retreat, which presented an opportunity to reflect on the ways people bring Christ to others and the challenges faced as this millennium calls people to minister the Word-Made-Flesh.**

# OLG students win big with NASA, gymnastics

GREENSBORO — Eighth-grade students at Our Lady of Grace School (OLG) have been awarded second place in the NASA Involvement Program's (NSIP) 2001-2002 competition. Grant Derhoffer, Alex Wylie, Eric DePopas and Gavin Mitchell are being honored for their Design a Mission to Mars entry.

Also being honored are Chase Elliott, Kennedy Iheanacho, Travis Leonard and Ian Good who won third place for their Watching Earth Change entry. They will each receive NSIP medals, along with certificates.

Over 3,400 students submitted more than 1,200 entries to this year's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) competitions. Student entries are judged at NASA centers by teams of scientists, engineers, educators, journalists and other professionals who select first-, second- and third-place winners.

NSIP is a national program that stimulates math, science, technology and geography excellence through six competition categories designed for students in kindergarten through grade 12.

"NSIP is an important part of NASA's efforts to enhance K-12 learning because it offers students the thrill of discovery and achievement," said Lynn Marra, NSIP program officers at NASA Headquarters. "We're proud to honor their success and have them on the NASA team."

Gina Ware, an eighth-grade student at OLG, participated in the North Carolina State Gymnastics Championships in mid-March. Her all-around score of 34.15 qualified Ware for to compete with the top gymnasts in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia at the Region 8 Junior Olympic Regional Championships in Winston-Salem April 4-7.

This will be Ware's first season as a Level 9 gymnast. Not only does she excel in gymnastics, Ware is also an A-honor roll student.

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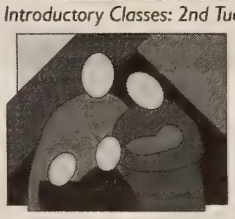
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**ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL**

**St. Mary Catholic School, for Grades K-8** in downtown Wilmington, NC, seeks innovative and dynamic Principal to begin 7/1/02. Must be practicing Catholic, have teaching experience, and hold degree that meets standards of the Diocese of Raleigh and SACS. Salary and benefits commensurate with degree and experience. Submit letter of interest, statement of educational philosophy, and resume with 3 references by 4/15/02 to: Principal Search Committee, 412 Ann St., Wilmington, NC 28401.

**See us at www.thestmaryparish.org**

# Classifieds

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Campus Minister:** The Campus Ministry Department of the Diocese of Raleigh seeks to hire a person for a full-time position to serve as CAMPUS MINISTER AT NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, an historically Black College/University in Durham, NC. The successful candidate will be a prayerful person familiar with and dedicated to the principles of Empowered by the Spirit: A Pastoral Letter on Campus Ministry in the United States and What We Have Seen and Heard: A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization from the Black Bishops of the United States. The candidate should also demonstrate excellent leadership, organizational, administrative, and computer skills. Prior Campus Ministry experience is preferred but not required. Letters of Interest and Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled; submit to: NCCU Campus Minister Search, c/o 218 Pittsboro Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27516.

**Caregiver:** Seeking dependable caregiver to assist elderly with non-medical care in their homes. Part time and full time. Top hourly fees. VISITING ANGELS (704) 442-8881.

**Diocesan Director of Evangelization/ Adult Education for the Diocese of Charlotte:** Position involves a three-fold responsibility: to oversee the mission of evangelization, to direct the lay ministry training program, and to coordinate LIMEX (a diocesan-based master's degree program sponsored by Loyola University, New Orleans) within the diocese. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic and have earned an advanced degree in an appropriate area of study; have three years' experience in evangelization/adult education; be sensitive to cultural minorities. Spanish-speaking a plus. Submit applications and resumes to: Reverend James F. Hawker, Vicar for Education, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, no later than April 30, 2002.

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**Teachers:** Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, located in Fairburn, Georgia, is seeking teachers in all disciplines for the 2002-2003 school year. Mercy offers an excellent teaching environment and well as competitive salary and benefits. Interested individuals should send resume and cover letter to: John Cobis, Our Lady of Mercy High School, 861 Highway 279, Fairburn, GA 30213.

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# Catholic Relief Services commends White House for increased foreign aid

MONTERREY, Mexico (CRS) — Catholic Relief Services (CRS) applauded the Bush Administration's announcement of a plan to add $10 billion to U.S. oversees development assistance by 2006. The U.S. Catholic oversees development agency commended its government for offering a greater contribution of its resources as industrialized nations seek to cut global poverty in half.

"This is a significant first step in reversing the historical decline in our foreign aid. It appears to demonstrate this administration's commitment to further address the needs of the world's poor, and we hope it will be specifically directed to supporting improvements in livelihoods, health, education, human rights and by giving voice to the marginalized," said Ken Hackett, CRS executive director. "As the U.S. recovers from Sept. 11 and continues to face the threat of terrorism, I believe there is a greater understanding that terrorism finds fertile fields where there is poverty, injustice and lack of opportunity."

Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neil made the foreign aid announcement in Monterrey March 20, and in a speech March 22 President Bush acknowledged that wealthy countries must do more to help the poor. The president repeated a previous announcement that the U.S. will make the increased aid available only to countries that have demonstrated good governance, avoid corruption, invest in their people and that have sound economic policies.

CRS shared the administration's commitment to results in the delivery of increased foreign aid and promised to continue working with the U.S. government to find ways of reaching all of the world's poor through humanitarian assistance and development programs.

"We know that a substantial portion of the world's poor live in countries that lack good governance, and we will continue to search for solutions on how to assist those who share the same right to human dignity and improved living conditions as those under strong governments," said Hackett.

CRS emphasized that successful development programs will depend on economic and trade policies that help alleviate poverty, such as the greater opening of U.S. markets to developing country goods. The agency further expressed hope that the U.S. will invite elements of civil society in developing countries to take an active part in designing and implementing these new investments in oversees development.

"Our experience has shown that when civil society is given voice in the framing of plans for development in their own countries, the effectiveness is much greater," said Lori Pearson, CRS foreign policy adviser who attended the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey.

CRS provides assistance to people based on need — not race, creed, or nationality — in more than 85 countries and territories in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle east and Eastern Europe.


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And if your budget doesn't allow $20 a month, please don't hesitate to call CFCA toll-free at 1 (800) 875-6564 for other affordable ways to sponsor a child. Become a sponsor today. **You'll be so glad you did!**

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**Archbishop James P. Keleher**, Kansas City, Kansas – sponsors José Muños of Honduras.



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# Sister finds home in community

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Doctors thought that Antonette Schmidt's life would be over before it began. After only a year of living, she had been stricken with polio encephalitis, a death sentence for many. However, time and prayer led little Toni through the worst of the disease, and she ended up with only a permanent paralysis of her facial muscles. It was after Toni's recovery that her mother kept her promise to Mary.

"I was told later on that my mother had prayed to the Blessed Mother that if I recovered that she would pray the rosary every day of her life," said Sister Toni. "So the rosary is important to me, and I always keep one with me."

Her father also remarked at the time that God must have had something special planned for his third oldest child since he had spared her life. He did not know how true his words would be until later in 1965 when Schmidt entered the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of North Carolina when she was 21.

Before that time, Schmidt grew up like any other cradle Catholic in Berwyn, Penn. She attended Catholic school, and she thought the public school students were called "publics" because she was Catholic and went to Catholic school. As a young child, she admired the sisters teaching her and emulated them by wearing cloths on her head when she would play school.

"The focus of my social life growing up was within the family, and we always celebrated one sacrament or another with seven children," said Sister Toni. "My parents always went to the parish mission, and when we were older, we were expected to go. At one point, we had the family rosary, and I remember I hated kneeling that long."

Her first experience with her calling came in the form of a whisper in her head at the age of 10 or 11. She was at Benediction and looking at the monstrance when she heard the words, "I want you." As a child, she was aware of the meaning of the words but did not understand their significance for her life.



**Mercy Sister Antonette Schmidt**

She continued as other students with dating and high school activities until she heard the words again while at a yearbook staff meeting. "I was sitting there, and the thought came, uninvited and intrusive. I said, 'go knock on someone else's door.' I was clear about wanting to be married and wanting to have children."

The sister who was the yearbook moderator had asked Schmidt to wait outside while she spoke to her two friends. When they came out of the meeting, they told her that the sister had said that they should become women religious. She did not say anything.

After she began working as a Catholic school teacher while going to night classes, her sister asked her to go to a working women's retreat where she made a deal with God. "I spent most of the weekend in tears because God was becoming more clear and insistent. I made a bargain that I wanted the experience of being in a serious, loving relationship before entering the convent," she said.

So, she began dating a young man who she had liked, but it did not work out for them. She went to the retreat the following year, and she kept up her end of the bargain. Her decision was not without anguish and confusion. She went to talk to a sister in a local community.

"I sobbed through the whole talk to her. She told me to look for a community that had teaching as a ministry, and I happened to be working with the Sisters of Mercy at the time," said Sister Toni.

Her revelation to her parents was also emotional for her, but her parents were supportive. They had suggested she write to their family friend's cousin who was a Sister of Mercy in Belmont, N.C. The reply was warm, friendly and inviting as she wrote about their mission diocese. Her mother wanted her to speak to their parish priest who suggested she speak to a Mercy sister near their home instead. That Mercy sister in Pennsylvania thought that Schmidt and the North Carolina Mercy sisters would be a good match.

Schmidt left for the foreign territory and settled into her new surroundings. "I remember being homesick only once. I had the feeling that I was home; it was where I was meant to be," said Sister Toni, who professed her final vows after six years in 1971 at her childhood parish. "I looked at the whole six years as a discernment time. I liken it to a long engagement that you could cut off at any time."

Sister Toni continued with her first love of teaching for over 22 years while earning her bachelor's degree in education from Sacred Heart College in Belmont in 1973 and receiving her master's degree in religious studies from LaSalle University in Philadelphia in 1980. She studied for a year in Rome and received an advanced certificate in scripture and theology and had diocesan training for spiritual direction.

She worked as a retreat director at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley during the summers from 1986 to 1991 and as a hospital chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital in Asheville from 1990 until 1998 after receiving certification in clinical pastoral services from Carolinas Medical Center. Now, she works part time as the diocesan spiritual mentor coordinator for young adult and campus ministry doing retreats and spiritual direction and works as a retreat director for the Jesuit House of Prayer in Hot Springs.

She says that she can see a continuous thread throughout her work and ministry. "I have always tried to communicate the wonder of God's love through my ministry. I really believe that's my mission," she said.

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

April 12, 2002
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One thing I ask of the Lord this I seek:
To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord
and contemplate his temple.

— Psalm 27:4

# NFPC head, psychologist write to priests about abuse

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CHICAGO (CNS) — Child sex abuse by some priests has made all priests sad, angry and ashamed, a priest-psychologist and the head of the National Federation of Priests' Councils said recently in open letters to all U.S. priests.

They wrote to encourage priests in the face of widespread news reports on clerical sexual abuse of minors. The heavy news coverage was sparked in part by the recent criminal trial of a defrocked priest in Boston who allegedly molested more than 130 children and in part by new policies announced by several dioceses, including decisions in some to suspend from all ministry any priest who ever abused a child.

"There are few things more horrific than the sexual abuse of a child; yet some of our brother priests have done this," wrote the NFPC president, Father Robert J. Silva.

"On hearing such things, our priestly hearts break," he added. "We love our people, our brothers, our sisters in Christ, especially the little children in all their innocence who cry during our homilies and who yell out 'Hi, God,' when they see us. ... When someone hurts them, they hurt us."

In a parallel letter Father Stephen J. Rossetti, president of St. Luke's Institute in Silver Spring, Md., said, "I hesitate even to write this letter. I know that many of you feel like the entire presbyterate is being tainted by the scandal; we are all suffering for the crimes of a few."

Priesthood "seemed to us to be something sacred; God called us," he said. "Now, priesthood feels sullied and we are ashamed. Our inclination is to hide."

The two writers called on their brother priests to have courage.

Father Silva said he had met, visited and prayed with priests in six states in the past five weeks, and everywhere "the fervor of their faith, the vitality of their faith communities and the quality of care for the poor attest to their strength, their maturity, their leadership, their prayer and their love. Everywhere there are priests who are good, holy and loving pastoral leaders."

He offered several suggestions for meeting the challenges of the child molestation scandal.

"First, there are enough victims to go around," he said. "We do not need to see ourselves as victims, caught helplessly in the fray of media frenzies. But we do need to make the words of the psalmist our own: 'Have mercy on me, Lord, I have no strength; Lord, heal me,

See NFPC, page 8

## Renovate, revitalize and rejuvenate



Photo by Joann S. Keane

**The Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina celebrated the renovation of the Cardinal Gibbons Memorial Chapel in their Sacred Heart convent April 6. The chapel was originally dedicated in 1962. The 2002 rededication brought the Sisters together with friends and family. Bishop William G. Curlin, presiding, called the chapel, "full of beauty and comfort." See story page7.**

# Divine Mercy keeps sister's vision alive

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

SWANNANOA — In her diary, Sister Faustina recorded that Jesus had told her, "Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to divine mercy."

St. Margaret Mary Church, and churches throughout the Diocese of Charlotte, showed that trust by celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday on April 7, the second Sunday of Easter. The 3 p.m. services at St. Margaret Mary began as Father Andrew J. Latsko, the pastor, heard confessions. Parishioners Mary Frazier and Rosie Palmisano led attendees in the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary. Afterward, Bea Madden and organist Karen Parsons led the Divine Mercy Chaplet, which preceded Mass.

Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska was a Polish nun, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. She recorded her visions of Jesus and his words to her in her diary, which has been published as "The Diary of Blessed Faustina." Pope John Paul II canonized her on April 30, 2000.

See DIVINE MERCY, page 8

### Vatican won't bail out U.S. dioceses in abuse suits, cardinal says

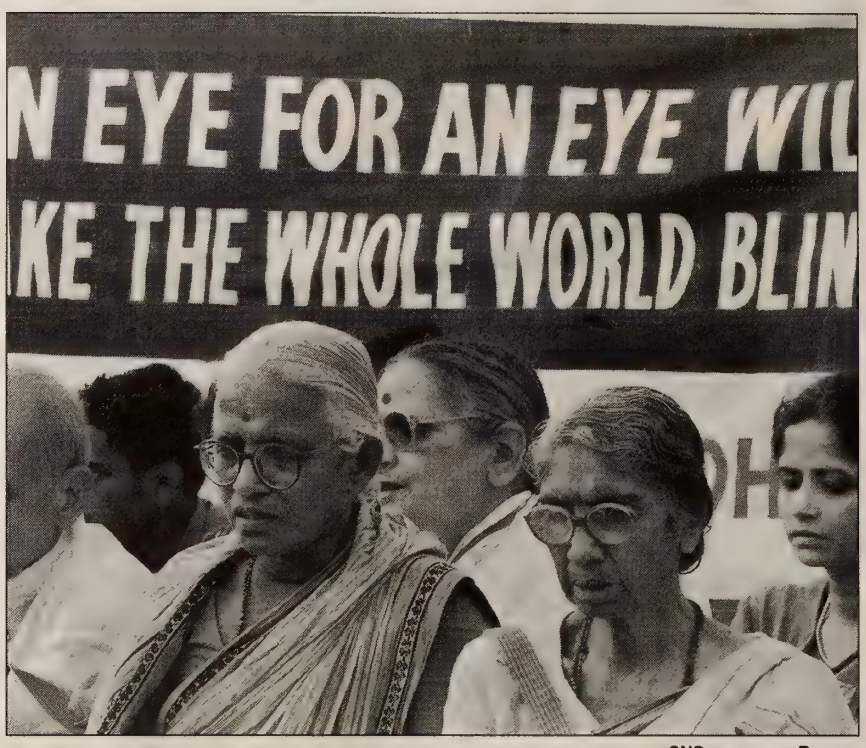
ROME (CNS) — If a U.S. diocese gets into financial trouble because of legal settlements over clerical sexual abuse, it will have to turn to other dioceses for help, not to the Vatican, said a top church official. "It's not the practice of the Holy See to bail out dioceses," said U.S. Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka, president of the commission that governs the Vatican City State. "In the past, when dioceses have suffered financial problems — not related to sex-abuse lawsuits — other dioceses have helped them with no-interest loans. It's their responsibility," he told Business Week Online. The interview was posted April 5.

### Kidnapped Italian priest escapes from abductors in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — Kidnapped Sacred Heart Father Giuseppe Pierantoni was recovered before dawn April 8 after he escaped from his abductors in the southern Philippines. The Italian priest, who was presented to the media just before noon at the Malacanang presidential palace in downtown Manila, said he "got free from the gang who kidnapped" him, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. "I believe after (almost) six months of staying in the forest, (it was) time to escape," Father Pierantoni said. He was kidnapped Oct. 17 from his residence in Dimataling, about 500 miles southeast of Manila.

### Ohio priest accused of child sexual abuse is found dead

CLEVELAND (CNS) — Father Don A. Rooney was found dead April 4, an apparent suicide, three days after the Cleveland diocesan priest was accused of having sexually abused a child 22 years ago. His funeral was scheduled for April 9 at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Parma, where he had been an associate pastor. Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland was to preside. Following the priest's death at least one other person came forward with an allegation that he had sexually abused her when she was a child.




CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**India prayer meeting calls for end of sectarian violence**
**Activists join in an interfaith prayer meeting in Mumbai, India, April 5. Adherents of several faiths appealed for the restoration of peace in the western state of Gujarat, where hundreds of people have been killed in sectarian violence this year.**

### Catholic Church not only religion facing abuse problems, expert says

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Although Catholic priests may be getting the most publicity about allegations of sexual abuse of minors, they are far from the only clergy guilty of such misconduct, according to a professor of history and religious studies at Pennsylvania State University. "You name me a denomination and I'll give you a case," Philip Jenkins told The Catholic Standard & Times, Philadelphia archdiocesan newspaper. "Some (denominations) with huge problems include Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Buddhists, Jews, Baptists, Pentecostals, Episcopalians — you name them." Jenkins' 15 books include "Pedophiles and Priests: Anatomy of a Contemporary Crisis," published in 1996 by Oxford University Press.

### Franciscans ask Palestinians to lay down guns, Israelis to withdraw

ROME (CNS) — The Franciscans have asked the armed Palestinians inside the convent of Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity to lay down their weapons and have asked the Israeli army to withdraw its tanks and troops from around the complex, the order's superior general said. "Our friars are inside with 200 Palestinians, most of whom are armed, and are surrounded by Israeli tanks — it is a dramatic situation, including psychologically," said Franciscan Father Giacomo Bini, minister general of the order. "Up to now a bloodbath has been avoided," he said at an April 5 press conference in Rome, adding that, given the stress the army and the Palestinians are under, it would not take much to set off a real battle. Father Bini said he is in regular telephone contact with the 40 Franciscan friars and four Franciscan nuns inside the convent.

### Proposed shopping mall near Auschwitz draws protest from Jewish group

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Jewish human rights organization has protested plans to open a shopping center near the former Nazi death camp at Auschwitz, in a building once used for storing hair and possessions from murdered prisoners. However, the project was defended by local officials and a leading Catholic, who accused Jewish objectors of over-reacting. Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, said in a March letter to Polish Prime Minister Leszek Miller, "It is almost beyond belief that certain local officials in Auschwitz continue their insensitive and inappropriate actions which, if left unopposed, would encroach on the sanctity of the memory of the victims of Auschwitz." Work on the shopping center began in early 2002 at the tannery, about a mile from the main Auschwitz camp.

### Spanish priest moves to block cell phone signals in church

MORAIRAN, Spain (CNS) — A Catholic priest in Spain has become the first to install jamming devices in his church after parishioners complained that Masses were being "reduced to chaos" by the constant ringing of mobile phones. "Of course, I've nothing against mobile phones — I understand they're useful gadgets, which are needed for work and urgent messages," said Father Francisco Llopis, rector of the parish in the southeastern Spanish town of Morairan. "But when I turn on this blocking system, I can be sure the conduct of religious rituals takes place in an atmosphere of prayer," he said. The priest said the ringing of phones had "caused chaos" at the town's Church of the Forsaken and "seriously disturbed the atmosphere of meditation and concentration." Father Llopis said he believed it was important to "maintain a sense of dignity" in public places, adding that the use of mobile phones were "as disruptive at Masses as in classical concerts."

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**April 17 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. John, Waynesville

**April 18 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
Holy Family, Clemmons

**April 19 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte

**April 20 — 11 a.m.**
Confirmation
St. Barnabas, Arden

**April 21 — 11 a.m.**
Confirmation
St. Joseph of the Hills, Eden

## Diocesan planner

**April**

**12** CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., will be presenting Isabelle Moretti, internationally acclaimed concert harpist and recording artist, tonight at 8 p.m. All are invited to the free concert and reception given by the Charlotte Chapter of the American Harp Society in the activity center. For more information, call the church office at (704) 554-7088.

**13** CHARLOTTE — There will be an attic and crafts sale held at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., today from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Setup will take place at 7 a.m. For further details, call Carol Milton at (704) 554-0553.

**13** CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo community will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight and every second Saturday of the month for a school of leaders at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For further information, call Ky Do at (704) 532-9094.

**13** GASTONIA — St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, will be having its 6th annual international dinner at 6 p.m. tonight. Attendants will be able to gather for food, entertainment, a raffle and cash bar. For tickets and other information, call the church office at (704) 867-6212.

**14** CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

**14** CHARLOTTE — A Byzantine Catholic liturgy will be celebrated this afternoon at 3:30 p.m. in the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel, 1400 Suther Rd. Byzantine Catholics and anyone interested in the Byzantine Catholic rite are welcomed to attend. For more details, contact Olga at (704) 948-6471.

**15** CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1

### Man shoots himself while talking with priest in cathedral rectory

NEW YORK (CNS) — An unidentified man shot himself in the face the afternoon of April 3 in a building that serves as parish house and rectory for St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. A spokeswoman at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell Medical Center, a major trauma center, reported later that the man, still unidentified, was in "extremely critical" condition. Joseph Zwilling, communications officer for the Archdiocese of New York, said a man previously unknown to the cathedral staff walked in and asked to see a priest. He said the man gave the priest a note and then took out a gun, but the priest was able to get out of the room and warn others. After hearing a gun shot, they called emergency personnel, and the man was taken to the hospital. Suffering from shock, the priest, who was not being identified, also was taken to the hospital but later was released, Zwilling said.

### Florida farmworkers take Taco Bell boycott across country

VENICE, Fla. (CNS) — Florida farmworkers who launched a boycott against Taco Bell last year over issues of better working conditions and wages took their complaints cross-country and met with officials at the restaurant chain's international headquarters in Irvine, Calif. A two-bus caravan with about 100 workers, students and other advocates made dozens of stops in cities and on college campuses on their way west in March. At each place, the group was met by locals who have been organizing rallies and protests at Taco Bell restaurants to raise awareness about the boycott. In an interview with The Florida Catholic, newspaper of the Venice Diocese, Lucas Benitez, of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, said the response from college campuses, churches, unions, immigrant groups and the general public to the bus tour was "even greater than we had hoped for."



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Palestinian girl covers ears as she runs from sniper fire**

**A Palestinian girl covers her ears as she runs from sniper fire in the old city of Bethlehem April 8. Vatican diplomats met with Israeli, Palestinian, U.S. and Arab representatives urging an immediate cease-fire in the region, but Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said April 8 that Israeli would press on with its military objectives in the Palestinian areas.**

### Irish bishops meet to discuss response to clergy-child abuse cases

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — The Irish bishops are setting up an independent audit to examine how dioceses and religious communities handled complaints of clergy's sexual abuse of children. The bishops also said they would grant police and state investigators access to diocesan personnel files relating to allegations of sexual abuse. The announcements came after an April 8 extraordinary bishops' meeting at St Patrick's College, Maynooth. The Irish government announced April 4 that it would launch a state inquiry into the sexual abuse case involving a priest in the Ferns Diocese that led to the accused priest's suicide and the resignation of Ferns Bishop Brendan Comiskey. Pope John Paul II accepted Bishop Comiskey's resignation April 6.

### Notre Dame gets grant to study Hispanics' religion, community link

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — The University of Notre has received $1 million from The Pew Charitable Trusts for a two-year study of how religious institutions strengthen Hispanic communities. The Hispanic Church Research Initiative will be administered through Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies. It will include development of a Hispanic Church Community Impact Study, publication of research on Latino church ministry, and conferences of scholars and religious leaders. "Religious congregations are indispensable to all communities, but the role they play in Hispanic communities is particularly conspicuous and significant," said Holy Cross Father Edward A. Malloy, president of Notre Dame. "The Pew Charitable Trusts, through this timely and generous grant, will greatly increase our knowledge about crucial aspects of Hispanic and American life."

### Friars say Israelis won't let them move body out of church compound

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Franciscan friars at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity compound said the Israeli army would not let them remove the body of Palestinian killed in a gun battle. They also said they had no electricity and were running out of food and that the Israelis were not permitting supplies to reach them. Father David Jaeger, spokesman for the Custody of the Holy Land, said that as of 8:30 p.m. April 9 the body still had not been removed from the church, nor had any supplies reached the compound. "For two days the (Israeli army) has absolutely refused the International Red Cross from taking out the body," he said. "This leaves us totally speechless."

### Vatican calls for greater appreciation of older people

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican, citing statistics that predict a huge increase in the number of elderly in coming years, called on societies and families to show greater appreciation for older people. "Older people must be seen as one of society's treasures," Archbishop Javier Lozano Barragan, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers, said April 8. Speaking at the U.N.-sponsored Second World Assembly on Aging, hosted April 8-12 in Madrid, Spain, Archbishop Lozano proposed a multipoint action plan for the elderly. His plan included calls for improved contact and experience-sharing between generations, greater involvement of the elderly in decision making in families and societies, and older people's guaranteed access to basic social services, including health care.

Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable interparish group, will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

**16** CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church Respect Life Ministry will be sponsoring pro-life educational programs. Father Matthew Kauth will be the speaker for the series, which will discuss the following topics on the following dates from 7-9 p.m.: "Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research" — cancelled, "The Ethical Aspects of Human Cloning" - May 2 and "End of Life Issues" - May 31. For more information, call Pat Rodite at (704) 541-9744.

**19** MAGGIE VALLEY — Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, will be hosting two weekend retreats. The first, entitled "A Man's Journey to God, will include the themes of being a Christian and family leader, responding to challenges, reconciling and be reconciled and "letting go and letting God." The retreat, "Rachel's Vineyard: Retreat for Healing After Abortion," is for any person who has struggled with any emotional and spiritual pain of abortion to lead them toward experiencing the mercy and compassion of God. Call Shelly at (828) 230-4940 or Vickie at (828) 213-1784 for information about the Rachel's Vineyard retreat. For further details about the men's retreat, call Augustinian Father Terry Hyland, director of the center, at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

**20** CHARLOTTE — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., will be hosting two events today. An attic and bake sale will take place outside from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. A hot dog lunch is available from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The rain date is April 27. In the family life center, there will be a celebration of cultural diversity through storytelling and food tasting. For more information about the cultural event, call Diane Sturdivant at (704) 567-5512. For details about the attic and bake sale, call Kris Becker at (704) 846-9345 or Patsy May at (704) 567-8625.

**20** GREENSBORO — North Carolina Right to Life, Inc. is sponsoring Pro-Life Day 2002 today at the Embassy Suites Hotel. The daylong gathering includes morning workshops, lunch with a keynote address from Armstrong Williams, award presentations and a candidate question and answer session. For more information, call Barbara S. Holt at (336) 274-LIFE [5433].

**21** BELMONT — The Davidson College Symphony and Concert Choir, under the direction of Milton Crotts, will present "Dona Nobis Pacem" this afternoon at 3 p.m. in the Belmont Abbey Basilica, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. The Latin-titled work is based on English texts from the Bible, Walt Whitman and other sources. For more information about the free concert, call (704) 334-3468.

**22** CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia will be held today and every fourth Monday from 10-11:30 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. With advanced notification, activities for the memory-impaired can be provided. For more information about the support group or the Shining Stars Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday at St. Gabriel from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and every Thursday at Sardis Presbyterian Church from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

**22** NEWTON — The Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group will be meeting at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 20 days prior to the publication date.*

# Resigned, but hardly retired

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

TAYLORSVILLE — Every year during her 17 years as director of faith formation at Holy Trinity Church, Sarah Loudermelk prayed to God, asking if she should continue in the position for one more year.

Each year she said that she felt as if she received a sign that she should continue, until last year.

"I really wanted to finish the 20 years, but this time, there was something," she said. "I couldn't understand what it was. I would pray, 'Give me a sign.' Either I just didn't get them — he was sending them to me, but I was not receiving them — or I didn't want to receive them, or I was afraid to receive them."



Sarah Loudermelk

"Then I finally decided that I needed a break, that I could do something else," she said. So, on Oct. 11 she sent in her letter of resignation.

On Dec. 8, her husband, Michael Loudermelk, had an accident. He was with a group of friends who drive horse and wagon teams in the mountains of Wilkesboro, N.C. Something spooked the horses, and her husband, trying to save his team, was in the wagon when the horses went over a 30-foot embankment. He was pinned under the wagon, fractured his pelvis, and spent the next seven weeks in traction in the hospital.

"My attention was completely on my husband," said Loudermelk. "If I had been involved in faith formation, I would have had to leave it and let someone else do it. It was meant to be. There was my answer."

"I did ask God, 'Why did you do it that way?'" she added. "It's not that he sent the accident, no. He knew something was going to happen that was going to change my life and that I was going to have to have my focus somewhere else."

Loudermelk said that her husband is planning his first trip back to church since the accident. "It is unreal to see him right now, walking with his walker, determined he's going to walk into church with a cane," she said.

Loudermelk and her husband have been at Holy Trinity since a few families started it as a mission of Lenoir in 1984. Before that, they traveled to Statesville each Sunday for two years to attend Mass at St. Philip the Apostle Church, and Loudermelk taught faith formation classes there.

She and the other people who wanted to form Holy Trinity were at a meeting with the late Msgr. Eugene Livelsberger when he asked who would be in charge of faith formation. "I stayed very quiet, but everyone turned around and looked at me," she said. "Later on, Msgr. Livelsberger and I talked by ourselves, and he said, 'Yes, you can do it; God wants you to do it, and you're going to be OK.'"

Loudermelk said that the program started with five children and now serves over 100 children. She estimated that 25 to 30 more would be coming in the fall. The mission church that started with a few families now has 143 families, she said.

"I didn't do this alone," she said. "I did it with the cooperation of all the teachers, and I had the cooperation of my husband and my family. I wouldn't have been able to do it without them. My husband was there, all the time, helping me."

Loudermelk also said that she is grateful to the people at Holy Trinity for the opportunity they gave her. "Now it's time to go in another way, in another direction with someone else," she said. "The foundation is there. Now it's time to let someone else do it and bring new ideas."

She said that Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, diocesan director of Hispanic Ministry, called her recently. "She said to me that some doors have closed with faith formation, but she still wants me to open other doors, big doors, to help the Hispanic community here."

Sister Andrea confirmed that. "I've always appreciated the work that Sarah has done at Holy Trinity and in the community," she said. "She was a bridge between the two cultures and other cultures, even before there was an emphasis on Hispanic Ministry."

Even though Loudermelk has left her position at Holy Trinity, she is far from retired. For 13 years, she has been the ESL (English as a Second Language) supervisor at Catawba Valley Community College, covering Catawba and Alexander counties. In this position, she recruits and supervises teachers for ESL classes at the college and in other places in the two counties. One such class, with three teachers and 30 students, is currently taught at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory every Tuesday night. In addition, Loudermelk teaches conversational Spanish classes for the college, and she started a GED program in Spanish at the college in 1993.

Loudermelk also volunteers in the community. She serves on the Human Relations Council in Alexander County, on the Alexander Board of Education, and on the board of directors for the Hiddenite Art Center. She is a member of the State ESL Task Force and the Closing the Gap Task Force. She has won two Governor's Awards for her work with Head Start — one as a teacher of the year nominee in 1992 and one as outstanding volunteer in 1994.

She said that one of her favorite volunteer positions is her place on the "Building Community for Diversity" steering committee at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory. "We try to educate the community about the other cultures coming into the area," she said. The group provides cultural awareness presentations and brings in members of the community to talk about cultural issues.

Loudermelk said that, in many of these meetings, someone asks why so many people from other cultures are coming to the area. "They ask, 'Why don't they go home? They are taking our jobs,'" she said. "I tell them that if you are in danger and your children are in danger, what are you going to do? You are going to protect your children any way you can. You're going to take your children and go to another country or do whatever you have to do."

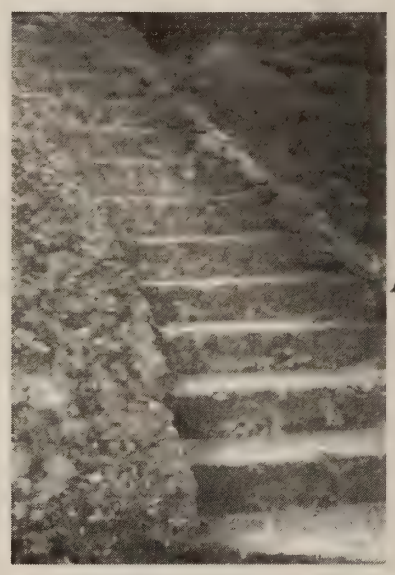
"Why not go somewhere and have a better life?" she added. "They are human beings."

"I was born here, in Texas," she said. "My parents were born here. My grandparents were French and Spanish. Still, people will say, 'Yes, Sarah, nice to meet you. What are you?'"

She said that her answer to that question depends on how she feels that day. She said that if she is feeling OK, she will explain her heritage and talk about how proud she is of her cultural traditions. "If I'm not feeling very well, I just say, 'I'm a human being. What are you?'"

Loudermelk said that some of the biggest changes she has seen over her years in faith formation have come because so many new cultures are coming to this country. She pointed to the celebrations of Las Posadas and Our Lady of Guadalupe as examples of this, but she also said that changes have come because the church is trying to help people from different cultures to learn about this one.

"If we are not out there to help them answer all the questions they are having, we will lose them," she said. "We need to teach them and help them learn how to function in this society because a lot of them are not coming as the migrant population of 10, 15 or 20 years ago. They have chosen to stay."

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# Youth retreats are fun and empowering

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry is actively pursuing its goal by bringing meaningful events to both high school and middle school students throughout the diocese.

The first of two youth ministry events took place at Holy Family Church in Clemmons March 15-17. There, 55 high school students from as far away as Arden and Huntersville gathered "Into the Wild, Led by the Spirit" to come "Out of the Wild, Empowered by the Spirit."

According to Terri McKendry, profit coordinator for youth and young adult ministry, the format for the high school retreat consisted of workshops that included different ways of praying and sessions on the re-enactment of the Passion of Jesus. The retreat started on Friday with the glorious entry into Jerusalem and continuing through the Passion and crucifixion of Jesus. There was adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the sacrament of reconciliation on Saturday. On Sunday, the resurrection of Jesus was celebrated with a Mass.

McKendry deemed the weekend a wonderful success. The goal to get the students away from everyday life and to focus on the faith was accomplished through the elimination of television, radio and cell phones for the duration of the retreat, while their faith was brought into the light for them.

The Extreme Faith Middle School Rally was held at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point March 23. According to Terry Aiken, youth minister of the parish, there were approximately 175 students in attendance at the event. Aiken hoped to "empower both the youth and the adults in ministry."

In his welcoming statement, Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry, said that, "I am made in the image and likeness of God. I'm a miracle. So are you."

During the workshop on "The Impressions You Make on Others," Peggy Lemberg, youth minister at St. Paul the Apostle in Greensboro, offered student Timothy O'Donell a brand new dollar bill. She then crumpled it up before re-offering it, and she squashed it under her shoe before offering it a third time before O'Donell could finally accept it. Lemberg said that the dollar represented God's love, and that no matter how many times it was abused, it was still desired by each and every one of us.



Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**The Heart of Dixie Cloggers from Studio Dance USA in Archdale gave a clogging demo at the the Extreme Faith Middle School Retreat Day retreat at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point March 23.**

Tony and Erica Koons from St. Barnabas Church in Arden gave a valuable workshop on the "Value of Peer Power." According to sixth-grader Mary Grace from St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville, this workshop was "a lot of fun," and she enjoyed being there. Jenna Rash, a seventh-grader from St. Philip the Apostle, said that she learned "it's OK to be different" and that "you can believe what you want to believe without having your peers pressure you."

Hanna Gordola, youth minister from St. Stephen Church in Elkin, gave a hands-on workshop on "Iconography: What's What with Religious Symbols" in which the students not only learned about religious symbols and their meanings, but they also created religious symbols of their own. "(The workshop) is a good way for Catholic kids to come together, to be reminded that it is good to be Catholic and have fun at the same time," said Gordola.

In addition to the workshops, there were presentations by Debra Vigliano, artistic director of the Greensboro-based Win-Win Resolutions, Inc., and Todd Fisher, a conflict counselor who spoke on conflict resolution. There was also a demonstration by the Heart of Dixie Cloggers from Studio Dance USA of Archdale. The leader of the group, Merci Martinez, explained that clogging is a folk dance native to North Carolina.

On the sidelines, as the workshops were being presented to the youth, Kotlowski spoke to the youth ministry leaders. "Youth need to feel important to the church community. They need to be part of the church," said Kotlowski. "The holiness of youth is found in their idealism; in the vision of the world that could be."

Kotlowski said that the church needs to develop a new partnership wherein, like dancers, we know how not to step on each others toes and how or where to move. He stressed, however, that the "youth should not run the youth ministries. But that they should be empowered to assist in ministry efforts to the best of their abilities and grow in leadership."

Parent and catechist Juveenal Ogbunebe of Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte was very impressed with the overall format of the retreat. "It was a good opportunity for the kids to socialize, have good clean fun and learn all at the same time," he said.

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*



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### Diocese reports two allegations of misconduct

CHARLOTTE — The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte reported two allegations of sexual misconduct to civil authorities this week. Both allegations were just made concerning events that allegedly occurred more than 25 years ago within the Diocese of Charlotte; one in 1973, the other in 1957.

Last month, Bishop William G. Curlin, bishop of the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte reiterated and clarified the diocesan policy of Zero Tolerance for Child Sex Abuse. The policy was amended. Henceforth, all new allegations of sexual misconduct will be turned over to civil authorities. Previously, the policy stated allegations had to first be deemed credible. Now all allegations are reported.

On March 8, 2002, the policy was published in The Catholic News & Herald. The policy is applicable to all clergy, religious, and laity who work in any capacity, whether staff or volunteers in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The diocese will fully cooperate with civil authorities, and will conduct its own investigation in accordance with The Diocese of Charlotte policy concerning sexual misconduct by church personnel.

If an allegation of child sexual abuse proves true, the priest will be dismissed from priestly ministry. Any other diocesan employee or volunteer found guilty of child abuse will never be allowed again to work for the diocese. The Diocese of Charlotte allows no less than zero toleration for the crime of sexual abuse of children.

All allegation information concerning cases remains confidential respecting those involved, specifically the families alleging the abuse. Consequently, the name of the accused, the individual filling the allegation, parish information or location are kept in confidence.

### National council celebrates anniversary of national Respite program

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The National Council of Catholic Women celebrated its 20th year of serving the elderly through its Respite program in March. The Washington-based organization, which represents more than 5,500 Catholic women's organizations in dioceses and parishes across the country, founded the Respite program in 1982, when the council noticed growing numbers of women stretched between the responsibilities of caring for both young families and elderly relatives. The program was one of the earliest national efforts to train volunteers for elderly care. However, the NCCW notes that its program is distinguishable from other national programs by its emphasis on "refreshment of the spirit."



CNS PHOTO BY JOE GIGLI, THE BEACON

**Youngsters' questions about God led family to church**
**Luke Rossi, 8, sits in a pew with his brother Brandon, 3, at St. Rose of Lima Church in East Hanover, N.J. Their mother, Jennifer Wang Rossi, sought the help of Msgr. William McCarthy in helping to answer her son's questions about God and the church. Luke will receive his first Communion in May**

### Bishop Edward O'Leary dies; headed Maine diocese 1974-88

PORTLAND, Maine (CNS) —Retired Bishop Edward C. O'Leary of Portland died April 2 at St. Joseph Manor, Portland, after a lingering illness. He was 81. Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston was to celebrate the funeral Mass April 9 at Portland's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, with burial following at Mount Pleasant Catholic Cemetery in Bangor, Bishop O'Leary's home town. Bishop O'Leary headed the Portland Diocese, which encompasses the state of Maine, from 1974 until 1988, when he resigned because of a heart condition. He suffered several strokes in recent years.

### Miss America 2001 says she made Mass a priority during her reign

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (CNS) — When Angela Perez Baraquio was crowned Miss America 2001 she was told she could do whatever she wanted. "Tomorrow's Sunday, can I go to Mass?" she asked, and then added that, as a Catholic, she would like to attend Mass every Sunday. Baraquio was told that no one had ever made that request before, but the pageant officials would work it out. So the next morning, while still in Atlantic City, site of the annual competition, the newly crowned Miss America went to Mass along with her entourage of nine people. While she was sitting in the pew, Baraquio said, she asked God for courage, strength and guidance for the upcoming year, saying she didn't know why she won the title but that she wanted to use the platform to serve others. "I wouldn't have gotten through this year without prayer," she said in an address April 4 to the 12,000 Catholic educators attending the National Catholic Educational Association convention in Atlantic City.

### Middle East conflict 'cruel and inhuman,' says Holy Land nuncio

ROME (CNS) — The intensifying conflict in the Holy Land has become "a terrible contest to see who can be more cruel and inhuman," said the Vatican's diplomatic representative to Israel and the Palestinian territories. "Blood and human life have become of no value," the nuncio, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, told an Italian Catholic newspaper. "In the last few days the situation has gotten completely out of control, arriving at an unfathomable level of inhumanity where nothing is respected," he said in the March 29 interview with Avvenire. The level of violence and bloodshed continued to worsen after he spoke, prompting Pope John Paul II to issue repeated appeals for prayers and for peace Easter morning and April 1.


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Renovate, revitalize and rejuvenate

# Mercy Sisters unveil newly renovated Motherhouse facilities

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

BELMONT — The Sisters of Mercy have been busy sprucing up at their Gaston County Motherhouse, more than a facelift, less than a complete overhaul.

On April 6, with a liturgy to celebrate the renovation of the Cardinal Gibbons Memorial Chapel, the sisters welcomed friends and family. Moreover, the Mercy community took the opportunity to show off renovations to many areas of the Motherhouse, home to 40 Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina.

At one time, over 200 sisters lived in community at the Belmont Motherhouse. Today, as the population of women religious ages, the renovations reflect the changing needs of a community in transition.

"A major factor that prompted our renovations was the growing inadequacy of our infirmary, Marion Center," said Mercy Sister Donna Marie Vaillancourt. "As more sisters required care and their needs grew more complex, we were faced with the necessity to make appropriate changes. We wanted our most fragile members in our midst."

Paramount to modifications — the sisters collectively agreed — was the need to respect the past and address present needs, with a vision for the future and holding strong to values, said Sister Donna, a member of the Motherhouse Renovations Committee. The value of our life together became the standard of all renovations, she said.

However, the April 6 celebration was centered in the very heart of the Motherhouse: the Cardinal Gibbons Chapel. Within this chapel, for nearly 40 years, sisters received their habits, professed vows, elected superiors, held retreats, celebrated funerals, were reconciled and daily entered into celebration of the liturgy of the hours, the eucharistic liturgy and intimate conversations with God, said Sister Donna. "Spiritually and physically, this place is the heart of our Motherhouse."

The chapel design, said Sister Donna, had to reflect "meaning in our lives as a religious community." She pointed out the need for a chapel that is "warm, welcoming, natural and harmonious." Retained were stained glass windows, the wooden ceiling, and wainscoting and brick walls. New to the chapel: a stone floor, wooden furnishings, glass doors and flowing water. The water, said Sister Donna, manifests our commitment to reverence with the earth and our call to act in harmony and interdependence with creation.

"What we have done here is God's work," said Mercy Sister Rosalind Picot, president of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina. "We know from sacred Scripture that if the Lord builds not the house, they labor in vain to build it." I do not believe that those who have labored did so in vain, she said. "I believe that the Lord has been with all of us, workers and those of us who are enjoying the benefits of the work."

"With the blessing of this wonderful renovation — full of such beauty and comfort for all — we are witnessing all the celebration of Easter which is always here in this house," said Bishop William G. Curlin, during his homily. "Your presence in our lives, your presence of Christ in our lives, that is what we are celebrating," said the bishop.

"As long as there are Sisters of Mercy in this diocese, there is the spirit of the risen Christ," said Bishop Curlin.

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org*



Photo by Joann S. Keane

**Bishop Curlin distributes communion during the rededication of the Cardinal Gibbons Memorial Chapel at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Belmont.**




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## NFPC, from page 1

my body is racked."

Restoring trust in the priesthood has to start with priests trusting "that our God is with us even now and that our God will lead us onward."

"Second, rather than withdrawing from our people, we must bond more closely with them," he said. "We cannot stop loving because we are afraid or embarrassed."

He said priests must also "name the problem. We have to talk about it and listen to what our people have to say. ... The more we learn, the better our policies, the stronger our procedures."

Father Silva also called for a hard look "at the system in which we live. ... Is how we live truly supportive of our priesthood and our ministry? Is there a more effective way to deal with the long hours, the loneliness, the celibacy, the criticism, the frustrations? ... Facile responses that place blame — e.g., blame it on celibacy — are not helpful. In the context of prayer, intense discussion and study is called for."

Father Rossetti, whose institute treats priests and religious suffering a wide range of addictions and psychological problems, said the scandals have tainted the institute as well.

"Only a small number of our residents have molested minors. Yet our residents feel as if they are branded as child molesters and, at times, the institute is labeled unfairly as a program for pedophiles," he wrote. "The institute is so much more; the priesthood is so much more."

"Many priests can recall former days when society placed priests on a pedestal. Priests were thought to be better than others," Father Rossetti wrote. "Now, a few people have gone to the other extreme. They suggest that priests as a group are more disturbed than others. But we ought to recall that celibacy is not a factor in someone being sexually attracted to or acting out with minors; in fact, most people who sexually molest children are, or will be, married.

Father Rossetti challenged the accusations that bishops have been callous, secretive and more concerned about the church's reputation than protecting children.

## Divine Mercy, from page 1

According to Sister Faustina's diary, Jesus told her to have the Second Sunday of Easter established as Divine Mercy Sunday. However, the Divine Mercy devotion can be observed privately or publicly every day. The particular hour for this is 3 p.m. Sister Faustina wrote that Jesus told her, "At 3 o'clock implore my mercy especially for sinners. ..."

Jesus also asked to have his image painted with red and white light rays coming from his chest. A pamphlet, "The Message of Mercy," notes that "the image is a reminder for us to come to Jesus with trust and to be merciful to others, and it should always carry the signature, 'Jesus, I trust in you.'" In her diary, Sister Faustina quoted Jesus as saying, "The two rays denote blood and water. The pale ray stands for the water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the blood which is the life of souls."

The Divine Mercy devotion began before Sister Faustina died at the age of 33 in 1938. Mary Frazier and her husband, George, were aware of the devotion when they moved to the Asheville area several years ago. After attending a Divine Mercy Mass in Greensboro, they returned home to ask for a similar observance at St. Margaret Mary. Frazier and Linda Boyers, the church secretary, coordinated this year's event, which concluded with a procession around the church grounds, followed by a reception in the church hall.

In his homily Father Latsko related a story of how divine mercy affected one woman. She was an unmarried teen whose father insisted that she have an abortion. She suffered years of guilt and depression. Even after she married and had two sons, she often cried for the boy she had lost. She begged God's forgiveness, but believed she would never get it.

When she attended a class in preparation for the first penance of one of her children, the priest said that God would forgive any sin, including abortion. Wondering if this could be true, she finally went to the priest for reconciliation. That began her healing, which accelerated the night she was so depressed that she crouched sobbing on the bathroom floor. She prayed — over and over — "Jesus, I trust in you" and felt peace for the first time in years. Today, she has returned to the sacraments and works with women who have had abortions.

"The whole clue is the witness," Father Latsko said later. "That's what Sister Faustina talked about. The woman who had the abortion felt she had to give a witness. I think (Divine Mercy Sunday) ties in well with everything now and in the future."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

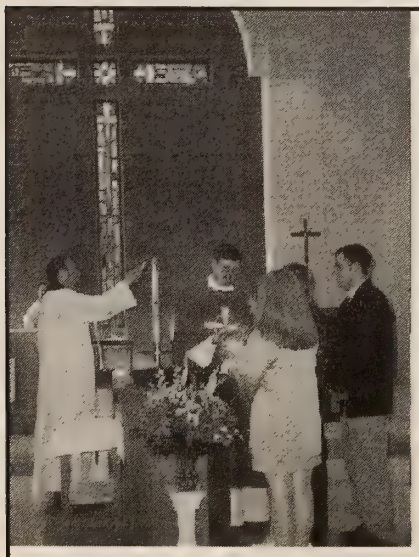
**Parishioners of St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa carry the image of Divine Mercy in procession around the church grounds after a special Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday April 7.**

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# MACS expansion plan underway

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) are looking at major developments over the next decade.

The MACS school board has adopted a new building and facilities expansion plan to address the growing needs of area students for the next 10 plus years. The strategic plan is based on enrollment projections and the recommendations of a national consulting firm.

"It (the plan) makes choices more available for the people of the diocese to send their children to Catholic school," said Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of Catholic schools. "If there's no room (in the schools), we've eliminated that choice."

To address these potential enrollment challenges, in mid 1999 the MACS School Board hired Meitler Consultants, Inc., which worked with the dioceses of Raleigh, Charleston and Atlanta on their school expansion plans. Meitler's expansion needs study included: identifying if new schools were needed, where they should be located and when they should be opened; studying who attended Catholics schools, why they choose them and what they are willing and able to pay; and developing a timeline for implementing recommendations in the plan.

Meitler submitted its findings and recommendations to the board in May 2000. In a letter to parents issued in September 2001, Vic Adams, MACS school board president, summarized the board's principles to guide and prioritize the goals of the expansion plan.

Those goals included: giving priority to the educational needs of current MACS students; gradually expanding the system to encompass new students to maximize financial resources; sharing new elementary school facilities with existing or planned parish facilities to increase utilization and minimize duplication of facilities, and strengthen the school's religious identity; and primarily financing the expansion with cash flow generated by MACS.

The first phase of the plan concerned North Charlotte, said Skube. "Parents and students have been battling the traffic into Charlotte for years," said Skube. "Part of the plan is to address that growing area."

The first step, said Skube, "is that we have a K-8 school at St. Mark Church in Huntersville."

The elementary school, built adjacent to the church, is set to open in August 2003. In addition to providing additional K-5 classrooms, the 6-8 classrooms will help alleviate the projected capacity numbers of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students who would, prior to 2003, only have Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte as a choice for attending a Catholic middle school.

The plan also recommended other facilities projects to meet the needs of students over the next several years. St. Matthew Church in South Charlotte will share a new facility with MACS opening in August 2003. Set to be a K-5 elementary school, the new facility will result in the relocation of All Saints School students to St. Matthew.

"All Saints will be very usable in the expansion planning," said Skube, noting that a key part of the plan was to use All Saints as a future educational facility based on the projected MACS enrollment figures.

"There will be some expansion in phases at Charlotte Catholic High School," said Skube. That school's projected capacity problem will be addressed with the expansion of the cafeteria, library and additional classrooms.

The second phase of the plan will include two new K-8 schools in the North and one elementary school in the far South side of Mecklenburg County.

All of the expansion plans, Skube noted, are based on projected increased enrollments, available monies for buildings and sharing of facilities with parishes.


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**Book Review**

# Books offer look into Gen Xers' faith, spirituality

REVIEWED BY WAYNE A. HOLST
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The following quotes capture something of these two books' common yet distinguishing characteristics:

"This is not a collection of voices looking for tidy answers," writes 34-year-old Jon Sweeney, a former evangelical Christian and the spiritually eclectic editor of "God Within: Our Spiritual Future as Told by Today's New Adults."

"Truth with a capital 'T' has not only gone out of style," says Sweeney. "It just isn't very useful."

Meanwhile, thirtysomething Jeremy Langford, Catholic author of "God Moments: Why Faith Really Matters to a New Generation," says: "We may not be able to describe God exactly, but we know exactly when we have a God moment." Gen-Xer Langford continues, "We know it in our souls. ... This book is about moments of recognition when we are claimed by what is true, real and good."

*GOD MOMENTS: WHY FAITH REALLY MATTERS TO A NEW GENERATION,* by Jeremy Langford. Orbis Books (Maryknoll, N.Y., 2001). 207 pp. $17.00.

*GOD WITHIN: OUR SPIRITUAL FUTURE AS TOLD BY TODAY'S NEW ADULTS,* edited by Jon M. Sweeney. Skylight Paths Publishing (Woodstock, Vt., 2001). 156 pp. $14.95.

Sweeney sees his generation as spiritually innovative and wanting to break down barriers. His book is a creative mosaic offered by 13 "new adults" reflecting their spiritual experience in Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Wicca, Judaism and some who claim no organized religion.

Langford's book deals with the same issues but from within his Catholic community. Together, the books describe the contemporary faith journeys of young adults. Both should help Catholic readers to better understand and appreciate their spiritual experiences.

These new adults have been brought up with less organized religion than any American generation before them. Yet unlike their parents, they do not see an impossible barricade between religious tradition and spirituality. They believe that many of the religious rituals that exist, Catholic or not, can indeed be connected to and beneficial for young people.

Contributor Jennifer Johnson says, "There are those missing links between spirituality and religious traditions that cause so many of us to feel disconnected. ... (Yet) I believe it is possible to bridge the gap between spirituality and religion. ... The people I meet are bursting with inspiration. Their spiritualities are beautiful, but according to most young people, not many adults truly notice their beauty."

Langford grew up Catholic in South Bend, Ind. He got some faith exposure and developed a kid's perspective of God. He wondered why God would be limited to just Catholic churches. He stopped going to Mass regularly — if God was everywhere he really didn't need to find God in a church. In time, however, Langford came to believe that he needed to attend Mass in addition to seeking God in every other corner of his life. Why? He had found an understanding Catholic community where he felt at home.

Langford inherited a busted culture. When his parents divorced in 1980, he and his brother felt firsthand the effects of being separated from an institution they had come to count on. They grew up in an atmosphere of crisis and breakdown. Instability and unfinished business had become a way of life. The author believes that, as it happened for him, the church can become a stabilizing community for his contemporaries and bring some order out of their life of chaos.

Langford believes that discovering Catholicism could help his peers see how a rich faith tradition can mesh with "the all-too-often sloppy details of my daily life." He says, "We are closed to a church that has all the answers, but open to a church that is both teacher and student. ... If our parents were the revolutionaries, then let us be the rebuilders."

The God within and God moments of these writers can be shared cross-generationally. They are guides for anyone concerned with walking the Christian way today.

For his part, Langford concludes: "My hope is to invite all to come ... and to realize that the Catholic tradition is a powerful lens through which to see God at work in our lives."

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings:*
*April 14, 2002*
Cycle A Readings:
**April 14, Third Sunday of Easter**

1) Acts 2:14, 22-33
   Psalm 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11
2) 1 Peter 1:17-21
3) Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

He was a big kid anyway, and on his first day as a senior he felt even bigger. After four years of inching their way up the high school food chain, he and his friends finally were free to exercise their modest senior privileges over other kids with impunity.

He approached the crowded water fountain with a cheerful swagger, signaling his friends to watch.

He tapped a short, bespectacled freshman pointedly on the shoulder. "Step back!" he said, "senior privilege," and gently pushed the little guy aside.

The boy looked startled and confused as he made way for the senior looming over him. The locker crowd cheered while their friend grinned and drank.

At the assembly later in the day, the slight blonde boy with the glasses looked for his senior tormentor and grinned his own grin from his seat on the stage with the other new teachers. The boy squirmed in his chair.

It happens often enough that our most confident expectations of others are wrong, clouded by false expectations. The two disciples of Jesus who were fleeing the fear and disappointment of Jerusalem after his death had high expectations: "We had hoped he was the one to redeem Israel." But their vision was too narrow, too full of their own plans and imaginings to leave room for Christ's very unexpected path to redemption.

The bad news is that if we are too certain that we know exactly what to expect of Jesus, we might not pay attention to a stranger asking questions or an old friend with new ideas.

The good news is that he never gives up, never stops putting himself in our path, calling us by name, asking us questions, breaking bread with us in hopes of getting us to see him in our midst.

**QUESTIONS:**

*What is one experience you have had of discovering that your expectations of someone were too narrow? Where is one setting in which God might be inviting you to pay closer attention to his unexpected presence in your life?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of April 14 - April 20**

**Sunday (Third Sunday of Easter),** Acts 2:14, 22-33, 1 Peter 1:17-21, Luke 24:13-35; Monday, Acts 6:8-15, John 6:22-29; **Tuesday,** Acts 7:51—8:1, John 6:30-35; **Wednesday,** Acts 8:1-8, John 6:35-40; **Thursday,** Acts 8:26-40, John 6:44-51; **Friday,** Acts 9:1-20, John 6:52-59; **Saturday,** Acts 9:31-42, John 6:60-69

**Scripture for the week of April 21 - April 27**

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Easter),** Acts 2:14, 36-41, 1 Peter 2:20-25, John 10:1-10; **Monday,** Acts 11:1-8, John 10:11-18; **Tuesday,** Acts 11:19-26, John 10:22-30; **Wednesday,** Acts 12:24—13:5, John 12:44-50; **Thursday (St. Mark),** 1 Peter 5:5-14, Mark 16:15-20; **Friday,** Acts 13:26-33, John 14:1-6; **Saturday,** Acts 13:44-52, John 14:7-14

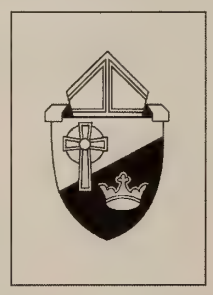
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Presently 21 men are in seminary preparing for the exciting challenge of priestly service in the Diocese of Charlotte. Many others are praying seriously about their calling to the priesthood. How about you?

# Star in 'Joshua' title role explains approach to part




**By MARK PATTISON**
**Catholic News Service**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The actor-director who portrays the title role in the upcoming film "Joshua" said the role is another example of how playing fictional parts makes him "conscious of how you're living your own life."

"The reasons we do what we do, acting and entertaining, is to see how people live their lives. It makes you look at the approach to how you want to live" or what to avoid, said Tony Goldwyn in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service from New York City.

The G-rated "Joshua" will debut on the silver screen in April in select cities — including Charlotte and Greensboro — and will expand slowly to reach a nationwide audience.

Goldwyn said it does not bother him that the platform for the film is smaller than that of most mainstream films. "I think it's a mistake releasing a movie to a wide opening before it gets a chance to prove itself," he said. "I never have perceived this ('Joshua') about being a big commercial movie."

"Joshua" is adapted from the mid-1980s novel by Father Joseph Girzone, a retired priest of the Diocese of Albany, N.Y. Joshua is a Christ-like figure who enters a town and turns it upside down with his good works and unselfish love.

The film also stars F. Murray Abraham and Kurt Fuller as two priests at odds with each other about Joshua; Colleen Camp as a beleaguered housewife and shopkeeper; Stacy Edwards as a television reporter who mistakes Joshua's kindness for something else; and Giancarlo Giannini as "the pope" — not Pope John Paul II — to whom Joshua reveals his true nature.

The movie's soundtrack features country music stars Brooks & Dunn and Jo Dee Messina, plus several top-name contemporary Christian recording acts, including Michael W. Smith, Jaci Velasquez, Third Day and Rachel Lampa.

Goldwyn, who is Jewish, said he had no qualms about playing Joshua with the message he brings.

"I didn't approach it as any kind of religious statement," he told CNS. "Where the character was coming from was a place of love rather than any particular denomination."

He noted how the screenplay differs from the book — and even the original draft of the movie script — in that the theological discourses that characterized the novel are largely absent from the movie.

"We changed it a lot," he recalled. "What Joe (Girzone) was writing about was more religious debate in the novel, where Joshua was getting into arguments of doctrine and theological argumentation."

While Goldwyn said he had read Father Girzone's book in preparation for his role, "I didn't want to get too caught up in the novels." Father Girzone has used the Joshua character in subsequent books.

"This is not to deny anything Father Joe had done," he added. "But I want to be a little careful of over-researching parts."

Goldwyn said Father Girzone visited the set for a couple of days. "He's a great guy," Goldwyn said of the priest.

Filming for "Joshua" took place last May and June. Since then, Goldwyn has had a recurring role on the NBC comedy "Frasier."

Goldwyn, who won much acclaim for his directorial debut with "A Walk on the Moon" in 1999, has been developing projects he can direct. One concerns the story of Betty Ann Waters, whose brother was wrongly convicted of murder. Waters, a high school dropout, went back to school and worked her way through law school to exonerate her brother.





# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Pope asks for continued prayers for peace in the Holy Land

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II asked an estimated 17,000 people at his weekly general audience to join him in "begging from God peace in the Holy Land."

At the April 10 audience in St. Peter's Square, he also prayed that the Blessed Virgin Mary would "intercede to bring success to the various efforts being undertaken to overcome the tragic situation in which those sorely tried peoples are living."

In the pope's main audience talk, he spoke of the suffering and the hope evident in Psalm 80.

The psalm, he said, is "a song strongly marked by suffering, but also by unfailing trust."

The psalmist asks God, "How long will you burn with anger?" and why he allowed his people to be invaded.

At the same time, the pope said, the psalm shows believers' faith that God will save them.

The psalm includes the refrain, "O Lord of hosts, restore us; if your face shine upon us, then we shall be safe."

"God is always ready to return to his people, but it is also necessary that his people return to him in fidelity," the pope said.

"If we convert from sin," he said, "the Lord will 'convert' from his intention to punish. This is the conviction of the psalmist, which finds an echo in our hearts as well, opening us to hope."

### Pope sings Polish folksong during audience with Polish pilgrims

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, with an unusually broad smile on his face, countered the song of a Polish children's choir with his own rendition of a Polish Easter folksong.

After the small children, dressed in Polish costumes, sang for the pope at his April 10 general audience, the pope sang one verse of what he described as an Easter psalm traditionally sung in the period between Easter and Pentecost.

The warm applause, led by an estimated 500 Poles at the audience, convinced Pope John Paul to launch into the second verse as an encore.

With a somewhat impish smile on his face, he also sang a third and fourth verse, always after the crowd's applause showed they were enjoying the moment as much as he was.

Although the pope appears physically frail and far-off in thought at times, he still peppers his public appearances with unscripted moments during the audience.

### Jesus is risen...and now what?

It seems that the history of salvation has reached its completion. Everything is done; there is nothing left. This kind of thinking would be terribly detrimental, besides being very wrong. Really, the journey has just begun.

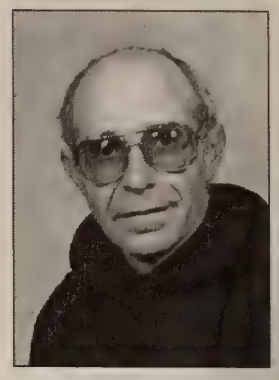
The story of salvation is more like an unfinished symphony or opera, if you wish. To make this clear, let me share the story of Giacomo Puccini, the great Italian composer of "Madame Butterfly" and "La Boheme." When Puccini was fairly young, he contracted cancer, and so he decided to spend his last days writing his final opera, "Turandot," which is one of his most polished pieces. When his friends and disciples would say to him, "You are ailing; take it easy and rest," he would always respond, "I'm going to do as much as I can on my great masterwork, and it's up to you, my friends, to finish it if I don't." Well, Puccini died before the opera was completed. Now, his friends had a choice. They could forever mourn their master and return to life as usual, or they could build on his melody and complete what he started. They chose the latter. So, in 1926 at the famous La Scala Opera House in Milan, Italy, Puccini's opera was performed for the first time, conducted by the greatest conductor Arturo Toscanini. When it came to the part of the opera where the master had stopped writing because he died, Toscanini stopped everything, turned around with eyes welling up with tears, and said to the large audience, "This is where the master ends." And he wept. After a few moments, he lifted his head, smiled broadly, and said, "and this is where his friends began." Then he finished the opera.

Don't you think we must finish the love song, composed by Jesus, but not yet completed? He came at Christmas singing love; he lived in Nazareth singing love. He instituted the Eucharist singing love; he died singing love, and he rose singing love. If the song is to continue, we must do the singing. The risen Lord invites us to live our lives to the fullest before we die; otherwise, we die without living.

An unknown poet said it beautifully:
He always said he would retire
when he had made a million clear
and so he toiled into the dusk
from day to day, from year to year.
At last he put his ledgers up
and laid his stock reports aside.
But when he started out to live,
he found he had already died.

Several years ago, a gifted American surgeon decided to become medical missionary. He traveled thousands of miles and set up a practice on a Pacific island where the people were suffering greatly for lack of medical assistance. Some time later, the doctor's former pastor in the U.S. paid him a surprise visit. When the pastor arrived, the doctor was preparing to operate on an 8-year-old girl. The pastor observed through a window in the small hut where the operation took place. Three hours later, the surgeon finally stepped back from the table in the makeshift operating room and said, "She is OK Going to be all right now." Then he went outside and joined his pastor. As they talked about what had just taken place, the pastor asked, "How much money would you have received for that operation back home in the States? "Oh, thousands of dollars, I suppose," the doctor replied. "And how much will you receive here?" the pastor asked. "I don't know, just a few cents and the smile of God," said the surgeon. Then he put his hand on the pastor's shoulder, shook it a little, and said, "But man, this is living!"

# Guest Column



FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM CAP
Guest Columnist



# Working Matters

JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Guest Columnist

### Spirituality: It's in everything we do

What's your theology of work?

Theology? Isn't that studying about God and religion? Yes, but a theology of work goes beyond the dualism that separates spirituality from everyday life.

This dualism has a long history in the Catholic Church. Spirituality was for the "religious"; that is, for priests, nuns and monks. Ever notice how many of the saints fall into this group? Christian ascetics inhabited hermitages in deserts or renounced the world to live in cloistered convents or monasteries. They were religious, and we were secular; and, we were told, religious was always the better, higher calling.

Fortunately, we are coming to a new understanding of holiness: it's for everyone, and you don't have to renounce the world to achieve it — unless that's your true calling. Spirituality is not separate from the world; it is part of the world. Since work is a part of most people's lives in the world, our challenge is to integrate our spirituality into our work and vice versa.

The Trappist monk Thomas Merton understood that integration. In "New Seeds of Contemplation" he wrote, "If I am supposed to hoe a garden or make a table, then I am obeying God if I am true to the task I am performing. To do the work carefully and well, with respect for the nature of my task and with due attention to its purpose is to unite myself to God's will in my work. ... When I act as his instrument my labor cannot be an obstacle to contemplation, even though it may temporarily so occupy my mind that I cannot engage in it when I am actually doing my job. Yet my work itself will purify and pacify my mind and dispose me for contemplation."

This helps me to understand how work and spirituality blend. I see my work as creative, so, to guide me further in integrating my work and my spirituality, I look for Scripture passages about creativity. One of my favorites is Psalm 104, which shows God as creative and playful. In this psalm, God's work has provided everything that everyone needs; in turn, all created things — even rocks — have a particular job to do. "Rocks are a refuge for the coneys (rabbits). You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting." (18-19).

God finds time for recreation. In verse 26, about the ocean, we see that, "The ships are moving there and the monsters you made to play with." What a wonderful image: God chooses to play. Man is described in the psalm as working all day, but nothing is said about his having a good time. God works and plays. This psalm demonstrates that work is important, but fun should not be left out. Psalm 104 also shows that every creature and created thing has a part to play to make the whole world function.

Paul also makes clear in his first letter to the Corinthians that each person has a specific function for the good of the world. Some are leaders or healers or speak in tongues. While Paul is talking about "spiritual gifts," if we are to see spirituality and work as interconnected, we must extend Paul's example to work that is not necessarily church related. God has given each person individual gifts, but expects all to use those gifts for the common good.

Look for Scripture and other writings that help you to see how work and spirituality are part of each other and integrate them into your life.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Like an uncle

Bishop John McGann died in January. For those of you who did not know this man who led Long Island's Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre from 1976 until 2000, I'd like to tell you something about him — and the unique relationship between a priest and his bishop.

I first met this wonderful man about 36 years ago, when he attended the graduation of my grammar school classmate, his niece, Kathleen McGann. He was secretary to the bishop then and considered a "comer" in the diocese. When you hear that someone's a noted or popular person, you also expect a certain amount of pretension or self-importance. He had none of that. In fact, he was just what you'd expect of a proud uncle. Over the years I learned that Bishop McGann was always the good uncle you could talk with and enjoy.

I really came to love and respect him when I shared a rectory with him for eight years. He genuinely enjoyed priestly company and fully entered into our communal life. He enjoyed a good drink, a fine meal and lively conversation as well as anyone. And while it's not uncommon for bishops to live in their own residence, he chose to live in a parish rectory. I think he did that out of a true love for priests and parishioners.

As Bishop McGann's coordinator for Family Life, I often asked him to support new initiatives. He was rarely afraid of trying something different, especially if it helped to rescue people from families in trouble. So he endorsed and supported new ventures like Retrouvaille (the program for marriages in crisis), Project Rachel (to heal those who've been through abortion) and the diocesan Respect Life Council. Bishop McCann also promoted alternatives to abortion like residences for women in crisis pregnancies. As he'd often tell me: "It's not enough to be against abortion unless we also provide life-affirming alternatives. We can't leave the mother and her child with words. We need to give her real support." He was as good as his word.

In 1985 I came to him with a proposal. Would he be willing to be the first bishop of a diocese to peacefully demonstrate outside an abortion facility? As long as it was both peaceful and prayerful, he said he'd be there. That day will be forever etched in the memories of the 4,000 people who heard him speak eloquently about the sanctity of life, then, rosary in hand, prayed us through this important public witness.

Bishop McGann was sometimes accused, falsely, of being weak in support of Catholic education. That wasn't my experience at all. When I became a pastor, I was concerned about the parish school I was inheriting. It happened to be the same school I had attended and I didn't want to be the one to have to close my own alma mater. He told me not to worry, that the school would survive and prosper. His support was unequivocal.

Sometimes, when noted people die, we tend to write of them as if all was perfect. That would be as inaccurate of John McGann as it would of anyone else. Personally, we had a few battles in which we agreed to disagree. But here's the good part: he could disagree with you strongly and still sit down right afterwards for a friendly meal. He knew that people often differ, but it didn't mean he had to like them less. I'm not sure Bishop McGann would be the bishop of a diocese if they were picking one today. He didn't have a ton of academic degrees. He wasn't politically well-connected in the church. He was just a good, pastoral, hard-working, people-loving, self-aware man struggling to give his all for a church he loved immensely.

He was always in his heart a parish priest, a favorite uncle, who just happened to occupy the office of bishop.

# Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

### Hospitality helps the heart and home

When considering ways to enliven a marriage, we very often think of romantic get-a-ways. Yet, romance is only a part of what marriages need to be invigorated. And over, time it becomes less important. There are countless other aspects of marriage that could use some spicing up, as well. One area is hospitality. "Huh? How does hospitality spice up marriage?" you might ask. When people experience God through a married couple, they are graced — the people who encounter the couple and the couple themselves. Their gracious hospitality is a way a couple is a dispenser of grace and thereby become receptors of that grace.

A few years ago, we wrote about the hallmarks of a sacramental marriage. One of the hallmarks was "They know how to set a table," which is a metaphor for having hospitality skills in their home. Over the years, we have been blessed with couple friends who have demonstrated such skills and have been role models for us.

Our friends, Pam and John Ashford, come to mind. Anyone who has visited the Ashfords can appreciate their hospitality skills. Pam can lay out a spread of food that will, in the old vernacular, "make you wanna slap your mamma." John's sense of humor and storytelling keeps their guests amused. And they both are excellent conversationalists who offer insights on just about any topic.

However, what makes their hospitality grace-filled is not just their culinary and conversation skills. They have a way of making their guests feel loved by their attention.

We realized a long time ago that we can't be John and Pam, but we can emulate their desire to rejoice in the presence of others. We discovered that in our own way we can serve our guests our full attention — to fuss over them in a manner that seeks to make them feel "at home" in our home.

Over the years, we have found that those opportunities, though they sometimes leave us exhausted, exhilarate us and enliven our relationship. As we serve others, we witness to each other our individual other-centeredness. As we dispense grace to others, we feel God working in and through us.

Hospitality skills aren't factory equipped in marriage, though some people seem to just have them. They don't require any lavishness, either. It's about sharing what we have with others.

Many couples, like us, have to be intentional about it and learn how to do it well. Having role models like the Ashfords has helped us.

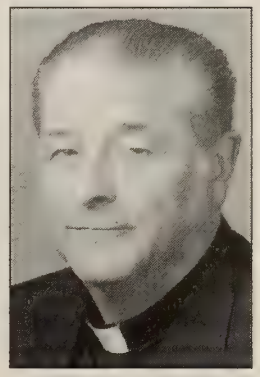
For every marriage, there is a special, unique style to their hospitality — a blend of their talents, temperaments and tastes. The key to good hospitality is knowing that it's not about us; it's all about our guests. To have good hospitality skills is to know how to rejoice in the presence of others.

An important task for every marriage is to discover and develop their unique hospitality. Doing so enlivens their marriage and shows the world God's magnanimous hospitality.

**Questions for Reflection**

- When have you experienced a married couple's unique hospitality?
- How do you make others feel "at home" in your home?

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Can Christ save people who aren't Christians?

*Q. I must disagree with your recent comments regarding salvation for those who do not believe in Jesus Christ. Your viewpoint devalues, demeans and diminishes the supreme sacrifice Jesus made for mankind. You quote the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the pope's remarks (September 1998) that members of other religions who sincerely follow what is good in their faith traditions and their own consciences "respond positively to God's invitation and receive salvation in Jesus Christ, even if they do not recognize or acknowledge him as their savior."*

*I was Catholic for the first 60 years of my life and respectfully believe that you, the pope and the Catholic Church are absolutely wrong. The Bible says only those who believe in Jesus Christ are saved. You agree with that, but you say the church's teaching has changed. But the holy word of God does not change. (North Carolina)*

A. Your comments call for response from several directions. Perhaps most important, you speak of devaluing the sacrifice of Jesus. Doesn't the opinion that the saving death and resurrection of our Lord was wholly ineffective for 70 percent or 80 percent of the human race terribly demean that sacrifice?

Yet that is what you, and others who think as you do, must believe, because billions of people, the vast majority of the human race, never have a chance to learn about God as we Christians know God or to hear about the Bible and Jesus Christ. Are they all condemned, through no fault of their own?

Yes, the Catholic (and some other Christian) Church's understanding of the biblical injunctions about the necessity of faith in Jesus has changed. For centuries, the impression was that, except for a few pockets here and there, the Christian message had penetrated the whole world. All people, it was thought, had the opportunity to accept or reject Jesus as savior.

With the discoveries of new regions and continents, with their billions of "pagans," however, all that changed. For this reason and others, we have gradually come to realize that unless the salvation Jesus set out to achieve was a failure for most of the human family, the Holy Spirit must be at work in ways we have not heretofore thought of.

Faith in Jesus and in the heavenly Father whose love he revealed must be possible in ways other than explicit, conscious acts of "accepting" him as savior. That is what Pope John Paul II, the catechism, council documents and other Catholic sources mean when they speak of the possibility of salvation outside the church, even outside organized Christianity.

We believe the possibility of salvation, the possibility of coming under the influence of the Holy Spirit's movements inspiring faith in Jesus Christ, is available to every human being, not just to a privileged few who happen to live in the right place, where the Gospel can formally be preached to them.

This teaching appears in many places, but nowhere, I believe, more profoundly and clearly than in the oft-repeated reflections of the pope, who cautions us about presuming to put limits on what God can do.

We believe, he says in one place, that the Creator wants to save all humankind in Jesus Christ. We don't know how he does all this, he continues, but we do know "that Christ came into the world for all these peoples. He redeemed them all and has his own ways of reaching each of them" in the present age of salvation history ("Crossing the Threshold of Hope," pages 80-83).

# Central American traditions revived at Holy Infant

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

REIDSVILLE — Lilli Sanchez, a Mexican-American living in the Reidsville area for over five years, has coordinated the efforts of the Hispanic community to revive the Living Way of the Cross, a long-standing Mexican tradition.

Sanchez assembled a 23-member cast of players from both the adult community and the Hispanic youth group at Holy Infant Church to relive the 14 Stations of the Cross March 29.

According to Sanchez, the children were missing a very important part of their heritage. This particular "tradition is one that we definitely don't want to lose," she said. "It is our duty to pass it on to the little ones so that they don't lose contact with their past. It also demonstrates to the community at large that we can work very well together when we want to."

The narrator for the Stations was Waldin Robles from Costa Rica. Waldin was active in the charismatic movement in Costa Rica and is teaching ESL (English as a Second Language) classes in the Reidsville school system. He has been very active in the youth group since moving to the area at the beginning of this school year.

Victor Granados, who hails from Mexico, played the part of Jesus. Granados said, "By reviving this tradition at Holy Infant, we not only keep our native traditions, but we also invite and encourage those who tend to shy away from our youth group to join and participate."

Father Christopher Davis, pastor of Holy Infant, said that he was glad the Hispanic community came together to put on the Way of the Cross. "The entire presentation came from the community itself, from its inception to the actual presentation of the Stations," he said. "It did a lot for them. It helped them to get organized as a group, and many became involved with the preparation and active participation in the visualized acting out of the Passion and death of Jesus Christ. This visual representation helps the little ones, especially, to understand what Easter is all about."

Father Davis also praised the entire cast for their efforts, which he described as "fantastic."

"In light of the fact that this was the very first time our Hispanic community ever attempted anything like this, the whole Passion play was a huge success, and I am very pleased with the tremendous effort they put out to accomplish all that they did. It was very professional," said Father Davis.

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*



PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**The "First Fall of Jesus" is re-enacted during the Living Way of the Cross presentation by the Hispanic community of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville March 29. The characters are Jesus (Victor Granados), Roman soliders (Juan Condalario, Alexando Rodriguez, Estevan Franco and Salome Carmona), and the two thieves (Carlos Castro and Rolando Hernandez).**

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# Seder dinner brings community together

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

BREVARD — On the evening of the first day of Passover, families commemorate the Jews' exodus from Egypt. On March 27, two families of faith — Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the Brevard Jewish Community — gathered at Sacred Heart for the Passover Seder.

About 140 people participated in the two-hour service, which preceded a traditional Eastern European Jewish Seder dinner.

Sacred Heart has had a Seder tradition of its own for about 12 years. "We do this every year, but very condensed," said Sacred Heart parishioner Jerry Gerardi.

"They've had a Christian-style Seder, now they're going to have a Jewish one," said Jack Levine, president of the Brevard Jewish Community, a Reformed Jewish congregation with about 70 members. The congregation, which formed about a year ago, has been meeting in Sacred Heart's fellowship hall.

"I was approached by some of the members (of the Jewish community)," said Father Carl Del Giudice, Sacred Heart's pastor. "They were looking for a place to celebrate the Sabbath and the High Holy Days."

"Seder is about family," said Norman Bossert, the Jewish community's prayer leader, at the end of the evening. "If you were walking around tonight, as I was, and heard everybody talking and having a good time, it was a very warm feeling."



Photos by Joanita M. Nellenbach

From left are Norman and Shelly Bossert and Michele and Marvin Barg taking part in the Passover Seder's tradition of hand washing before consuming food. Members of Sacred Heart Church and the Brevard Jewish Community celebrated the Jewish tradition at Sacred Heart March 27.



Judith Wolf of the Quaker community and Harriet St. John of Sacred Heart Church serve chicken soup with matza balls at the Passover Seder.

Sunny Diamond, a member of the Jewish congregation, also appreciated the sense of family. "This is the best Seder I've attended since my grandparents died, and that was 30 or 40 years ago," she said.

Preparation for the Seder began several months ago. Bossert wanted to invite some of the members of the Catholic community to the Seder as a way of thanking the church for the use of its facilities. He thought that maybe 50 to 60 Catholics would attend, but twice that number took part.

To provide background to Sacred Heart parish, Bossert taught a class on the Haggadah, the Jewish book which contains the Exodus story and the Seder ritual; and another on the Passover as part of the history of the western world. His wife, Shelly, gave a class on recipes for the foods used in the dinner.

Shelly Bossert and Mary Lou Giallanza, a member of Sacred Heart parish, began cooking the meal two days before the celebration. Meanwhile, Sandy Levine, Jack's wife, was busy making the gefilte fish, which was served as an appetizer. Other members of the Jewish community prepared the condiments; some made the matza balls at home and brought them to the church hall the evening of the meal.

Members of both faith communities mingled at the tables as the Seder began. Father Del Giudice read the opening prayer, which said, in part, "We pray as we sit here assembled in family friendship and as we relive in words and symbols the ancient quest for liberty, that we shall become infused with renewed spirit and inspiration and understanding. May the problem of all who are downtrodden be our problem; may the concern of all who are afflicted be our concern; may the struggle of all who strive for liberty and equality be our struggle."

During the service, people were asked to eat only when told to, as a reminder of what it's like to not have enough to eat. "I'm smelling that chicken, and it's making me a little hungry," Bossert said. "The Jews were hungry. They lived next door to wealth, but they didn't get to enjoy any of it."

The Seder service recounts the Hebrews' history in Egypt, including Joseph, Moses, slavery and the escape from slavery. Speaking in Hebrew, Anna Curtis, 6, the youngest member of the congregation, asked the Passover questions, beginning with, "Why is this night different from all other nights?"

In honor to the holiday, wine was blessed with the words, "Praised be Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who created the fruit of the vine." Each person consumed a cup of wine (or grape juice) at four specific times during the service.

Each table held a Seder plate with the traditional items: karpas, a vegetable, in this case, parsley, traditionally served as an hors d'oeuvre; zeroa, a shankbone, symbolizing God's mighty arm; charoset, a mixture of chopped apples, nuts, spices and wine, representing the mortar Hebrew slaves used to build Egyptian buildings; maror and chazaret, bitter herbs, in this case, horseradish, for bitter slavery; and baytza (a hard-cooked egg), symbolizing the hardness of slavery and the renewal of spring, when Passover is celebrated.

As each item's meaning was explained, a leader at each table either held up the particular item or passed the Seder plate so everyone could share. For instance, each person at the table took a piece of the parsley and dipped it into salted water before consuming it. The salted water represented the tears shed during slavery in Egypt.

The leader also took a piece of matza (unleavened bread) from the table and broke it. Half was kept for the afikomon (dessert), half was returned to the plate. Later in the service, each person at the table broke off a piece of matza to eat with the bitter herbs and the charozet. This is called "Hillel's sandwich" after a first-century rabbi who influenced the interpretation of Jewish law.

Members of Sacred Heart parish served the dinner, which included gefilte fish (a sort of chilled fish pâté), chicken soup with matza balls, roast chicken, tsimmis (a sweet vegetable dish), potato kugel, charoset and fruit compote.

David Lachter and his wife were among those enjoying the service and the dinner. The Lachters, from Tallahassee, Fla., are part-year residents of Brevard. Before March 27, they didn't know any other Jewish families in Brevard. They wanted to spend the Jewish holiday here, but thought that would mean forgoing Passover, which is celebrated in community. Then they saw an article about the Seder in the Transylvania Times, a Transylvania County newspaper, which they receive in the mail.

"Once we saw that article, we knew what we would do," Lachter said.

He remembered what it was like 30 years ago in Tallahassee: "There was a small Jewish community. We were meeting in someone's home. A Unitarian Universalist Church offered the use of their facilities. Of course, now we have our own. I can see the start of that here."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

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# Mercy Sister honored for devotion to community

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

SALISBURY — People can make a difference and affect their neighbors in so many positive ways.

The Civitan Club of Salisbury presented its 2002 Good Samaritan of the Year Award to Mercy Sister Mary Robert Williams, pastoral associate at Sacred Heart Church, at the Country Club of Salisbury luncheon April 4. Sister Mary Robert was recognized for her selfless, sacrificial work in her parish and in the community.

"In her role as a volunteer in so many vital areas, (Sister Mary Robert) serves as a primary example of putting into personal practice what she encourages others to do as well," said Bill Adams, a member of the Civitan Club of Salisbury Good Samaritan Committee.

The annual Good Samaritan of the Year Award, first presented by the Civitan Club of Salisbury in 1973, is based on the Good Samaritan in Chapter 10 in the Gospel of Luke, in which someone asked Jesus "Who is my neighbor?" according to Adams. After soliciting nominations from the community each year, the award is given to someone who has gone above and beyond the spirit of volunteerism, he said. The club received several letters of recommendation for Sister Mary Robert.

"As a staff member of Sacred Heart Church, she is not only devoted to her parishioners — she goes out daily to visit the shut-ins of the parish and can be found at the hospital at least four times a week — but she also operates under the challenge of 'who is my neighbor?' She seeks to address the needs of all who are brought to her attention," said Adams. "By her example, she is teaching others to have compassion for their neighbors and to love them as much as they love themselves."



Photo by Kevin E. Murray

**Mercy Sister Mary Robert Williams receives the Civitan club's Good Samaritan of the Year Award at the Country Club of Salisbury April 4.**

"It's always good to see people who embody the Gospel mandate to be mindful of the poor. Sister Mary Robert embodies this," said Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church.

Sister Mary Robert was honored for her work and volunteerism with organizations including Rowan Helping Ministries, the ARC, Meals on Wheels, the Community Alternative Program for Disabled Adults and the Crisis Assistance Network.

"Her generosity goes above and beyond these programs, and she often personally steps in to give food and encouragement to individuals who may have received the maximum amount of support provided by the shelter or other ministries," said Adams.

"She's a dedicated, handsome person who has a great compassion, and it's a practical compassion for those who suffer," said Mercy Sister Rosalind Picôt, president of Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of North Carolina.

"Her love is unconditional and not based on color, creed or economic status," said Adams. "As she passes by the needy, she never fails to reach out and touch those who others may have ignored."

"She is so modest," said Jeff Smith, the Civitan club's president-elect who presented Sister Mary Robert with her award. "She works so tirelessly in the community and the parish."

"She's one of those people who does not want to be honored. She does it because it's her life," said Father Putnam.

In fact, Sister Mary Robert did not know she was going to receive the award until she arrived at the luncheon and found many of her friends and coworkers there.

"I was shocked. I didn't know anything about it," said Sister Mary Robert after the luncheon. "I was told I was coming here to honor Dianne Scott."

Scott, the executive director of Rowan Helping Ministries, was on hand to speak about volunteerism and to honor Sister Mary Robert. "She is a true saint," said Scott. "She's one of those people you feel blessed to know. She's probably thinking, 'I'm only doing my job,' but she goes far above and beyond what is expected of her as a sister."

"I never expected this," said Sister Mary Robert of her award. "It was a great honor."

"She's deeply committed to her religious life, her spiritual life, and she is what a Sister of Mercy is called to be," said Sister Rosalind.

"She is an inspiration to all who come into contact with her," said Adams.

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

# Sisters of Mercy help area organizations

BELMONT — Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation announced grant awards totaling $1,251,281 to 25 non-profit organizations located in Alexander, Buncombe, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Durham, Edgecomb, Guildford, Madison, Mecklenburg, Randolph, Rutherford, Surry and Wake counties in North Carolina.

The grant funds will be used for a wide variety of purposes by the organizations. Supported programs include affordable housing, children's services, crisis assistance, education, health care, job training, legal assistance, services to the elderly and social services.

The 25 organizations are: Ada Jenkins Families and Career Development Center in Davidson; Caldwell Opportunities, Inc. in Lenoir; Caring for Children, Inc. in Asheville; Community Culinary School of Charlotte in Charlotte; Domestic Violence Resource Center of Alexander County in Taylorsville; Flynn Christian Fellowship Homes of Hickory in Hickory; Glory to Glory Ministries House of Refuge in Raleigh; Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry in Hickory; Greensboro Interfaith Hospitality Network in Greensboro; Helping Hands Adult Day Program in Andrews; Helpmate of Madison, Inc. in Marshall; Housing for New Hope in Durham; Legal Services of Southern Piedmont, Inc. in Charlotte; Lions Services, Inc. in Charlotte; Metrolina Comprehensive Health Center, Inc. in Charlotte; Mountain Housing Opportunities in Asheville; Nevins Foundation, Inc. in Charlotte; The Salvation Army of Asheboro in Asheboro; Surry SCAN in Mount Airy; Tarboro Community Outreach, Inc. in Tarboro; Teen Health Connection in Charlotte; UNC-Charlotte Family and Community Nursing Department in Charlotte; Uptown Day Shelter, Inc. in Charlotte; Western Carolina Rescue Mission, Inc. in Asheville; and Yokefellow Service Center in Spindale.

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The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage.
— Psalm 23:1, 3-4

# Sex abuse spans spectrum of churches

BY MARK CLAYTON
THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Despite headlines focusing on the priest pedophile problem in the Roman Catholic Church, most American churches being hit with child sexual-abuse allegations are Protestant, and most of the alleged abusers are not clergy or staff, but church volunteers.

These are findings from national surveys by Christian Ministry Resources (CMR), a tax and legal-advice publisher serving more than 75,000 congregations and 1,000 denominational agencies nationwide.

CMR's annual surveys of about 1,000 churches nationwide have asked about sexual abuse since 1993. They're a remarkable window on a problem that lurked largely in the shadows of public awareness until the Catholic scandals arose.

The surveys suggest that over the past decade, the pace of child-abuse allegations against American churches has averaged 70 a week. The surveys registered a slight downward trend in reported abuse starting in 1997, possibly a result of the introduction of preventive measures by churches.

"I think the CMR numbers are striking, yet quite reasonable," says Anson Shupe, an Indiana University professor who's written books about church abuse. "To me it says Protestants are less reluctant to come forward because they don't put their clergy on as high a pedestal as Catholics do with their priests."

**At least 70 incidents a week**

Dr. Shupe suggests the 70 allegations-per-week figure actually could be higher, because underreporting is common. He discovered this in 1998 while going door to door in Dallas-Ft. Worth communities where he asked 1,607 families if they'd experienced abuse from those within their church. Nearly 4 percent said they had been victims of sexual abuse by clergy. Child sexual abuse was part of that, but not broken out, he says.

James Cobble, executive director of CMR, who oversees the survey, says the data show that child sex-abuse happens broadly across all denominations and that clergy aren't the major offenders.

"The Catholics have gotten all the attention from the media, but this problem is even greater with the Protestant churches simply because of their far larger numbers," he says.

Of the 350,000 churches in the US, 19,500 — 5 percent — are Roman Catholic. Catholic churches represent a slightly smaller minority of churches in

SEE SPECTRUM, PAGE 8



PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

**Clockwise, Belmont Abbey College students Chris Turner, Anthonia Franks, Lori Woody and Christine Tileston draw pictures for their group resume presentation at the young adult and campus ministry leadership training weekend April 12 and 13 at the Sisters of Mercy campus. The Diocese of Charlotte is the first to finish the national certification program, which took place over four weekends in Belmont.**

# People gather to focus on young adult community

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

BELMONT — About 55 people from the Charlotte and Raleigh dioceses gathered for the culmination of four weekends of spiritual guidance, leadership skills and fellowship in young adult and campus ministry April 12 and 13 at the Sisters of Mercy campus. Since November, the Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministry has given interested people the opportunity to participate in an inaugural national program, and the Diocese of Charlotte is the first to finish this program in the country.

The certification series, entitled "Principles and Practices: Leadership for Ministry with Young Adults," was created in response to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' 1996 pastoral "Sons and Daughters of the Light," which addressed the ever-changing and growing needs of the young adult population in the Catholic Church. Since then, young adult ministries have been developing in dioceses across the country with the main goal of service to and for young adults on campuses and in parishes.

The certification program, first prompted by the Center for Ministry Development (CMD), is in its pilot stage, and the Diocese of Charlotte is one of 12 dioceses in the country that received funding from the Raskob Foundation to offer the four-weekend program to those working in young adult and campus ministry. The CMD is a non-profit, national, Catholic organization, which offers training for young adult, youth and family ministers and religious educators.

"The CMD went to the Raskob Foundation, which funds many Catholic activities, and proposed this concept of taking all of the best practices and offering training programs for young adults and people interested in young adult ministry," said Matthew F. Manion, executive director of the Catholic Leadership Institute and adjunct faculty for the certification program. "Hopefully, after this pilot program, this will become a part of the regular CMD offerings and a part of what the church offers this generation."

This two-day gathering, which included those who completed all of the sessions and those who are interested in future leadership positions, used the text and supplemental materials from "Leadership for Life: Discovering Your Gifts for Christian Leadership" from the CMD. The book included chapters dealing with Christian leadership, the tools used to lead and resources for continued learning. People who completed all of the sessions received certification in young

SEE YOUNG ADULTS, PAGE 15

### A decade after reforms, Mexican bishops discuss expanding rights

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexican bishops discussed expanding religious rights when they met for five days outside Mexico City in early April. The assembly, held in Cuautitlan Izcalli, focused on the bishops' request for religious education in public schools if students' parents ask for it. The bishops also seek permission for religious control of radio and TV stations and the right to carry out religious services within the military. The discussions were carried out in the context of the 10th anniversary of constitutional reforms that marked a major move forward for the church within the aggressively secular Mexican state. Among the reforms were the normalization of Mexico's relations with the Vatican after a 125-year break, the go-ahead for private religious education, and the formal recognition of the right of priests to celebrate Mass in public.

### Postal increase to hit periodicals harder than others

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When the cost of a first-class postage stamp goes up to 37 cents this summer, the publishers of nonprofit periodicals, including diocesan newspapers, will have to swallow increases of as much as 15 percent to 20 percent. "This is as big an increase as periodicals have seen in five years," said Neal Denton, executive director of the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers. The Postal Service's Board of Governors on April 9 announced that standard first-class postage would increase by 3 cents on June 30. Domestic mail rates will go up across the board, by varying amounts, depending on type of service. For instance, priority mail rates for the first pound will increase from $3.50 to $3.85, while postcards will increase from 21 cents to 23 cents. It's harder to pinpoint how much rates will increase for other customers because of the complex rate structure for bulk mailers. The new bump comes on the heels of two rate increases in 2001, but Denton said the news isn't all bad for nonprofit publishers. For one thing, there are many cost-saving measures available, he said, and each extra sorting step, such as dividing pieces into individual ZIP codes, qualifies for a reduction in the rates.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Smoke billows over Manger Square in Bethlehem**
**Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity steeple towers above smoke from nearby explosions in Manger Square April 15. Some 200 Palestinians remained in the church, while U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell continued his efforts to broker a cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians. Pope John Paul II prayed for the success of Powell's mission and an end to suffering in the Holy Land.**

### Bush, other cloning opponents rally forces to push for ban

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Bush raised the volume on support for legislation to ban all forms of human cloning research with an April 10 White House event rallying some of the bill's most prominent backers. "Allowing cloning would be taking a significant step toward a society in which human beings are grown for spare body parts and children are engineered to custom specifications," Bush said, "and that's not acceptable." The Senate is expected to take up legislation on human cloning before it recesses for the summer. The House passed a bill last July that would ban all research in human cloning. Bush said he would firmly oppose all types of cloning research involving human embryos. One bill pending action in the Senate would prohibit research in cloning for reproductive purposes, but would permit research on cloned human embryos which are destroyed after stem cells have been extracted. The president said that version is unacceptable.

### Vatican calls U.N.'s lack of progress on nuclear disarmament alarming

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The Vatican told a U.N. committee April 9 that it found the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament alarming. "Even more serious than the lack of progress is the overt determination of some nuclear weapon states to maintain nuclear weapons in a critical role in their military doctrines," it said in a statement delivered at the United Nations. Declaring nuclear weapons "incompatible with the peace we seek for the 21st century," the Vatican declared that "there can be no moral acceptance of military doctrines that embody the permanence of nuclear weapons."

### Liturgical music publishers team up for 9-11 benefit album

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The three main U.S. liturgical music publishers have joined to co-produce a benefit album to help Catholic Charities USA's Sept. 11 relief efforts. "With Faith, Hope, & Love: In Support of the Victims of Terrorism" is the name of the album. GIA Publications, Oregon Catholic Press and World Library Publications teamed up for the album. The entire $16 retail cost of the CD-only album is being donated to Catholic Charities USA, which set up a relief fund the day after the Sept. 11 terror attacks. The publishers hope to make an $80,000 donation to Catholic Charities in August, representing a sellout of all 5,000 copies of the album manufactured. "(Catholic Charities') Disaster Response Office connects the church's social service agencies and disaster planning offices across the nation," the publishers said in an introduction to the CD.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**April 22 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Michael, Gastonia

**April 24 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Benedict, Greensboro

**April 26 — 7:30 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Therese, Mooresville

**April 27 — 11 a.m.**
Lay ministry graduation
St. Gabriel, Charlotte

**5:30 p.m.**
Confirmation
Good Shepherd, King

## Diocesan planner

**April**

**26** BELMONT — The Abbey Players/Belmont Community Theatre will be performing "Parade," opening tonight at 8 p.m. in the Haid Theatre, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. The play will continue to run April 27-29 and May 2-4. The play centers around the story of Leo Frank, a Brooklyn-born Jewish man, put on trial for the alleged murder of one of his factory workers in 1913 Georgia. For tickets and other information, call the theatre at (704) 825-6787.

**26** CHARLOTTE — The Region VII spring Cursillo meeting will take place this evening from 6-9 p.m. and April 27 from 7:15 a.m.-9 p.m. with 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Masses at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. The meeting will include breakfast, presentations, lunch, discussions, sub-regional meetings and an Ultreya. For pre-registration and other information, call Alan Brown at (828) 437-1392 or e-mail downtownalanbrown@hotmail.com.

**26** CHARLOTTE — The 2nd Annual Crystal Ball and Gold Classic to support the Modafferi Foundation will be held tonight at 7 p.m. at the Adams Mark Hotel. The dinner-dance includes a silent auction and live music. The golf tournament will also be held during the day at the Olde Sycamore Golf Club in Mint Hill. For information, call Joan Petruski at (704) 846-7408.

**27** ASHEVILLE — The diocesan Office of Justice and Peace will be hosting "We Are Called: A Conference of Social Justice Issues" today from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at St. Eugene Church, 1 Culvern St. Workshops and presentations will include: the Afghan refugee crisis, spirituality of justice, global climate justice, death penalty moratorium, legislative advocacy and socio-economic concerns of Western North Carolina. For April 23 registration and other information, call Linda Franks at (704) 370-3231 or e-mail justicepeace@charlottediocese.org.

**28** HENDERSONVILLE — The St.

### Expert says myths about priests, sex abuse need to be dispelled.

NEW YORK (CNS) — Myths about Catholic priests and child sexual abuse need to be dispelled if the real goal is protecting children, says priest-psychologist Father Stephen J. Rossetti, president of St. Luke Institute in Silver Spring, Md. Writing in the April 25 issue of America magazine, Father Rossetti said that even among priests who have molested minors, a compulsive pedophile like defrocked Boston priest John Geoghan "is the rare exception, thank God." America is a Jesuit-run national Catholic magazine based in New York. Its April 25 edition, which also had an editorial and two other articles on clergy sexual abuse, was the second in less than a month devoted mainly to the topic. Father Rossetti, whose institute specializes in treatment of priests and religious suffering addictions and psychological problems, said that because of the complexity of issues surrounding child sexual abuse, there are no simple solutions.

### Christian groups send convoy of food to West Bank towns

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — A group of Christian organizations organized six food convoys and sent the first to the West Bank, hoping to alleviate hunger caused by two weeks of Israeli army incursions. The initial convoy went to Bethlehem, Beit Jalla and Beit Sahour April 15 after coordination with the Israeli army. Israeli forces entered the Palestinian areas in late March and early April, when a series of Palestinian suicide bombers left dozens of Israelis dead and hundreds injured. "Today the immediate need is food, but our concern is how to get over this situation which we are in," said Claudette Habesch, secretary-general of Caritas Jerusalem, one of the organizers of the convoy. "We are farther from peace today than ever before, but we must believe that peace is possible in this land that has to be shared by two peoples."



CNS PHOTO BY AGOSTINO BONO

**Border town residents cross Santa Fe bridge**
**Residents of sister cities El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Mexico, cross the Santa Fe bridge that connects the countries of Mexico and the United States. Families with relatives living in both cities used to have easy access to each other until the U.S. tightened border controls several years ago.**

### Madagascar cardinal urges nations to recognize candidate's presidency

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar (CNS) — As violence plagued the Indian Ocean island of Madagascar, Antananarivo Cardinal Armand Razafindratandra called on the international community to recognize the presidency of Marc Ravalomanana. The official results of December's contested presidential poll were "neither legal nor valid," said Cardinal Razafindratandra. "We are sure that Ravalomanana should have won." Ravalomanana, a popular politician and Christian leader, declared himself president in February after hundreds of thousands of his supporters took to the streets to protest the election results. Church and civic observer groups estimated that Ravalomanana had won enough votes for an outright victory, said Cardinal Razafindratandra.

### Pope says Bolivian Catholics must bring faith to bear on public life

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While the Catholic Church in Bolivia relies heavily on faith-filled, educated lay people to lead communities in remote parts of the country, the first vocation of Bolivian Catholic laity is to bring their faith to bear on public life, Pope John Paul II said. "This specific vocation of the laity has a decisive importance in modern society in which, as is happening also in Bolivia, rapid and profound changes are taking place," the pope told Bolivian bishops April 13. The bishops were in Rome for their "ad limina" visits, which bishops make every five years. Cardinal Julio Terrazas Sandoval of Santa Cruz, president of the bishops' conference, told the pope, "We are worried at the ease with which our laity separate their faith and moral obligations from their political, professional and cultural commitments."

### Man who shot himself at New York cathedral parish house dies

NEW YORK (CNS) — The man who shot himself at the parish house of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York April 3 died April 12, a hospital official said. Arem Gazaryan, a native of Armenia who came to the United States seven years ago and was working at a bank in Brooklyn, came to the parish house and asked to talk with a priest. When the man took out a gun, the priest was able to get out of the room, but Gazaryan then shot himself in the face. He was taken to New York Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell Medical Center and remained there in critical condition until his death.

### Half of Orthodox Bulgaria hopes to see pope during May pilgrimage

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Up to half the inhabitants of Bulgaria hope to see the pope when he makes his first visit to the country in May, while only a small percentage said the pilgrimage could negatively affect the predominant Orthodox Church, said an opinion poll. In the early April survey by Bulgaria's MBMD agency, 48 percent of Bulgarians said they counted on seeing Pope John Paul II "with their own eyes" during the May 23-26 visit, while 4 percent believed that the pope's presence could "negatively affect" the position of Bulgaria's Orthodox Church. The pilgrimage will include a Mass in Plovdiv and a meeting at the Orthodox Church's governing synod in the capital, Sofia. Pope John Paul will begin his visit May 22 in Azerbaijan. Catholics comprise 3 percent of Bulgaria's 9 million population.

Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

**May**

**1** CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will be having a meeting with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**2** CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church Respect Life Ministry will be sponsoring pro-life educational programs. Father Matthew Kauth will be the speaker for the series, which will discuss the following topics on the following dates from 7-9 p.m.: "Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research" and "The Ethical Aspects of Human Cloning" - tonight and "End of Life Issues" - May 31. For more information, call Pat Rodite at (704) 541-9744.

**2** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Ladies' Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

**3** HICKORY — All married couples are invited to participate in the next Marriage Encounter this weekend at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. Marriage Encounter is a 44-hour period when couples can take time off from families, work and other responsibilities to focus on each other to grow spiritually and emotionally as one. For more information or reservations, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

**3** MAGGIE VALLEY — The staff of Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, invite all women to their special 25th Anniversary Retreat for Women this weekend. Paula D'Arcy, spiritual writer and therapist, will lead the retreat, which will explore God's love and the recognition of his presence and power. For further details, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

**5** CHARLOTTE — Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, formerly known as the Catholic Hispanic Center and now located at 6212 Tuckasseegee Rd., will be celebrating a Mass in English every Sunday at 8 a.m. beginning this morning. For details, call Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty at (704) 391-3732.

**5** SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837

**5** CHARLOTTE — The 52nd Semi-Annual International Rosary Day will be held this afternoon at 3 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. with Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, as the speaker. For more details, call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127.

**10** HICKORY — Engaged Encounter is for couples planning marriage, who desire a richer, fuller life together. Although the encounter weekend is Catholic in origin and orientation, it is open to couples of any faith. Couples are encouraged to attend the weekend three to six months prior to their wedding date. Engaged couples may take part in one of several Engaged Encounter weekends, which will take place at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane: today through May 12, Aug. 23-25, Sept. 20-22 and Oct. 25-27. For registration and other information, call Carl Whitesel at (704) 987-9420 or (888) 310-9040 or e-mail eeregistration@yahoo.com.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 20 days prior to the publication date.*

# Professor presents pope's message on medical ethics

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

GASTONIA — Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you.

Dr. William E. May, professor of moral theology at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Washington, D.C., presented The Gospel of Life: Current Perspectives in Catholic Biomedical Ethics at St. Michael Church April 10. Approximately 100 people attended the lecture on Pope John Paul II's 1995 encyclical letter, "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life"), dealing with the value and inviolability of human life.

"I hope they (the audience) take away that they are bodily persons, and their bodies are a gift from God, no matter how burdened they can be," said May after the lecture. "There are ways to overcome the burdens — you send them to a doctor, you give them medicines. You don't simply kill them."

May was referring to abortion and euthanasia, two procedures adopted by many countries in the world, including the United States.

"They (the countries) do not regard unborn persons as humans protected by law," he told the audience. "An unborn baby is not a potential person, but a person with potential and that must be allowed to develop."

May, a renowned author and lecturer in the field of Catholic moral theology, taught the subject at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., for 20 years. Appointed by Pope John Paul II, May served on the International Theological Commission from 1986 to 1997 and was a consultant on the vocation and mission of the lay faithful in the Catholic Church for the 1987 Synod of Bishops. The pope also awarded him the medal Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice in 1991.

May has authored more than a dozen books and scholarly articles. His recent book, "Catholic Bioethics and the Gift of Human Life," was published in 2000.

May began the presentation by summarizing the four chapters of the "Evangelium Vitae" - "Present Day Threats to Human Kind"; "The Christian Message Concerning Life"; "God's Holy Law"; and "For a New Culture of Human Life."

May's presentation, however, focused mainly on the first chapter of the encyclical, which describes our culture as a "culture of death." The roots of this culture include a perverse idea of human freedom, said May.

"People think, 'Nobody's going to tell me what I'm going to do. I am the one to determine right and wrong,'" said May. "No, God does this. But he gives us the ability to understand right and wrong through our intelligence."

Another reason for the culture of death is the mentality that "recognizes as a subject of rights only the one who enjoys full or at least incipient autonomy and who emerges from a state of total dependency of others," said May. Basically, "a person is aware of itself as a self and capable or relating to others ... but unborn babies, newborns, the demented, the comatose, etc., are not, on this view, persons."

"Hence, they do not have the rights of persons and are not entitled to protection of the law," noted May. "To the contrary, Christian faith and sound philosophy maintain that every living human being is a person. This is a central truth of this encyclical ... ."

Manifestations of the culture of death, said May, are an eclipse of a sense of God and of man, and widespread social acceptance of and legal protection of contraception, abortion and euthanasia.

"People in comas have useless lives. Euthanasia is doing them a favor by relieving them of their burdensome lives," said May of the culture of death thinking. "A living human body is a person. If we have a living body, we have a person made in the likeness of God."

The encyclical's "The Christian Message Concerning Life" chapter confirms that we are made in God's image. "We are impeccable images of God. God wanted a kind of person who could receive divine life. The divine nature and human nature are united in us after baptism," said May.

In the instance of rape, said May, abortion is not the answer. "The product is still good, not the means," he said.

May's lecture also touched upon how the encyclical bears on in vitro fertilization, experimentation on human subjects and stem cell research. "Stem cell research in itself is not immoral," said May. The church opposes the kind of research that requires killing the embryo to get cells, he said.

In the chapter "For a New Culture for Human Life," the development of a new human culture rests upon ordinary people and the family is meant to be the sanctuary of life, said May. "Married couples have the vocation to bring into being a new person," he said. "Parents have the responsibility to educate their children in the truth, and to love them and teach them to love others."

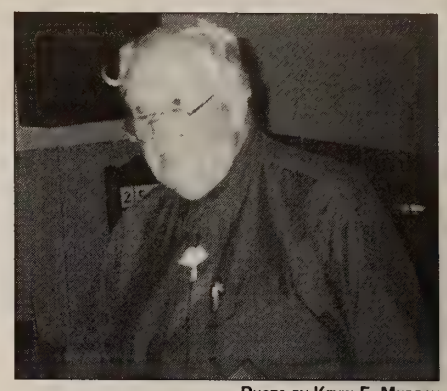


Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Father John Allen, pastor of St. Michael Church, was delighted by the lecture and the turnout, which he said included some 30 physicians.

"The quest of all church teachings is to apply the message of Christ to new areas of thought," said Father Allen. "Some of these concepts (in the encyclical) would have been inconceivable 13 to 15 years ago."

"Human life requires more than our bodily life," concluded May. "We need to have respect for a human person in its entirety — both as a bodily person and someone who is more than a body."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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**St. Eugene Church, Asheville**

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**"The Spirituality of Justice"**

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**Please register by Wednesday, April 24.**
**For further info and/or to receive a registration brochure contact:**

Joseph Purello, Office of Justice & Peace, Catholic Social Services,
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Jerry Bergeron, St. Eugene Church,
Phone: 828-254-5193 / churcheugene@aol.com

Sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace,
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# Spanish classes make better ministers

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

BELMONT — They start their classes with a prayer in Spanish. On March 26, it was the Prayer of St. Francis: "Senor, hace instrumento de tu paz...." (Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. ...")

These classes in conversational Spanish for clergy, women religious and diocesan employees came about when Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B., abbot and chancellor of Belmont Abbey College; Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor of the diocese; and Dean de la Motte, dean of academic affairs at Belmont Abbey College, began to talk about what the college and the monastery could do to work with Hispanics in the area. The Spanish classes are just a start of what is hoped to be a larger effort, said de la Motte.

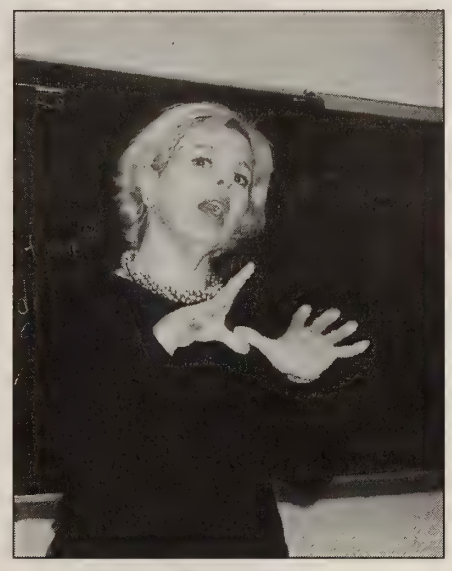
"The details of that larger effort are not going to be really known until we know what sort of support we will have among our alumni and leaders in the Latino community," said de la Motte.

A meeting with those groups is being planned for May, he said. Other ideas that have been discussed are to provide ESL (English as a Second Language) courses and providing other resources for Hispanics.

Plans are also in the works to use the college's distance learning facility to teleconference the Spanish classes to the Asheville and Greensboro areas. "We hope to have a course up and running in the fall," said de la Motte.

Liz Diaz, a Spanish instructor at Belmont Abbey College, is teaching the two Spanish classes this semester — one for the sisters at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse on Monday evenings, and another for clergy and diocesan personnel at Belmont Abbey College on Tuesday evenings.

"It's such a blessing to work (with these students)," said Diaz. "They have taken tremendous strides. They put more into it because it really has more impact for them."





Photos by Ellen N. Sigmon

**At left, Liz Diaz, a Spanish instructor at Belmont Abbey College, teaches Spanish classes — one for the sisters at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse and another for clergy and diocesan personnel at Belmont Abbey College, which include, at right, Pat Onaindia, secretary for faith formation; Kay Jordan, secretary for youth, young adult and campus ministry; Rev. Mr. Guy Piché, director of diocesan facilities; and his wife, Rachel Piché, a public health nurse.**

To her Tuesday class, she said, "You guys can speak more Spanish than my (college) class that meets three times a week for an hour and a half."

Diaz leaves no one out during the classes. She puts her hands on her hips and turns to each student in turn, asking questions such as, "Que te gusta?" ("What do you like?") and joking with them about their answers. Each student is expected to respond in Spanish.

"I go home wide awake, and I am tired when I get here," said Franciscan Sister Mona Wingert, assistant superintendent of schools for the diocese and a member of the Tuesday class. "It's a great opportunity, and we're happy to do it."

"We are getting more and more Hispanic children in school," said Sister of St. Joseph Helene Nagle, principal of St. Ann School in Charlotte. "It's not necessary for them, because they can speak pretty good English. We need it for their parents."

Sister Helene added that she could not rely on the children to translate for their parents because "the children can say anything they want to." She laughed. "That's why we have to hurry up and learn all of this."

"Liz helps us to understand the cultures (of the various Hispanic countries), too," said Sister Mona, who is called Hermana Mona in Spanish class. "We are getting more cultures in the schools."

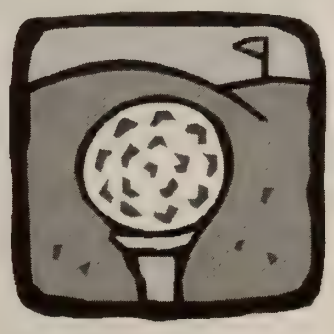
On this particular Tuesday, the class practiced trilling double r's and saying the names of the months, the days of the week and types of sports and games. They also practiced useful words, phrases and questions. They practiced terms from the liturgical year and verbs that are useful in religious life, such as "predicar" ("to preach") and "meditar" ("to meditate"). They ended the class by saying the Hail Mary in Spanish.

Members of the class are finding that their new Spanish skills are not only useful in their work, but in everyday life as well.

"It's helping me to read better Spanish," said Rev. Mr. Guy Piche, director of diocesan facilities. "I've gotten some things from the Hispanic community, and I can identify them now."

Pat Onaindia, secretary of faith formation for the diocese, talked about a recent encounter she had with a Hispanic man and his new baby in a fast food restaurant. She said that she was able to ask him if the baby was a boy and how old he was. "As soon as I said, 'Muchacho?' ('Boy?'), his eyes just lit up," she said. "We just seemed to connect."

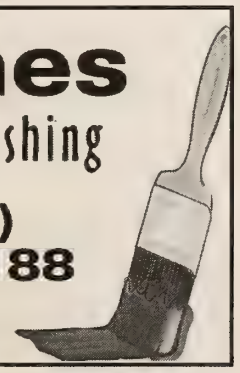
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### Pope beatifies six people, including Nicaraguan, Argentine

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Celebrating examples of priestly and religious holiness in the church, Pope John Paul II beatified six people, including the first Argentine and a Nicaraguan woman. "These (six) newly beatified were able to recognize the Lord's living presence in the church and, overcoming difficulties and fears, became his enthusiastic and courageous witnesses to the world," the pope said April 14 during a solemn liturgy in St. Peter's Square. As the pope pronounced the Latin formula of beatification under an overcast sky, drapes slipped off large tapestries on the basilica facade that depicted those being declared "blessed." The group was made up of three priests, two religious sisters and a religious brother.

### Los Angeles cardinal cleared of abuse allegation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A police investigation has cleared Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of an allegation that he molested a teen-age girl in 1969 in Fresno, Calif. When the claim surfaced in March, the cardinal asked for an immediate thorough investigation by church and law enforcement authorities and categorically denied that he had ever sexually abused anyone. His accuser, a 51-year-old Fresno woman with a history of mental illness, claimed that when she was a student at San Joaquin Memorial High School in Fresno, she was knocked unconscious in a fight at school. She alleged that when she awoke, her bottom garment was gone and then-Msgr. Mahony was standing over her. She told reporters she was seeking compensation to cover her psychiatric bills.She also has accused fellow students, family members and co-workers of molesting her. Fresno police officer Dwayne Johnson said April 11 that police interviewed former students and staff at the school and found nothing to substantiate the allegation against the cardinal. He said Cardinal Mahony cooperated fully in the investigation.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Image of Argentine nun hangs at St. Peter's**

**The image of Sister Maria del Transito de Jesus Sacramentado hangs from St. Peter's Basilica April 14. The Argentine nun founded the Congregation of the Tertiary Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Argentina. She was one of six people beatified by Pope John Paul II.**

### Pope to skip annual mountain vacation due to full travel schedule

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will skip his customary vacation in the Italian mountains this summer because his traveling schedule is already full, Vatican sources said. Normally the pope spends about 10 days in the northern Italian alps in mid-July. He used to spend much of his Italian vacation hiking, but in recent years he has taken drives instead. This year, the pontiff, who turns 82 in May, plans to travel to Toronto for World Youth Day ceremonies, then to Guatemala and Mexico. The July 23-Aug. 1 trip is expected to begin with a rest and relaxation stop of three days at a yet-undisclosed location outside Toronto. The pope also has been invited to his native Poland this summer, and Vatican sources said he was likely to travel there in mid-August. The trip probably would include a stop in the Tatra mountains, where the pope hiked as a young man.

### Queen Mother prepared to die by living Christian life, cardinal says

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — Queen Mother Elizabeth prepared for death by living a "good and generous Christian life," said Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Westminster. The Queen Mother's April 9 funeral in Westminster Abbey, London, followed a five-day period of lying in state when an estimated 200,000 people passed her coffin. The funeral attended by the British royal family and royal families from across Europe, was also attended by British senior political figures.

### Byron White remembered for voice against abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Retired Supreme Court Justice Byron White, a football hero turned jurist who died April 15, was remembered for dissenting from some of the most controversial court rulings of his time, including the Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion. White, 84, died of complications of pneumonia at his home in Denver. He had retired from the court in 1993 after serving 31 years, a term stretching from his appointment by President John F. Kennedy to the first months of the Clinton presidency. One of his more famous dissents at the Supreme Court was in the 1973 Roe case. He wrote that "the court apparently values the convenience of the pregnant mother more than the continued existence and development of the life or potential life which she carries. ... I find no constitutional warrant for imposing such an order of priorities on the people and legislatures of the states." White said the majority opinion was "an improvident and extravagant exercise of the power of judicial rule."

### Italian archbishop enthusiastic about restoring Baltimore basilica

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Italian Archbishop Francesco Marchisano can wax poetic about the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore. The archbishop, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Goods of the Church, visited the basilica 30 years ago and is an enthusiastic supporter of efforts to restore in it time for its 200th anniversary in 2005. "It has immense historical importance," said the archbishop, whose primary task is to encourage the preservation and appreciation of church art and historic buildings.

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# Volunteers find new purpose in Belmont

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

BELMONT — Andy and Mary Jane Wisniewski are natives of Chicago. Jo Renn hails from Albuquerque, N.M. The chances of them even meeting were slim until they decided to join Mercy Volunteer Corps and found themselves sharing a home in Belmont. The Wisniewskis spend their days assisting at Holy Angels. Renn has become a relished fixture at Catherine's House.

The Wisniewskis had lived in the same home for 40 years, raising six children and participating in church activities. Their family grew to include nine grandchildren, and as Andy Wisniewski's retirement date drew near, they saw an ad in their church bulletin about Mercy Volunteer Corps and sent for information.

Mercy Volunteer Corps is a program of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas that invites women and men to service with people in the United States and Guyana, South America. Volunteers commit to compassionate service, a simple lifestyle in the community and spiritual growth for a period of one year in the United States and two years for international programs.

Placement opportunities range from working with: people with HIV/AIDS; children and adolescents; elderly persons; homeless people; physically and mentally challenged people; teenage mothers; and people in both urban and rural settings, from large cities to Native American reservations and migrant communities. The Mercy Volunteer Corps staff and the potential volunteers work together to achieve the ideal placement.

"Our goal was to live in community and develop our own spiritual lives as well as be of service," said Mary Jane Wisniewski. "For years, we kept hearing in the Gospels the idea of being of service. Now we were able to see it as a full-time possibility."

The Wisniewskis sold their home, stored their furniture and, following a week's orientation period in Philadelphia, headed to Holy Angels — which provides innovative services and programs for children and adults with mental retardation and other disabilities — in Belmont.

Mercy Volunteers receive a small stipend, orientation and retreat opportunities, transportation to and from the site of service, the opportunity to live within a prayerful community, medical insurance, AmeriCorps Education Awards and school loan forbearance, as well as professional and personal growth.

The Wisniewskis readily adapted to the Belmont community, enjoying the pluses of a small town — walking to Holy Angels and strolling and attending movies in the park. They seized upon the spiritual benefits of Belmont Abbey College and its lovely campus.



Photo by Mary Marshall

**Mary Jane Wisniewski, a member of the Mercy Volunteer Corps, takes care of a young Holy Angels resident named Savannah. She and her husband Andy moved from Chicago to Belmont to work for the Mercy Volunteer Corps, a program of the Sister of Mercy of the Americas that invites women and men to service with people in the United States and Guyana, South America.**

Andy Wisniewski's Holy Angels volunteer job is two-fold. He assists in the greenhouse with horticultural therapist Will Berry, who taught him how to work with the residents. Wisniewski learned who can handle tools and who participates by feeling and smelling. "It's delightful to see the excitement in their eyes as they arrive at the greenhouse," said Wisniewski. "I also spend part of my day working with the residents in the classrooms where I have established a special bond with several of them."

Mary Jane cares for the residents with motherly instincts. She provides daily hygiene needs and works one-on-one with several residents within the classroom setting. She works to achieve goals set up by the professional staff, documenting what she has done and the residents' response to her interaction methods.

About this same time, Renn, who has four children and four grandchildren, wanted a new experience in a different part of the country. A retired nurse, she had traveled and did volunteer work in Central America where she met the Sisters of Mercy — she worked in their soup kitchen and clinic. Returning home, she felt antsy. Turning to the Sisters of Mercy for guidance in her volunteer journey, she became interested in Catherine's House, a dwelling for homeless women and their children in Belmont.

Soon she was bound for Belmont, staying at the Mercy Corps home with the Wisniewskis and assigned to office help at Catherine's House. But there was just one hitch — she knew very little about office work. But she loved to organize, clean and pull things together. She soon found her niche, which included accepting and organizing donations, inspecting residents' housekeeping chores, assisting with empowerment classes and coordinating volunteers. Renn offers a pleasant greeting to a resident, a shoulder to cry upon and often serves as a good listener. She helps plant flowers, has led a children's cooking class and is currently busy organizing a picnic for the many student volunteers.

"This is very satisfying for me," said Renn. "I wondered how I would be able to help. I remembered that God doesn't ask our ability or inability, just our availability.

"It's gratifying for me to know that I am offering a part of myself to help a homeless woman or child move on to a better way of life. This has also been a spiritual journey for me," she said. "I've learned to communicate and love my brothers and sisters whose position in life is different than mine. We pray spontaneously here — perhaps with a woman on her way to a job interview or as one prepares for a test. This experience has brought me internal peace."

Renn loves the small city atmosphere of Belmont with all its trees. She enjoys walking home each day and meeting local people. She and the Wisniewskis prepare meals together and share the highlights of their days, culmulating the evening with prayer.

The three Mercy Volunteers have experienced spiritual growth through interacting with residents at Holy Angels and Catherine's House and at retreats. The volunteers have found they are not the same people as when first they arrived.

For the Wisniewskis, the spirit of the staff who are so faithful and nurturing will stay with them when they leave, as will their motto of "loving, living and learning."


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# SPECTRUM, from page 1

the CMR surveys which aren't scientifically random, but "representative" demographic samples of churches, Dr. Cobble explains.

Since 1993, on average about 1 percent of the surveyed churches reported abuse allegations annually. That means on average, about 3,500 allegations annually, or nearly 70 per among the predominantly Protestant group, Cobble says.

The CMR findings also reveal:

• Most church child-sexual-abuse cases involve a single victim.

• Law suits or out-of-court settlements were a result in 21 percent of the allegations reported in the 2000 survey.

• Volunteers are more likely than clergy or paid staff to be abusers. Perhaps more startling, children at churches are accused of sexual abuse as often as are clergy and staff. In 1999, for example, 42 percent of alleged child abusers were volunteers - about 25 percent were paid staff members (including clergy) and 25 percent were other children.

Still, it is the reduction of reported allegations over nine years that seems to indicate that some churches are learning how to slow abuse allegations with tough new prevention measures, say insurance company officials and church officials themselves.

The peak year for allegations was 1994, with 3 percent of churches reporting an allegation of sexual misconduct compared with just 0.1 percent in 2000. But 2001 data, indicates a swing back to the 1 percent level, still significantly less than the 1993 figures, Cobble says.

Child sexual-abuse insurance claims have slowed, too, industry sources say.

Hugh White, vice president of marketing for Brotherhood Mutual Insurance, in Ft. Wayne, Ind., suggests that the amount of abuse reported in the CMR 2001 data is reasonable though "at the higher end" of the scale.

Mr. White's company insures 30,000 churches — about 0.2 percent to 0.3 percent of which annually report an "incident" of child sexual abuse. But he says that his churches are more highly educated on child abuse prevention procedures than most, which may account for a lower rate of reported abuse than the CMR surveys.

What all the data show is a settling that followed "a large spike" in the frequency and severity of church sexual misconduct claims from the mid-1980s, White says.

"Church insurance carriers implemented educational programs and policies that have helped decrease and then stabilize the trend," agrees Jan Beckstrom, chief operating officer for the church insurer GuideOne Insurance in West Des Moines, Iowa.

CMR surveys also show many smaller churches have lagged in starting such programs, while larger churches with more resources and management controls have led the way. And for good reason: They have more to lose, and a larger abuse problem.

"I don't know of a church that isn't doing this," says Simeon May, of the Richardson, Tex.-based National Association of Church Business Administration, which gives training for large churches with administrators.

At Grace Community Church in Tempe, Ariz., the executive pastor, Gary Maitha, says his church has adopted a tougher sort of love since 2000. That's when criminal background checks, finger printing, detailed questionnaires, and careful policies — such as never having children and adults "one-on-one" — kicked into gear. It's a necessity with 700 to 800 children showing up for Sunday School and many more for other church activities during the week, he says.

"We have fingerprinting and a criminal background check for anyone over age 18 that works with children," says the Rev. Maitha. "If it comes back with a blemish, they're not working with kids. That's all there is to it."

Debby DeBernardi, director of Grace Community's children's ministry, says church policies require, for instance, that adults go in pairs when supervising bathroom breaks for children and that they check to ensure no adults are in the bathrooms, before children enter.

### Fingerprints for Sunday school

Men who've been screened and fingerprinted may work in the nursery. But only female staff members — not volunteers — may change diapers. Only adults wearing an identity badge that indicates they've been cleared may work with children — and photo IDs are coming soon. Some long-time volunteers, offended by all the new policies, have bowed out of children's activities.

But the new procedures have already proven their worth, Ms. DeBernardi says. "We did have someone already apply who had a police file and had been accused of child molestation. Because of our new procedures, we caught it.... Sometimes you have to bring people in and say, 'Look, you're welcome to come to the church, we love you. But you may not minister in the children's area.'"

That sort of toughness is swiftly becoming a prerequisite for insurance coverage, and to protect against lawsuits and false allegations, which can be nearly as demoralizing to a church organization.

The problem, Cobble says, is that churches are the perfect environment for sexual predators, because they have large numbers of children's' programs, a shortage of workers to lead them, and a culture of trust that is the essence of the organization.

Churches have been active since the early 1990s in addressing the problem, Cobble reports. More than 100,000 copies of a book he co-authored, "Reducing the risk of Child Sexual Abuse in Your Church" were sold.

Since January, when Roman Catholic dioceses nationwide began drawing headlines over pedophile priests, some church organizations have focused anew on revamping sexual abuse policies.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, for instance, is reportedly drafting a new sexual-abuse policy.

Ralph Colas, of the American Council of Christian Churches, a Bethlehem, Penn. organization representing fundamentalist denominations, reports fresh activity. "I've helped several churches this last week draw up some guideline policies," he says. "I've encouraged churches to secure legal advice, to make sure they are meeting the legal mandatory reporting requirements."

### Fear of lawsuits sparked new rules

But the shift to "trust but verify" — impelled to a degree by current headlines — has been ongoing since a conference in Chicago in November 1992 when more than 100 denominational leaders met for the first time to discuss how to deal with child sex abuse. About that time, insurance companies were dropping coverage of churches without screening policies.

"What drove leaders to begin to respond to this issue was not the welfare of children," Cobble says. "It was fear of large, costly lawsuits."

*Mark Clayton is a staff writer for The Christian Science Monitor. This article was reprinted with permission by The Christian Science Monitor.*


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# More allegations of misconduct reported in diocese

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Over the course of six days, the Diocese of Charlotte learned of four cases of misconduct, turning all allegations over to civil authorities.

"Our policy is to completely inform and cooperate with civil authorities," said Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor. "While we truthfully respond to reasonable inquiries from parishioners and the media, we respect the rights and privacy of those involved."

In March, Bishop William G. Curlin reiterated and clarified the diocesan policy of zero tolerance for child sex abuse. All allegations of sexual misconduct are turned over to civil authorities. The policy is applicable to all clergy, religious, and laity who work in any capacity, whether staff or volunteers in the Diocese of Charlotte. "The most recent allegations within our diocese leave me saddened beyond belief," said Bishop Curlin.

On April 10, the diocese reported two allegations of sexual misconduct to civil authorities. Both allegations concerned events that allegedly occurred more than 25 years ago within the Diocese of Charlotte, one in 1973, the other in 1957.

On April 13, the diocese was notified by the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales that an allegation of inappropriate behavior was filed against Father James O'Neill, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle in Greensboro. Father O'Neill was removed of his responsibilities of pastor of the Triad parish. The allegation occurred years ago, before Father O'Neill came to North Carolina. Father O'Neill has been pastor of St. Paul the Apostle for 11 years.

During weekend masses at St. Paul the Apostle, Oblate Provential Father Joseph Morrissy informed parishioners at the close of each of the weekend masses. "I ask you as members of the parish community to hold all of us in prayer, particularly Father Jim's accuser and Father Jim himself. Every believer is touched by these most tragic events."

During the interim, Oblate Father Thomas Morrissy will assume responsibility as temporary administrator for St. Paul the Apostle effective April 19. Father Morrissy served St. Paul the Apostle from 1991 to 1994 as parochial vicar.

Allegations arose on April 15, with an allegation filed against a priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, a priest currently serving outside the diocese. The priest was employed by a Catholic organization, not a parish. He has been removed from his position, and his priestly faculties were removed. The allegations against the priest took place more than 15 years ago, in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Each time I hear of allegations of child sexual abuse anywhere in the country, I am heartsick and turn to God in prayer," said Bishop Curlin. "I pray for the victims of these horrific crimes that they may begin the healing process and once again learn to trust. I pray for the accusers that the truth will come out and justice prevail. The path to truth is often heartbreaking and painful, but I am confident that the God of justice, truth and mercy will accompany us on the journey."

# U.S. church leadership to meet in Rome on clergy sex abuse crisis

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The clergy sex abuse crisis in the U.S. Catholic Church took a new turn April 15 as it was revealed that the Vatican scheduled a Rome summit on the issue with U.S. cardinals and top officers of the bishops' conference.

They were to be in Rome April 22-25 to meet with Pope John Paul II and top Vatican officials.

The summit was called as Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston faced new calls to resign because of a loss of trust over his past reassignment of priests accused of sexual abuse of minors.

In a faxed letter to all his priests April 12, Cardinal Law said he did not intend to resign, but many observers did not take the letter as a final word on the topic. The Boston Globe, the city's leading daily, issued a second editorial call for the cardinal's resignation April 14.

Meanwhile, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, told Catholic New Service at the end of a week of meetings in Rome that the pope "assured us of his willingness and desire to assist us in any way we find necessary."

He said that at a working lunch April 9 the pope was especially concerned with the spirit of U.S. Catholics in the face of the scandals, which have rocked the Boston Archdiocese and much of the nation for the past three months.

Interviewed in Rome April 13, Bishop Gregory said one of the key policy issues the U.S. bishops have yet to resolve is the question of reassignment of priests who have committed sexual abuse. The bishops "are not all on the same page" on that issue, he said, but he suspected there was growing sentiment toward permanently removing such priests from all forms of public ministry.

In a brief exchange two days later with CNS in Washington, he confirmed that the then-not-yet-announced summit in Rome was being called to address the issue of clergy sexual abuse.

The steady spread of the scandal beyond the Boston area continued in the first half of April. More bishops removed priests from posts while reassessing past sex abuse allegations against them. More prosecutors began asking dioceses for their records of past allegations. And hundreds of individuals came forward with new allegations that they had been sexually abused by a priest as a child.

In California, Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony was cleared by police of an allegation by a woman with a history of mental illness that the cardinal may have molested her more than 30 years ago when she was in high school in Fresno. The claim about an alleged incident at the school was vague and police said interviews with former staff and students produced nothing to substantiate it. Cardinal Mahony denied ever molesting anyone.

New York Cardinal Edward M. Egan, former bishop of Bridgeport, Conn., came under new fire in mid-April over his handling of abuse cases during his time in Bridgeport in the 1990s. As Connecticut newspapers investigated details of those cases, they contended the cardinal protected priests and did not pursue allegations as vigorously as he should have.

In response to one news report, Bridgeport and New York church officials issued a joint statement denying that the cardinal had known that a teen-age girl impregnated by a priest was a still a minor under the state's statutory rape law when the sexual relationship began. In an April 14 editorial the Connecticut Post, Bridgeport daily, said Cardinal Egan should resign.

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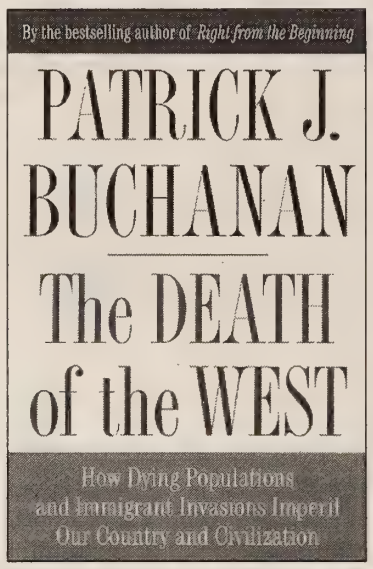
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**Book Review**

# Book reviews Buchanan's migrant views

REVIEWED BY JOHN H. CARROLL
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Political pundit and former presidential candidate Patrick J. Buchanan once again has entered the booklists to joust in the ongoing cultural struggle for the soul of America. His political theories and beliefs are proclaimed anew in his latest book, "The Death of the West," along with dire warnings of drastic and unsettling ethnic changes in Western Europe and the United States.




Most readers may agree in principle with the author's stand against abortion, euthanasia, the decline of traditional Judeo-Christian morality and the erosion of family values and traditional patriotism. Of course there are questions about the causes of this malaise. Buchanan contends that it is as a result of a "catechism of revolution" propagated by European Marxist thinkers in American academic and cultural circles. Still, it is possible that the prosperous middle-class lifestyle now enjoyed by many Americans may have contributed to the decline of traditional standards as well.

Buchanan also is upset about what he describes in two chapters as "The War Against the Past" and "DE-Christianizing America." He contends that these developments have caused what he believes is the decline of an "intimidated majority" that is making the United States into "a house divided." The author regrets that America and the rest of the world have changed since "The Greatest Generation" came home after World War II. Still, time marches on and conditions change.

However, Buchanan's main thrust deals with the declining birthrates in Western Europe and among Euro-Americans. He predicts that the large-scale new immigration by Muslims into Europe from the Near East and Africa may result in more ethnic disruptions such as those that occurred between South Asians and local whites in the north of England within the past year. The author fears for the future of Europe and its ancient culture.

In a chapter entitled "La Reconquista," Buchanan expresses similar concern for the future of the United States in view of the large Latino — especially Mexican — immigration into the country. He states that "Mexicans not only come from another culture, but millions are of another race. History and experience teach us that different races are far more difficult to assimilate." He fears that the emerging Mexican majority in the Southwest may view their potential political power as the reconquest of the area, perhaps a form of Santa Anna's revenge.

Still it is possible that if the church is able to maintain the allegiance of the Latino immigrants, it may gradually integrate them into American society as it did with earlier ethnic Catholic groups. Perhaps the author should attend an occasional Spanish Mass.

In the early part of the 20th century, Madison Grant of the New York Zoological Society and American Geographical Society wrote "The Passing of the Great Race." He expressed concern about the influx of Asians, Eastern Europeans — both Jews and Slavs — Irish, Italians, Mexicans and Negroes into the United States. He concluded that as a result of immigration "the type of native American of colonial descent will become as extinct as the Athenian of the Age of Pericles and the Viking of the days of Rollo." So, we have heard Buchanan's lament in the past and yet the nation survived two world wars, the Great Depression and the civil rights struggles despite difficulties. No one denies the author's devotion to American ideals and aspirations and his efforts to debate national issues, but the future may not be as bleak as he predicts.

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings:*
*April 21, 2002*
**Cycle A Readings:**
April 21, Fourth Sunday of Easter
1) Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 23:1-6
2) 1 Peter 2:20b-25
3) Gospel: John 10:1-10

BY BEVERLY CORZINR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Not a day goes by without a news story describing the importance of the Internet or condemning its seamy side. Pitchmen, entrepreneurs and educators urge us to use it for researching everything from automobiles to homework assignments. With the Internet we can find the shortest route to our friend's new home, take a virtual tour of Canterbury Cathedral in the UK or watch events unfold on the other side of the world. Like it or not, using the information superhighway has become part of daily life for a great many of us.

One evening a few days ago, our daughter Lynn called to share a Web site she had located while doing research for her class in intensive Greek. "Mom, I'm sending you the most interesting Web site. You can view early Christian art and burial sites in the catacombs in Italy. Go look at it."

At the click of a mouse, I spent hours visiting the catacombs. I read inscriptions left by ancient Christians and viewed their artwork as well as their final resting places. Reading about the brutality and uncertainty of that world of long ago, I was reminded that one of the earliest images of Jesus these early Christians held sacred and often illustrated in their art was that of the shepherd, carrying a helpless sheep on his shoulders.

When I finished my virtual tour, I pondered the faith of our ancient sisters and brothers, and sensed the vibrant love they had for Jesus. This love gave them the courage to witness to their belief in the risen Lord, often at the risk of an excruciating death.

In the Gospel reading for this fifth week of the Easter season, Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd. He does not tell his listeners a story about stupid sheep, rather, he tells a story about sheep who recognize their master's voice and are not deceived, even though strange voices may call them. The shepherd Jesus reveals leads his sheep to a safe, more abundant existence. The artisans of the ancient Christian burial sites testify to us about their faith even though the Roman world they knew vanished long ago. The sayings of Jesus they held as dear as life itself continue to inspire us to live our faith and to discern the call of the Good Shepherd.

**Questions:**

*Does the image of being carried and rescued have special meaning for you as you seek to follow Jesus? Is it an image you can use to communicate his love to someone you know who needs a gentle lift?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of April 21 - April 27**

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Easter),** Acts 2:14, 36-41, 1 Peter 2:20-25, John 10:1-10; **Monday,** Acts 11:1-8, John 10:11-18; **Tuesday,** Acts 11:19-26, John 10:22-30; **Wednesday,** Acts 12:24—13:5, John 12:44-50; **Thursday (St. Mark),** 1 Peter 5:5-14, Mark 16:15-20; **Friday,** Acts 13:26-33, John 14:1-6; **Saturday,** Acts 13:44-52, John 14:7-14

**Scripture for the week of April 28 - May 4**

**Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Easter),** Acts 6:1-7, 1 Peter 2:4-9, John 14:1-12; **Monday (St. Catherine of Siena),** Acts 14:5-18, John 14:21-26; **Tuesday (St. Pius V),** Acts 14:19-28, John 14:27-31; **Wednesday (St. Joseph the Worker),** Genesis 1:26—2:3, Matthew 13:54-58; **Thursday (St. Athanasius),** Acts 15:7-21, John 15:9-11; **Friday (Sts. Philip and James),** 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6-14; **Saturday,** Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21

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**Movie Review**

# "Changing Lanes"

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — For the first 15 minutes or so of the tense drama "Changing Lanes" (Paramount), director Roger Michell traps the audience in a claustrophobic, anxiety-ridden situation as a chance encounter between two men sets off a terrifying retaliation game. And while the pressure eases a bit as the film unfolds and the moviegoer adjusts, the intensity of the vicious tit-for-tat does not.

Michell has constructed an uneasy morality tale that provokes reflection on corporate ethics, individual responsibility and self-destructive behavior. The day starts off pretty well for young hotshot lawyer Gavin Banek (Ben Affleck), a partner at the Wall Street law firm established by his father-in-law, Delano (Sydney Pollack). He has the simple task of handling a probate case involving late millionaire Simon Dunne which is being disputed by Dunne's granddaughter (Jennifer Dundas Lowe).

Late for court and stuck in traffic, Banek maneuvers his car into another lane just as Doyle Gipson (Samuel L. Jackson) does the same, causing an accident. Gipson, also rushing to court, is a divorced father and recovering alcoholic whose ex-wife (Kim Staunton) is planning on moving with their two sons to Oregon. Gipson's right to see his children rests on the decision of a surly judge with a full docket and no patience for tardiness.

Neither man has time to waste, but Gipson wants to "do the right thing" and rejects Banek's offer of a blank check for any damages. Unwittingly he tips the first domino in a long series of retaliation tactics that each man puts into effect. In his hurry to make it to court, Banek drops the one crucial file he needs to prove his case. Gipson picks it up, but arrives late for court and the judge refuses to hear his case or consider the fact that he's about to purchase a home for his ex-wife and kids to stay in New York.

Matters escalate when, in response to an obnoxious fax from Gipson, Banek, desperate to retrieve his file, hires a computer hacker (Dylan Baker) to fool with Gipson's credit line and bankrupt him, making it impossible to close on the house. (In the 21st century, the enforcer uses his brain — not his brawn.) Each time the story turns another corner, the layers of deception, fraud and despicable behavior increases. But it's also a trip in self-realization. Banek discovers his father-in-law and his law firm are not models of decency, and admits to his deceptive part in convincing an ailing Dunne to sign a power of attorney that was never on the up-and-up.

Backed into a corner, the men realize they need something from each other. Both are flawed individuals, which results in a complex, intriguing drama that refuses to make things easy by choosing an obvious good or bad guy. Alcoholism is not the worst of Gipson's problems, his self-destructive nature is. In his meteoric rise to the top, Banek has traded in his scruples for power, money and pleasure. At various points, it seems that one or the other will relent, stop this twisted game and act like a civilized human being. Instead, the barbaric behavior continues until the story slowly unwinds and stops.

The film's religious overtones are readily felt — it's Good Friday; at the end of his rope, Banek, although not a Catholic, finds himself in a confessional searching for the meaning of life; and crucifixes, pictures of Jesus and rosary beads sporadically show up in the background. But their purpose is ambiguous. Neither man explicitly turns to God, yet each man has a sense that faith, values and a guiding force are missing in their lives.

The ending is a tad too sunny to match the preceding events. But after being put through the wringer, the viewer leaves feeling hopeful that doing the right thing is its own reward. Compromise and redemption are worth the price, and vengeance belongs to God alone.

Because of brief violence, much menace and intermittent rough language with some profanity, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

*Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*



CNS photo from Excel Entertainment

**Scene from movie 'The Other Side of Heaven'**
**Christopher Gorham stars as Mormon missionary John Groberg in a scene from the film "The Other Side of Heaven." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

# Movie Capsules

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

**"Frailty" (Lions Gate)**

Twisted tale set in 1979 about a widowed father (Bill Paxton) who believes he has been sent by God to destroy demons and enlists the help of his two young sons (Matt O'Leary and Jeremy Sumpter) to murder people he senses are wicked. Told mainly in flashbacks by the adult older son (Matthew McConaughey), the story of a disturbed father and a family poisoned by the evil it supposedly rejects is deftly woven together by director Paxton, although narrative holes and a jumbled ending diminish the overall impact. Intermittent violence including a suicide and some rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Human Nature" (Fine Line)**

Bizarre story in which a woman with excess body hair (Patricia Arquette) and her boyfriend, a behavioral scientist (Tim Robbins) who teaches mice table manners, capture a feral man (Rhys Ifans) living in the wild and attempt to civilize him. With the premise that humans are propelled by their sex drive and society's role is to control it, first-time director Michel Gondry's eccentric romantic comedy has a few laughs, but mostly leaves the zany characters spinning their wheels as the film drags on. Several sexual situations, recurring frontal nudity and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"New Best Friend" (TriStar)**

Dreadful drama set on a Southern college campus where the local sheriff (Taye Diggs) investigates whether a shy, bookish student (Mia Kirshner) lying in the hospital accidentally overdosed on drugs or was the victim of attempted murder by her popular new friend (Meredith Monroe). Muddled when it isn't predictable, director Zoe Clarke-Williams' awful film is embarrassing with caricatured characters and an amateurish narrative that plods along interminably. Several gratuitous sexual situations including same-sex kissing, some nudity, sporadic drug use and intermittent rough language with brief profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"The Other Side of Heaven" (Excel Entertainment)**

Earnest portrayal of a young Mormon missionary (Christopher Gorham) from Idaho who crosses the ocean to the exotic island of Tonga during the 1950s, leaving behind his family and true love (Anne Hathaway) to preach the word of God. Based on a true story, the film is very likeable with top-notch special effects, but first-time writer-director Mitch Davis falters with overpowering music and melodramatic moments. A few scenes may be too intense for the very young. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

**"The Sweetest Thing" (Columbia)**

Trashy comedy about a sassy young woman (Cameron Diaz) who can have any guy she wants, but when the right one (Thomas Jane) gets away, she and her best friend (Christina Applegate) set out to find him. As directed by Roger Kumble, stale writing doused with vulgar expressions make up the painfully stupid plot, which is simply an excuse for the female leads to parade around in their underwear. Benign view of promiscuity, several explicit sexual situations and many gross references, partial nudity and recurring rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"High Crimes" (20th Century Fox)**

Disappointing courtroom drama in which an ex-Marine (Jim Caviezel) stands accused of murdering civilians in El Salvador while his attorney wife (Ashley Judd) and a disgraced former Marine (Morgan Freeman) dig to unearth a cover-up that could prove the accused's innocence. Although sleekly directed by Carl Franklin, the suspense falters amid cliches in the final half-hour. Intermittent violence and a brief sexual situation. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

MOVIE REVIEW LINE 1-800-311-4CCC
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN



# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## In times of trial, trust in God's consolation

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Even when believers face times of trial, they can joyfully trust in God's consolation, Pope John Paul II said.

Speaking at his weekly general audience April 17, the pope underscored his point with a hymn from the Book of Isaiah, in which the author links a past period of trial to his own sinfulness.

"The person singing is a person who has a bitter experience behind him, felt as an act of divine justice," the pope told pilgrims in St. Peter's Square.

"But now the trial has ended. The purification has come to pass. The Lord's anger is replaced with a smile (and) the availability to save and console," he said.

The pope said the salvation offered by God was able to produce "joy and trust even in the dark day of trial."

He noted that God's salvation often was described in the Bible using the symbolism of water.

"Unfortunately, too often humanity abandons this spring, which quenches the thirst of the person's whole being," he said.

At the end of the audience, the pope greeted Vietnamese priests who were about to return to their country after studies in Europe.

"Dear priests, tell your brothers and sisters in the faith that I pray for them every day; I pray for the peace and progress of the whole nation," said the pope, speaking in English.

### Text Audience

By Catholic News Service

*VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience April 17.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

From the prophet Isaiah, we have a hymn which first looks back upon a bitter experience which the people saw as God's judgment. In the end, however, the hymn praises God, whose anger passes and whose love lasts forever. The prophet uses the image of water to describe God's action: "You will drink joyfully from the springs of salvation." These are the springs of God's love, the waters of new life. Yet at times we prefer the waters of death; and then we condemn ourselves to sorrow. The Book of Isaiah speaks of a king through whom salvation comes. For Christians, Jesus is the royal figure in whom we find the fullness of God's saving grace. With the words of the prophet, we profess our faith in Christ our king, and we proclaim to the world the salvation which is in him.

I warmly welcome the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially the priests from Vietnam who are returning to their country after studies in Europe. Dear priests: Tell your brothers and sisters in the faith that I pray for them every day; I pray for the peace and progress of the whole nation. Upon the pilgrims and visitors from England, Sweden, Denmark, Canada and the United States, I invoke the peace of the risen Christ. God bless you all!

# The Bottom Line



ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

### Remembering a thinker who so respected religion

Years ago, I read William James' "The Varieties of Religious Experience," when I was studying science. As a young Catholic at the time, I felt much confusion with the argument some tried to make that science was provable and religion was not because, it was said, religion was only an individual belief based on need. Religion, it was claimed, would soon be dumped into the wastebasket as science took over to answer all life's questions.

No wonder I took some comfort in reading James, who was a scientist, a psychologist and a philosopher. I pulled out quotes from his writings, and became a fan of his for such statements as:

"Our science is a drop, our ignorance a sea. Whatever else be certain, this at least is certain — that the world of our present natural knowledge is enveloped in a larger world of some sort of whose residual properties we at present can frame no positive ideal. Remember that the whole point lies in really believing that through a certain point or part in you, you coalesce and are identical with the Eternal."

I hadn't thought of James or his writings for a long time, and then I received a mailing. This year is the 100th anniversary of the appearance of "The Varieties of Religious Experience," originally delivered as the "Gifford Lectures" at the University of Edinburgh. Commemorating this, a special program on James was to be held at Columbia University in New York, part of the John Templeton Foundation Research Lectures on the Constructive Engagement of Science and Religion.

Still fascinated by the science/religion debate, I registered.

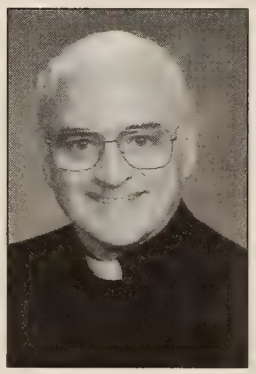
It seemed wise to reread "The Varieties," and I did, now gaining insights not possible to me in my late teens. Unquestionably, there was, as the first speaker, Professor David A. Hollinger of the University of California at Berkeley, noted, "great tension at the center of James' life," caught between his Protestantism and the demands of modern science. I could feel his struggle in discerning the questions that relied on scientific evidence for answers and those that fell within the sphere of faith.

James' lectures were full of stories in which people related extraordinary experiences of how they were literally catapulted into the realm of the Eternal and became believers in God. I wondered why these stories so fascinated him, and I concluded that James must have been engaged in a very personal struggle for belief. I felt he could have been one to say: "I believe, Lord. Help my unbelief."

I went to the lectures, which have been called "dated," actually wondering what I was looking for. Now I know. William James exposed what is basic in all of us, the need to believe that there is an unseen eternal order in this word.

In his time people were "worried about the fate of religion in the face of emerging science," as Columbia Professor Wayne Proudfoot expressed it. James, acknowledging his own struggle with belief, still wanted a better answer to how "human beings get through life without being overwhelmed by despair," said Stanford Professor Richard Rorty, adding, "We need a vocabulary which gives our life promise."

I think James was searching for that vocabulary and found it in a word, "God." This became for him, as Proudfoot put it, "a license for hope." A century from now, I suspect people still will be reading James, connecting with his belief and unbelief, and his search for the truth of an incredible "promise."



# Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

### Biblical fundamentalism

Fundamentalists ignore the historical understanding of Scripture and run the risk of appearing to be insincere because of their inconsistency.

By insisting on the literal interpretation of the sacred texts, they put themselves in the position of accepting absurdities. How many actually believe that Herod had a tail and four legs? They know that Jesus wasn't speaking literally when he called Herod a fox.

How many of them actually believe that Jesus demands self-mutilation of his followers? Jesus tells us it is better to cut off our right hand if it offends, but we all know he wasn't speaking literally.

Biblical fundamentalists only insist on the literal interpretation of Scripture when it suits them. When it does, however, some come on like gangbusters, making all kinds of false accusations. For instance, some say that Catholics are not saved because they are not "born again."

Apart from the audacity of presuming to limit the mercy of God, they ignore the fact that all Catholics must be baptized. Later in their teen years, Catholics are also asked to make a formal commitment to Jesus as the Lord of their lives. This is done in the sacrament of confirmation.

Some also falsely accuse Catholics of thinking that they are saved by acts alone. This is pure nonsense! Catholics never have been taught that actions alone will save them. Quite the contrary, they know very well that faith in Jesus saves, but he wants more than lip service from his followers. "Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do what my Father in heaven wants you to do?" (Mt 7:21)

In a world filled with suffering and injustice, Jesus commands us to act on our love. Fundamentalist Christians may strangely turn a deaf ear to the social Gospel; some even scorn it. This is a shame because Jesus was so definite on this point: "Woe to you for when I was hungry you did not give me to eat.... I tell you solemnly, insofar as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.... Go away to eternal punishment" (Mt 25:46)

I fear for the salvation of those who accept Jesus as Lord, but who refuse him obedience.

Fundamentalists like to jar Catholics with self-serving questions like this one: "Where in the Bible does it say there is a purgatory?" This loaded question implies that Catholics make things up that are not in the Bible. Nonsense!

The concept of purgatory goes back to the Hebrew Bible (2 Macc 12:46): "The just judges begged prayerfully that the sins of those who had fallen might be fully blotted out. For if we had not expected the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead, whereas in fact it is ... holy and devout." Why would it be holy to pray for the dead if they are already in heaven or in hell?

Do not be disarmed by the uncharitable tactics of fundamentalists. They may mean well, but they love to disrupt and dominate. They are misguided zealots.

Catholics who have abandoned the Eucharist for the cold bowl of lumpy porridge they serve up have been sorely deceived.

Pray that one day we will all "come to a knowledge of the truth and be saved."



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### The color of wonder

Back around the beginning of the year, a couple of astronomers at a well-known university made headlines by announcing that they had determined the color of the universe: a light turquoise.

Maybe because most of us had probably never thought about such a thing, or because the color itself was rather pleasing — bright yet peaceful, combining elements of sea and sky — but the idea intrigued a lot of people. Unfortunately, a couple of months later came the bad news: it wasn't true. The scientists and their computer program had combined to make a mistake.

The original survey of 200,000 galaxies, or large star systems, was actually designed to learn more about the history of star formation; the color question was just an afterthought based on the average color of all the light in all those galaxies. It was discovered that, in fact, the computer program skewed toward green. And the average color is now believed to be beige.

Beige is a letdown — a perfectly nice neutral color, but boring. Still, the whole incident has made me think about all the colors and textures and smells and all the everyday amazing wonders we tend to take for granted. Looking for some words on the subject, I found this prayer in an old Christopher News Note. It's worth sharing:

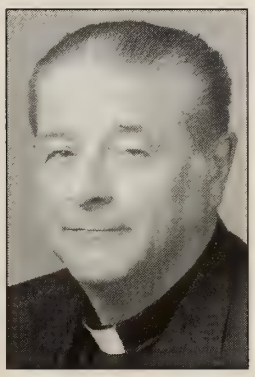
*God help me*
*to feel wonder —*
*in a leaf*
*in a ray of sun*
*in a snowfall.*
*To laugh and cry*
*with somebody else*
*or all by myself.*
*To let gaiety into my life*
*and to show someone else how.*
*To take a friend's hand*
*for no special reason.*
*To value the small things but to want to do great things.*
*To believe what your Son said about becoming like little children.*
*May I be at home in your Kingdom. Amen.*

Little children have the most incredible sense of wonder. Everything is new and fresh. We adults think that "been there, done that" shows our experience, even sophistication. But it's really a little sad. If we knew so much, wouldn't we be more overcome in awe of God's creation, not less?

So, this spring, when the much-needed rains come, look down at the muddy puddles and shining grass, then look up at the sullen sky. Eventually you will see a rainbow. Beautiful and fleeting, it's something that even the most jaded among us will stop to take notice. Think about God's words to Noah, "I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ... When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember." (Genesis 9:13,16)

Surely, there can be nothing boring about God's universe. Come to think of it, not even beige.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### How to return to the church

*Q. I have two friends who left the Catholic Church years ago — one because he became disillusioned with a priest, and the other just stopped attending Mass. Now they both want to return, but don't know how. Someone said they must go through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process, which doesn't make sense to me. Another said they must talk with a priest, make a good confession and that is all.*

*I'm sure other former Catholics would also like to know how to come back. (Maryland)*

A. You are right. Many Catholics have departed from the practice of their faith and sometime later wish to return, but are discouraged because they envision some complicated process to do so.

Most of us don't realize how hesitant and afraid Catholics can be who have been away, perhaps feel some guilt and frequently see themselves as somehow unworthy to be active in the church again.

Encouragement and support from people such as you is invaluable. I thank you for being interested in their struggle, and I hope other Catholics who have friends like this will follow your example.

The second person you refer to is basically correct. Theoretically, all one needs to do is return to the sacraments — penance and the Eucharist — and resume a prayer life and regular participation in the Mass.

In practice, however, most of the time something more is at least helpful, if not practically necessary. If one has been away for a number of years, for example, much may have happened in the intervening time that could be unfamiliar; they need to catch up.

Particularly, anyone who has not been to Mass for the past 30 years or so will have missed many changes in the liturgies of the Mass and sacraments that will confuse them if they're not prepared.

Perhaps most obviously, experiencing and trying to participate in the Mass in English will be puzzling unless someone helps them understand reasons for those changes, and how they enhance and enrich our Catholic worship.

Another factor in helping them return could be the reason they stopped living a Catholic life in the first place. A real or perceived injury suffered from a priest or other representative of the church, or just a serious misunderstanding, is the reason a huge number of Catholic people stay away, often for years. They need help in healing.

Whatever the reason, I believe it is well worthwhile for "former" Catholics to meet with a parish priest or other parish minister to explain what is necessary, and ease their return.

Of course, a priest will also be able to help such individuals deal appropriately with other possible factors — previous marriages, for example - that will necessarily be involved in renewing their practice of the Catholic faith.

# Coming of Age



AMY WELBORN
CNS COLUMNIST

### One more program for teens?

You know all about programs, right? Students tend to be subjected to quite a few of them.

—Programs to discourage smoking, drinking alcohol and doing drugs.

—Programs to raise awareness of how all kinds of different people live: people of various nationalities, ethnicities and handicaps.

—Programs about the importance of the church or school, or about parent-teen understanding.

Here's the latest program. It's for girls. It's a program to teach girls not to be so darn mean to each other.

There are several around the country, as described in a recent issue of the New York Times Magazine, with names like "Owning Up" and "Girls as Friends, Girls as Foes." In them, girls get together with facilitators, unpack their attitudes and actions toward one another, and try to change.

Maybe not such a bad idea.

After all, ask any girl. Ask any grown woman, in fact. Ask them what their most searing, long-lasting hurtful memory is. It probably involves the cruelty of a girl.

For me, it was eighth grade. It was 1973, and my very old-fashioned mother would not allow me to wear slacks or jeans to school. No way. I had to wear dresses and skirts.

You wouldn't think this would be a problem, but it was. Thirteen-year-old kids can be incredibly cruel to someone who's different. And in 1973, when everyone was wearing bell-bottom jeans and halter tops (this was a public school with no dress code), my plaid skirts and Peter Pan collars were definitely a problem for me. I still remember the problem's name and face: Lynn.

But never mind about all that. You have your own memories.

The question is, Why can girls be so mean to each other? With some research in mind, a lot of people are thinking this is a big enough problem to merit a program. Sounds good. But is it?

Here's the issue for you think about: There are lots of ways that we hurt each other — boys and girls, teens and parents, adults and kids. But do we really need any programs to tell us that what we're doing is wrong?

Do you?

I doubt it. I'm pretty sure that your conscience is sufficiently fine-tuned to know what's right and what's wrong, and you don't need discussion groups or role-playing to instruct you about that.

What you need, though, is maybe a little more strength of will; a bit more openness to God's grace so you can see the people you're tempted to hurt through his eyes; a little stronger commitment to Jesus so that it will be just a little easier to resist the crowd and treat others as he, not selfish other kids, would treat them.

When I was a teacher, we had to attend a program designed to help us work together better. See, adults have to endure programs, too! As we were leaving, another teacher said to me under her breath: "Why do we need this to teach us how to get along? I thought that's what the Gospel was for!"

There you go. We know what's right. Let's not be dependent on others to tell us that we need to fix the tensions in our friendships. Let's just turn to Jesus and let him take over.

Sounds like a good program, don't you think?

# Tips for parents on preventing, spotting child sexual abuse

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the estimated 100,000 reported cases of child sexual abuse each year believed to represent just the tip of the iceberg, parents may wonder how to protect their children and what potential trouble signs to look for.

Experts emphasize that most child sex abuse is perpetrated not by a shadowy stranger but by someone the child knows and often trusts — a relative, family friend, teacher, community leader or even a priest.

"It is important to remember that physical force is often not necessary to engage a child in sexual activity," says the American Psychological Association on its Web site. "Children are trusting and dependent and will often do what is asked of them to gain approval and love."

To counteract that too-trusting nature, parents need to give their children some basic sexual education, with the proper names for body parts and a message that no one should touch the "private" parts of their body, unless necessary to treat an illness or injury.

For younger children, the experts say, "private" body parts can be summed up as anything covered by a bathing suit.

Stop Child Abuse and Neglect, or SCAN, a program of the National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville, Ala., recommends teaching children to be wary both of strangers and of unusual behavior in the people they know.

"Teach them to listen to their feelings and that it is OK to say no if any adults (including family members) ask them to do something that makes them feel uncomfortable," the SCAN program says on its Web site.

Other basic safety rules also apply — like knowing your child's friends, using a buddy system when children walk home from school or other activities, teaching children to refuse anything from strangers and to not give strangers directions or help; and using secret codes with your children to screen out those who might falsely say they are sent by the parents.

"Teach your children about appropriate and inappropriate secrets and that some secrets have to be told if children and parents are to be kept safe," SCAN recommends.

But if the unthinkable occurs and a child is victimized by sexual abuse, how can a parent best respond and help the child to heal?

"When a child tells someone about sexual abuse, a supportive, caring response is the first step in getting help for the child and re-establishing their trust in adults," says a fact sheet from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. "The response to the disclosure of sexual abuse is critical to the child's ability to resolve and heal the trauma of sexual abuse."

Even when a child has only hinted at sexual abuse, the academy says, parents must show that they "take seriously what the child is saying" and assure the child that he or she has done the right thing in telling and is not to blame for the abuse.

If a child is not able to share his or her experiences, there are many behavioral and physical warning signs that might mean a child has been sexually abused. These include: nightmares, trouble sleeping or fear of the dark; loss of appetite or trouble eating or swallowing; sudden mood swings; fear of certain people or places; a continuing stomach illness with no identifiable reason; new words for private body parts; references to a new older friend or a "secret" the child has with an adult or older child; or simulated sexual activities with toys or other children.

Stop It Now!, a nonprofit organization in Haydenville, Mass., that works to end child sexual abuse by helping abusers and their victims, said any one of the warning signs does not necessarily mean a child has been abused, "but several of them mean that you should begin asking questions."

"Some of these behavioral signs can show up at other stressful times in a child's life such as divorce, the death of a family member, friend or pet, or when there are problems in school, as well as when abuse is involved," says the organization on its Web site.

Stop It Now! offers further tips and information through its toll-free help line at (888) PREVENT.


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### VACATIONS

**Sale/Rent:** Timeshare in Aruba. Playa Linda Beach Resort. A 2-bedroom unit sleeps 6) and a studio unit (sleeps 4). Both units are for the last two weeks of October in weeks 42 & 43. Call (704) 662-6494 or rbhaslett@hotmail.com for details.

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# Help is requested for refugees

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte is asking for your help in relocating refugees to North Carolina.

Approximately 300 of the 905 Montagnard refugees from Vietnam are expected to arrive in Charlotte late April to early May. Bishop William G. Curlin and Catholic Social Services are asking area churches and parishioners for much-needed assistance in relocating these people who are fleeing religious persecution and violence.

"We resettle 350 refugees a year in our diocese. Now we're being asked to resettle 300 refugees in our diocese in a four- to six-week period," said Cira Ponce, director of the diocese Refugee Resettlement Office, an affiliate of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Due to cooperative resettlement efforts of the U.S. Special Forces and the Department of State, North Carolina is currently the largest Montagnard resettlement site in the Western hemisphere. The Diocese of Charlotte has helped resettle 614 Montagnards in the diocese since 1986.

The Montagnards (a French word for mountain dwellers and pronounced as "mountainyards" in American English) are Christians who have lived for centuries in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam. They aided U.S. Special Forces during the Vietnam War in the 1960s, and many became prisoners in re-education camps after the war ended.

Most of the 300 refugees coming to Charlotte are men who have left their families in Vietnam and fled to Cambodia after the communist Vietnamese government crushed their protests over intrusion on traditional tribal lands and religious prosecution.

"Those that fled to the jungle have survived almost unimaginable hardships, gaining spiritual sustenance from their Christian faith," according to "A Culture in Crisis: The Montagnards of the Vietnamese Central Highlands," a teacher's guide by Barbara Pierce in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. "The millions of Montagnards still living in the Highlands suffer poverty, malnutrition and disease."

The Montagnard refugees have been staying in two United Nations-administered camps in Cambodia for the past year. The 905 people in the two camps had opted to resettle in the United States, rather than being repatriated to their home villages in Vietnam's Central Highlands. A joint operation of the United States, United Nations and Cambodia worked to bring the refugees to the United States, with national, state and voluntary resettlement agencies coordinating to resettle the refugees in North Carolina.

"Once again, the political upheaval and spiritual unrest of a distant nation cries out to us to put our Catholic faith to action," said Bishop Curlin.

The Montagnard community in the Diocese of Charlotte has established a mountain Christian church located in their own community.

"Fortunately, we have an established Montagnard community here. That will help, but it's not enough," said Ponce. "This will require additional support from churches, volunteers and other community resources — especially financial resources."

The refugees, who will be arriving with little more than the clothes on their backs, will be divided into approximately 60 households, with five people to a household. For each household, $1,000 in additional funding is needed to cover expenses during the first three months after arrival.

Area parishes are asked to ensure that each refugee is not only welcomed in the spirit of fellowship, but receives the necessary services as well. Organizing donation and fundraising drives are encouraged.

Many volunteers are urgently needed to help set up apartments with donated furniture and household items before the refugees' expected arrival in two to three weeks. Needed items include kitchenware, toiletries and linens, plus men's clothing in small and medium sizes. Instead of food, vouchers to area supermarkets are welcomed.

The Refugee Resettlement Office is also hoping to find full-time, entry-level, non-skilled jobs with benefits.

"It's a huge endeavor, but Charlotte's always been a receptive community for all of our resettlement efforts," said Ponce.

For more information or ways to help the Montagnard refugees, please contact the Catholic Social Services Refugee Resettlement Office at 704-370-3256.


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**Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, pre-K through eighth grade, is seeking a creative, innovative principal** to continue our school's success in Faith, Family, and Academics. Blessed Sacrament School was established in 1935, and has an enrollment of 300 students. It is centrally located in Burlington, North Carolina, between the N.C. Triad and Research Triangle.

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**The deadline for applications is May 10, 2002.** Resumes and cover letters should be sent to: **Blessed Sacrament Principal Search Committee**

Attn: Karen Tikkanen
P.O. Box 619
Burlington, N.C. 27216

**Or**
catholic@netpath.net


# YOUNG ADULTS, from page 1

adult and campus ministry.

Colleen McDermott, diocesan director of young adult and campus ministry, said that through support and the donation of meeting spaces from the Sisters of Mercy community, the Benedictines at Belmont Abbey and College and the Raskob Foundation, they were able to offer a successful program to people in the diocese.

"We have had 30 participants to complete all four weekends, and other dioceses across the country have been looking to us to see what the experience has been like. It has been an extremely positive experience," said McDermott. "We've had students from several local colleges including Belmont Abbey College, Western Carolina University and Wake Forest and several churches including St. Eugene Church in Asheville, Holy Family Church in Clemmons and Our Lady of Assumption Church in Charlotte.

"We have had presenters from around the country come in for each of the four weekends, and this has been an opportunity for participants to reflect on their gifts for leadership in ministry and what they are called to do on their campuses and in parishes," she said.

Manion and Michelle Miller, director of the National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association, presented the leadership skills needed for the development and implementation of parish programs. Weekend topics included Jesus and his role as leader and how his life directly impacts one's own leadership abilities, one-on-one communication skills, sharing knowledge with others and development of programs and ministries, said Manion.

"During the first weekend, we covered general principles and shared a lot of teaching and general research. For the second weekend, we reviewed the seven elements of ministry and went through the best practices in each of those," said Manion. "We applied the principles and the best practices on a local level as far as making plans during the third weekend."

McDermott said that she is interested in developing more leadership opportunities for campus and young adult ministers. "We hope we can continue to work with Matthew and Michelle to develop programs in the future."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*




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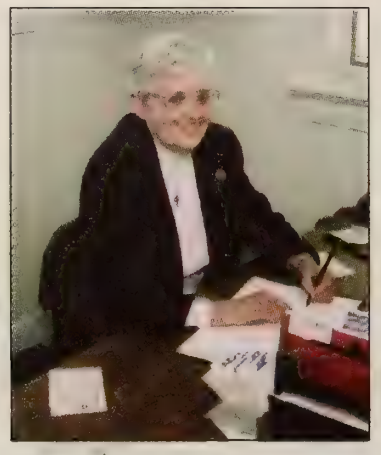
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# Woman religious says life is fulfilling through her ministry

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — Sister of St. Joseph Phyllis Tierney "had a sense early on" that she was to become a woman religious. Her father, a veterinarian, and her mother, a housewife and part-time secretary for her husband, taught their two girls the importance of their faith while growing up in Sennatte, N.Y. Her young life revolved around the church, and she was fascinated with all aspects of her religion.

"In the atmosphere in which I grew up, people were really involved in church and school. I was quite impressed with the sisters. I suppose there was a certain mystique about them," said Sister Phyllis, who attended summer faith formation classes taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph while in public school. "I had a desire for religious life."



Sister of St. Joseph Phyllis Tierney

However, she made time for her friends, extracurricular activities and dates while in high school. In 1957, with the thought of entering the religious life at the forefront of her mind after high school graduation, she went to Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y., administered by the Sisters of St. Joseph during that time.

"It was a conscious move on my part (because) it was time for me to find more about religious life," she said. "I dated a boy from home and was sort of serious about him, but it was time for me to think about entering. I followed my instincts."

She was able to connect with a group of friends who lived in a dorm with a housemother, a woman religious, and found a link into the community. While she became more assured that the sisterhood was to be a major stop on her road, she was nervous at the prospect.

"They (the sisters) were kind of awesome to me. It was kind of frightening, and I didn't feel comfortable with them in general," said Sister Phyllis. "I knew I was interested in religious life but wondered how I would communicate with them. I think that everyone who has a vocation questions if it is the right thing to do. You go in with the intention of giving your life to Christ, but your novitiate is a time of testing whether you have a vocation to religious life."

She tackled her test, and Sister Phyllis professed her final vows in 1968. Her nine-year process at the motherhouse in Rochester, N.Y., included learning about her community's French origins and their founder, Jesuit Father John Pierre Medaille; Vatican II changes; and the daily routine of her order. "I entered when religious life was very structured. Even though it was an active religious community, we had a lot of religious practices that were monastic. We followed a daily horarium, a schedule of praying, rising and eating together," said Sister Phyllis.

Also during those years, she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in English and was a witness to Vatican II reforms within her community. She was assigned to a treatment facility for emotionally challenged youth. She enjoyed her years working with her sisters and the youth.

"I was reluctant about going because I had heard that the kids were difficult to work with," she said. "It was probably one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences I could have had. I learned how to teach disabled children by creating individualized activities for reading, math and language arts."

Parish ministry intrigued her, and she participated in a six-week course that focused on the up and coming ministry. Although she was interested in pursuing parish work, she was offered a newly created position at the facility as director of volunteers and communications. After eight years, she accepted a position as the director of religious education at a rural parish. She saw abject poverty for the first time and began her crusade of change.

"It was frustrating to see people in that situation. What I saw was devastating," she said. "I saw people living the way we were in the 50s."

She earned her master's in social work in order to better serve the people she wanted to help and worked for the Office for Human Development in Albany, N.Y., Catholic Charities in Oswego, N.Y., and the Council of Churches in Fulton, N.Y. During these years, she opened a drop-in center for low-income families, ran a food pantry and started a food co-op effort, which tried to teach people about socio-economics and food.

When the opportunity to move to the Diocese of Charlotte came up through a possible position as the pastoral associate of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, she was interested in continuing in parish ministry but was unsure about moving south. "I had so many misgivings about leaving home, but as soon as I came, I was very welcomed," said Sister Phyllis who has been working at the Triad parish since 1995.

She works with various ministries under parish life, which include welcoming newcomers, bereavement and sick. She supervises outreach ministries under community life including food collection for the Servant Center and the Food Pantry, similar to her work in New York. She reflects on her journey through life thus far with joy and a love for her sister community, the people she has served and the work she has done.

"I really enjoy interacting with people on any level. I like the variety of what I do and the challenges my work presents. There is always something new on the horizon," said Sister Phyllis. "I find that religious life has been a very fulfilling experience and opened many doors for me. It is wonderful to experience the faith in the church along with lay leadership and lay involvement. We have come so far."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

—1 Pt 2:9

# Sculptor finds calling in carving

By Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay
Correspondent

HIGH POINT — Paul Nixon, a parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, has turned a 15-foot length of cedar tree into a work of art — a peace totem pole — for Tomlinson Montessori Elementary Magnet School's dedication as an International Peace Site. The event was celebrated during the school's "Peace on Earth Day" ceremonies April 22.

The decision to make Tomlinson Montessori Elementary Magnet School an International Peace Site arose from the school's unique "peace curriculum," in which students are taught about historical peacemakers and learn to use personal conflict resolution as a part of their school day.

Sharon Shepard, the chairperson of the school's Peace Committee, had a friend who died on Flight 93 and was looking to get something positive out of Sept. 11, 2001.

"We needed something good to come out of that day," she said.

The school decided to work with the organization World Citizen, Inc. in order to meet the criteria for a peace site. The school has collected supplies for an orphanage in Africa and has contacted a "sister school" in Cairo, Egypt, with the help of People to People International, part of the "Friendship through Education" project set up by the White House. Students have also designed peace flags and began studying various world cultures to promote understanding of human differences as a component of peace.

The dedication April 22 let the community know that this school has become one of over 100,000 peace sites in 160 countries around the world. The day consisted of a parade, a world bazaar featuring information booths about diverse cultures and the unveiling of Nixon's peace pole on school grounds.

Nixon, who was born in Dublin, Ireland, spent much of his childhood in the western mountains of Ireland garnering his interest stories and legends of Celtic mythology and history. He migrated to White Plains, N.Y., in 1985 where he was exposed to multiracial and multicultural experiences, which were relatively non-existent in Ireland.

Nixon also met his future wife, Francesca. In 1997, they moved to Greensboro where he took up a job as an automobile mechanic and they adopted their first daughter, Ana Claire, from Guatemala.

It was in Greensboro that Nixon's interest in woodcarving soared. Coming

See Sculptor, page 15



Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**Paul Nixon, a sculptor in Greensboro, puts the finishing touches on a peace totem pole the evening before the Tomlinson Montessori Elementary Magnet School in High Point dedication as an International Peace Site April 22.**

# Pope addresses U.S. cardinals, bishops at Vatican meeting

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks to U.S. cardinals and bishops at the Vatican April 23.*

Dear brothers,

1. Let me assure you first of all that I greatly appreciate the effort you are making to keep the Holy See, and me personally, informed regarding the complex and difficult situation which has arisen in your country in recent months. I am confident that your discussions here will bear much fruit for the good of the Catholic people of the United States. You have come to the house of the successor of Peter, whose task it is to confirm his brother bishops in faith and love and to unite them around Christ in the service of God's people. The door of this house is always open to you. All the more so when your communities are in distress.

Like you, I, too, have been deeply grieved by the fact that priests and religious, whose vocation it is to help people live holy lives in the sight of God, have themselves caused such suffering and scandal to the young. Because of the great harm done by some priests and religious, the church herself is viewed with distrust, and many are offended at the way in which the church's leaders are perceived to have acted in this matter. The abuse which has caused this crisis is by every standard wrong and rightly considered a crime by society; it is also an appalling sin in the eyes of God. To the victims and their families, wherever they may be, I express my

See Vatican Meeting, page 8

### Leaders of other religions sympathize with Catholics in crisis

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — As the Catholic Church and its beleaguered hierarchy continue to grapple with the ongoing clergy sex abuse scandal, leaders of other religious communities in Los Angeles expressed their sympathy and support. "I made it a point to talk to my Roman Catholic priest friends to see how they've been handling the situation," said the Rev. Ginny Wagener, a Lutheran pastor working with the South Coast Ecumenical Council. The priests she spoke with told her they've openly discussed the issue during sermons but are upset because they've been lumped with those accused of abuse. Mahmoud Abdel-Baset, religious coordinator of the Islamic Center of Southern California, said Muslim leaders "can feel the pain the whole Catholic Church is going through" from being "judged because of the acts of very few of the church members." As Abdel-Baset explained, "We, as a Muslim community, faced the same kind of generalizations after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack."

### Critics deride Supreme Court ruling on child pornography

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Church leaders and family advocates criticized the Supreme Court's decision April 16 to overturn parts of a federal law meant to restrict the computer-generated appearance of minors in sexually explicit situations in films. "I'm deeply disappointed the high court sided with pedophiles over children," said an April 16 statement by Rep. Mark Foley, R-Fla., co-chairman of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus. "This decision has set back years of work on behalf of the most innocent of Americans," Foley added. The court, in a 6-3 vote, struck down parts of the Child Pornography Prevention Act of 1996. The law had applied to "any visual depiction" that "is, or appears to be, of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct." The law also had made it a crime to advertise or promote material "in such a manner that conveys the impression" that it is real child pornography. The law defined minors as those younger than 18.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Christian group protests at Gilo checkpoint in Bethlehem**
**Christians demonstrating at the Gilo checkpoint on the West Bank raise a cross at the entrance to Bethlehem April 21. Pope John Paul II appealed for an end to the armed standoff at the Church of the Nativity, where Palestinian gunmen remain blockaded in side for the third week.**

### Passage of Child Custody Protection Act praised; Senate action urged

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Religious leaders hailed House passage April 17 of a bill that would make it a federal crime for anyone other than a parent to transport a minor across state lines for an abortion. The 260-161 vote marks the third time the Child Custody Protection Act has been passed by the House. In previous years when this legislation passed in the House, the Senate failed to vote on it. Senate aides have said it is unlikely they will take it up this time around either. Cathleen Cleaver, director of planning and information for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, urged the Senate to "act without delay" on the legislation. She said the House vote "reflects the opinion of the American people who believe it is wrong to take a child away from her parents to another state for a secret abortion."

### Church officials hit ruling on drugs for assisted suicides in Oregon

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Catholic officials have criticized a federal judge's ruling that allows doctors in Oregon to continue using federally controlled drugs in assisted suicides. The ruling overturned a federal directive prohibiting federally controlled drugs to be used to help patients die. "Suicide among the elderly and those suffering from serious illness or disability is not a 'medical practice' but a tragic public health problem deserving a thoughtful, caring response," said Cathleen Cleaver, the U.S. bishops' pro-life spokeswoman. The April 17 ruling by U.S. District Judge Robert Jones in Portland struck down a directive by Attorney General John Ashcroft. The decision in Oregon vs. Ashcroft is expected to be appealed by the Justice Department.

### Archdiocese of Nairobi victim of international fraud syndicate

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — The Archdiocese of Nairobi has fallen victim to an international fraud syndicate that swindled Kenyans of at least $12.5 million. Nairobi Archbishop Raphael Ndingi Mwana'a Nzeki said a check meant for the archdiocese was stolen from the mail system and cashed by racketeers. Although the amount involved was relatively small, about $1,000, it underlined the extent of a racket in which people and big-name schools and companies repeatedly have been swindled out of their money. In an April 13 report, the Nation, Kenya's leading daily, said detectives who unearthed the racket in mid-April found 300 checks worth $120,000, hundreds of bank statements, and letters between account holders and their banks — all in one house in Nairobi's suburb estate of Eastleigh.

### Russian legislators debate asking president to shut down dioceses

MOSCOW (CNS) — Russian legislators began debate on whether to ask the president to shut down the country's newly created Roman Catholic dioceses on the grounds that they are a threat to the country's territorial integrity and to the Russian Orthodox Church. "A diocese is government territory of the Roman Catholic Church because the Vatican is also a government. This is a serious move, which must be protested," parliamentarian Gennady Raikov told the Ekho Moskva radio station in explaining his support of the measure, adding that dioceses meddle "not only in church matters but in government affairs as well." Viktor Khroul, spokesman for the Archdiocese of Moscow, said such comments indicated that some deputies "don't understand how the church works, how the structures work." The April 17 debate in Russia's lower house of parliament — the Duma — followed a series of anti-Catholic protests in at least four Russian cities staged by members of the dominant Russian Orthodox Church. Pope John Paul II elevated Russia's four apostolic administrations to dioceses in February, and many Orthodox leaders viewed the action as evidence of Catholic expansionism in Orthodox territory.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**April 28 — 11:30 a.m.**
Diocesan Youth Conference
Camp Thunderbird, Lake Wylie, S.C.

**May 1-8**
Pilgrimage to Lourdes, France

**May 10 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Aloysius, Hickory

**May 11 — 5:30 p.m.**
Confirmation
Holy Spirit, Denver

**May 12 — 10:30 a.m.**
Confirmation
Sacred Heart, Brevard

## Diocesan planner

**May**

**5** CHARLOTTE — Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, formerly known as the Catholic Hispanic Center and now located at 6212 Tuckasseegee Rd., will be celebrating a Mass in English every Sunday at 8 a.m. beginning this morning. For details, call Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty at (704) 391-3732.

**5** CHARLOTTE — The 52nd Semi-Annual International Rosary Day will be held this afternoon at 3 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. with Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, as the speaker. For more details, call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127.

**5** CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will be gathering today at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information please call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 545-8133.

**5** SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837

**6** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight and every first Monday at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on May 7 and every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call:

### Sant'Egidio official says execution of minors makes U.S. like Iraq

ROME (CNS) — The United States was not the main target of anti-death penalty protesters at the U.N. Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva, but the fact that minors can be executed in some states did not go unmentioned. Mario Marazziti, spokesman for the Rome-based Sant'Egidio Community, said, "The fact that the execution of minors or of the mentally disabled is considered legitimate in the United States leaves this great democratic country in the company of countries like Iraq and Somalia." With the Sant'Egidio Community actively involved in an international campaign to ban the death penalty, Marazziti participated in the April meeting of the U.N. Human Rights Commission. Sant'Egidio is a Catholic group that runs soup kitchens and other social service programs in Rome and has been involved in mediating political disputes in Africa and Eastern Europe.

### Jesuit theologian says understanding among religions is crucial

NEW YORK (CNS) — Jesuit Father Jacques Dupuis, a leading figure in interreligious dialogue, said the events of Sept. 11 make the development of understanding among religions "even more pressing" than in the past. Religion should be a factor for peace, but it can be used to foster conflict and war, he said during an April 18 lecture at St. Joseph's Church in New York's Greenwich Village. Father Dupuis, quoting Swiss theologian Father Hans Kung, said there can be no peace among nations without peace among religions. But he added to that expression, saying there could be no peace among religions without dialogue. It is not enough to read books about other religions, but Christians must engage in a dialogue that enables them to see the world as others see it, and understand the others "as they understand themselves," he said. Father Dupuis, a Belgian theologian who was based in India for much of his career, was one of the main behind-the-scenes architects of current Vatican interreligious dialogue guidelines, originally published in 1991.




CNS PHOTO BY MARTIN LUEDERS

**Muslim women shout at pro-Palestinian rally**

**Muslim women, who did not want to be identified, shout support for the Palestinian people April 20 during a rally near the White House in Washington. Tens of thousand of demonstrators gathered in the U.S. capital to protest war and military actions around the world. The stickers worn by the women read, "End Israeli occupation now."**

### Anniversary Mass showcases diverse cultures in 25-year-old diocese

HOUMA, La. (CNS) — A solemn smudging ritual, a procession of parish banners, Vietnamese liturgical dancers and the rhythms of the Diocesan Gospel Choir all combined to showcase the contributions of many cultures at the 25th anniversary Mass of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. Approximately 2,500 worshippers filled the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center April 14 for the milestone event. Houma-Thibodaux Bishop Michael Jarrell, principal celebrant of the Mass, was joined by Archbishop Philip M. Hannan, retired archbishop of New Orleans, and other concelebrants. The Mass included readings in French and Spanish as well as hymns and responses sung in an array of languages, each adding its own unique style.

### Youths tell congress they seek wisdom, spiritual guidance of elders

MONTREAL (CNS) — Hearing from their elders that they are "the hope of the church," a group of young Catholics has asked for help in the form of prayer, counsel, spiritual direction and personal witness as they work to discern their vocations. In a two-page statement released on the final day of the April 18-21 Third Continental Congress on Vocations in Montreal, the youth delegates said they sought a covenant with the church. "Everything we ask of the church, we will offer in return," the statement said. "We ask for prayer and will pray in return for the church. We seek wisdom and knowledge and will use those gifts in return to enrich our church. We will remain faithful to Christ and the church by living out our vocations, promoting a culture of life and joy, while living in hope and love. ... Please give us the resources we need to be what God has called us to be." The statement grew out of discussions at an April 20 dinner attended by 130 Catholics under age 35.

### Oklahoma archbishop supports bill banning some executions

OKLAHOMA CITY (CNS) — A legislative ban on executing people with developmental disabilities is the right thing to do, wrote Oklahoma City Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran. "Supporting a ban on the execution of persons with developmental disabilities recognizes the foundation of a moral vision for society," he said in a statement published in the April 7 edition of The Sooner Catholic, archdiocesan newspaper. Such a ban "does not implicitly condone criminal acts, nor does it ignore the pain of the victim's family or friends," he wrote. The Oklahoma bill would prohibit the execution of people who are found to be developmentally disabled by a psychologist or psychiatrist. Such disability is defined as having "sub-average general intellectual functioning concurrent with deficits in adaptive behavior.

### Dutch church leaders circulate book detailing euthanasia fight

OXFORD, England (CNS) — Church leaders in the Netherlands have circulated documents detailing their struggle against euthanasia, which became legal April 1. A church spokesman said the collection was sent out at the request of Catholic bishops abroad to provide "data and arguments" for church campaigns in other countries. "Although we're the first country to legalize euthanasia, the debate has been going on here since 1983," said Peter van Zoesp, spokesman for the Dutch bishops' conference.

**CORRECTION**

The temporary administrator for St. Paul the Apostle in Greensboro, Oblate Father Thomas Murphy, was misidentified in the April 19 issue.

St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**6** CHARLOTTE — The bereavement support group will meet tonight from 6-7:30 p.m. and every first Monday in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. This support group is for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. For details, call Ruth Posey, CSS counselor, at (704) 370-3238.

**6** CLEMMONS — Father Adrian Porras will be the celebrant at the charismatic Mass at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., tonight at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on June 3. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

**8** CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Bobbe Conlin at (704) 643-1376 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

**9** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be hosting ultreyas on the following dates and times: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. tonight for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1:15-2 p.m. on May 19 with a potluck/Ultreya gathering at 1:15 p.m. with food served at 1:30 p.m. and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on May 26 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665.

**11** CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo community will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight and every second Saturday of the month for a school of leaders at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For further information, call Ky Do at (704) 532-9094.

**12** CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., will be having its Christian Coffeehouse tonight from 7:30-9 p.m. following 6 p.m. Mass. Through food, fellowship and Christian music from Kathy and David with Redeemed, participants can join in the spiritual celebration. For reservations of a table of six or more, sponsorship opportunities and other information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 614-9100.

**12** SAVANNAH, Ga. — A national workshop on Christian unity will be held this weekend at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Bay St. with worship events scheduled in various churches in the Historic District. This annual event, sponsored by the National Association of Ecumenical Officers, is designed to inform, challenge and encourage all who are concerned with the search for Christian unity. For details, call Father Michael Kavanaugh, director of ecumenism and interreligious relations of the Diocese of Savannah, at (912) 964-0219 or e-mail MJKavanaug@aol.com.

**18** GASTONIA — St. Michael Church will be sponsoring its first annual invitational golf tournament today at Cramer Mountain Country Club. The captain's choice event; which will include lunch, golf, cart, prizes and a reception; will begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. For further information, call (704) 867-1212.

**20** ASHEVILLE — The St. Martin de Porres Pro-Chapter of the Dominican Laity meets tonight and every third Monday at 7 p.m. in St. Justin's Center at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid, OPL, at (828) 253-6676.

**20** CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

# Youth ministers draw teens to faith

By SUSAN DeGUZMAN
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — A little heaven on earth can be found at St. Leo the Great Church in the form of a unique couple — youth ministers John and Lisa Beaulieu. This is how many teenagers and parents view them.

The Beaulieus have made an enormous difference in the lives of many youth and have turned a struggling ministry into one that is active and vibrant. Weekly youth meetings, retreats, bible study groups, fundraisers and outreach efforts are coordinated by the Beaulieus. Yet these events are only the surface of their efforts.

The Beaulieus' greatest gift is their personal devotion to the youth of the parish. They are there for the kids 100 percent of the time and constantly remind them so. "We're always telling the kids, if they ever need to talk to us, we're available," said Lisa. "They can call us at home, on John's cell phone or drop by the house."

The Beaulieus' home is located only a stone's throw from the church. They call it the "Life House" and will sometimes hold meetings there when other functions occupy the church hall.

Making themselves available is no easy task for the Beaulieus with four young children. Phone calls and unannounced visitors at any time of the day or evening aren't considered disruptions by the Beaulieus — they want to be available when the kids need them. According to John, "We are just stewards of God. We are doing his work."

The couple has a genuine and effective rapport with kids. Their attitude is inviting, and the kids know they care. "John and Lisa are great," said Maria Gonzalez, a junior at Mt. Tabor High School. "They are very enthusiastic and open to talk about anything. They're just like one of us."

John and Lisa came to St. Leo the Great Church in 1999 with previous youth ministry experience: John had 10 years — eight from full-time ministry in Dallas, Texas, and two years from part-time volunteer work in Colorado.

"John knows the kids, and he knows the ministry," says Beth Hoeing, a parishioner with older children and who is involved with the youth ministry.

Several years ago, John struggled with continuing as a youth minister. He explained, "There is not a lot of money in youth ministry. I was trying to decide if I should go for a career where I would earn a substantial living for my growing family or for one that gave me great fulfillment."

While the couple pondered their future, the tragic events at Columbine High School took place. John and Lisa saw firsthand the horrible effect this had on many teens, some of whom they knew. John decided to return to youth ministry full time.

The Beaulieus attribute much of their ministry's effectiveness to the core team of volunteers who help organize and run the program. According to John, most youth directors burn out after their first year because they try to do everything themselves.

"I have a great core team," he said. "They give their heart and soul to the youth. They are comprised of parents and single people, some older and some younger, and some of the senior teens help with the juniors. We call them the 'hard-core team.'"

One improvement John would like to see in the youth program is 20 more core team members. John explained, "Faith is taught by example. Many leaders are the component that will push this program onward and upward even further."

The Beaulieus' programs include a senior high group called "Life Teen" and a junior high "Spirit" group. The senior high group follows a national effort of 850 parishes that offer a Sunday afternoon Life Teen Mass with meetings afterward. Currently Life Teen and Spirit alternate their meetings each week. The schedule works well, and the Mass offered has become a kind of legend of its own.

The atmosphere is lively and upbeat, with teens encouraged to sit together in the front of the church. Initially filling to only half capacity, the Mass now attracts a full house.

Prayer is at the forefront of the Beaulieus' ministry. They believe in its power and incorporate it in all of their events. "Both John and Lisa are very well founded spiritually," said Hoeing. "They live the life (of good Catholics), yet they can have fun and tackle serious issues at the same time."

John's vision for the youth ministry is to bring all the kids into a relationship with God. "Youth group is not so much about what the kids do when we get together, but it is a means to light the path," he said. "I want to challenge the kids to find a deep spiritual bond with God, not just a surface relationship. I also want the kids to know they are not alone in this journey. Some of them have really taken bold steps."

Greg Ceneviva, a junior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School and member of the hard-core team, said, "Anyone who underestimates the impact of the youth ministry doesn't understand it. I have had friends who didn't really place any importance on their faith life. After spending time with John and Lisa, I have seen them develop a more real faith."

While Lisa and John minister to all of the kids, John is closer to the guys, and Lisa spends more time with the girls. Lisa, who taught high school and has five years experience as a part-time youth minister, shared her hopes for the girls. "Many girls today have identity issues. One of my main efforts is to highlight for them their true relationships — number one being with God," she said. "I want them to understand how valuable they are in God's eyes and to see their own true value. I want them to know that God has a plan for them which is a good one that will make them very happy."

When asked what type of person makes an effective youth minister, John replied, "First and foremost, he or she must love God. Second, he or she must love teenagers, who can often be rude, obnoxious, spoiled, etc. Youth ministers and adults alike must see past this type of behavior because it is only temporary. In five years the kids will be great adults."

A third quality of a strong youth minister is the person's ability to work with families. John explained, "The number one influence in a teen's life is his or her family. Strong families are where it's at."

The Beaulieus hope to develop a family prayer group and possibly even organize a family retreat in the near future.

John and Lisa provided a few ideas for parents on raising teenagers.

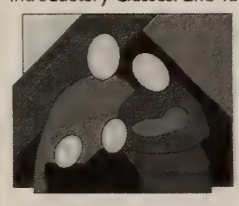
"Your children always need to know that they are a priority in your lives. Praying for and with them and talking with them is important," said Lisa. "Make sure your daily planner includes time with your kids."

"Give kids the truth about what is right and wrong," said John. "Don't water down your beliefs. You are competing with a world that says, 'if it feels good, then do it.' Our consciences haven't changed over the years, and kids find honesty refreshing, even if they don't act like they do."



Photo by Susan deGuzman

**Lisa Beaulieu (third from right) and her husband John (second from right) with youth ministry members at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem. Parents and youth alike commend the Beaulieus for their devotion to the youth and for turning a struggling ministry into an active one.**

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# Two sisters celebrate combined 130 years of service

BELMONT — Two Sisters of Mercy have celebrated a combined 130 years of service in ministry.

Over 135 sisters, friends and family attended the anniversary honoring the Platinum Jubilee (70 years) of Mercy Sister Mary Theophane Field, 89, and the Diamond Jubilee (60 years) of Mercy Sister Mary Kathleen McNamara, 97, in the Cardinal Gibbons Memorial Chapel at Sacred Heart Convent April 20.

"We are all so lucky to be a part of the lives of these two women," said Mercy Sister Mary Michel Boulus, who offered reflections of the two sisters at the event.

Born Jacqueline Elizabeth Field in Dallas, Texas, on Jan. 1, 1913, Sister Mary Theophane entered the Sisters of Mercy community in Belmont Aug. 14, 1931, which began 70 years of commitment.

"Sister Mary Theophane said of herself: 'One serves where one can and is happy to do so,'" said Sister Mary Michel. "She held that all beauty is a reflection of God's beauty."

Sister Mary Theophane began her ministerial career in teaching in 1933 at St. Leo Boarding School for Boys in Belmont. In 1943, she taught at O'Donoghue School, now St. Patrick School, in Charlotte, following with a teaching assignment at St. Mary School in Wilmington. She received her bachelor's and master's in fine arts from Notre Dame University in Indiana. She taught art at Sacred Heart Academy and College where she was appointed chairperson of the art department.



**Mercy Sister Kathleen McNamara**



**Mercy Sister Mary Theophane Field**

Sister Mary Theophane studied with the Abington Painters under Harriet Fitzgerald in Greenwich Village, N.Y. An active member of the National Art Education Association and the North Carolina Adult Education Association, Sister Mary Theophane motivated many students, many of whom continue to visit with her.

"Sister Theophane proudly wore the habit of a Sister of Mercy and handled the artist's brush with the skill of an expert," said Sister Mary Michel.

Many of Sister Mary Theophane's paintings grace the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse and Marian Center.

"She was privileged to have designed the coat of arms of the first bishop of Charlotte, the Most. Rev. Michael J. Begley," said Sister Mary Michel. "And she helped design the coat of arms of the Most Rev. Joseph Howze of Biloxi, Miss."

Born Fanny McLaughlin in County Donegal, Ireland, on Nov. 4, 1904, Sister Mary Kathleen joined the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont on Aug. 2, 1941. She received her bachelor's from Belmont Abbey College in 1963 and attended postgraduate classes at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Most of Sister Mary Kathleen's active religious life was spent teaching at Sacred Heart School in Salisbury, St. Mary's School in Wilmington, Holy Redeemer in Newton Grove, St. Patrick School in Charlotte and Sacred Heart Campus School in Belmont, said Sister Mary Michel. Sister Mary Kathleen was principal of St. Mary's for 11 years. In 1968, after 25 years devoted to educating Catholic youth, she returned to Sacred Heart Campus School where she remained until her retirement in 1982.

"In our Motherhouse, we dub her 'Miss Hospitality' ... An uncanny memory, she never forgets a face or a name, and she has left an indelible mark on her former students to whom she has endeared herself," said Sister Mary Michel.

"Sister (Mary Kathleen) will always be remembered with a rosary in her hand. She prays for her family and friends each day," added Sister Mary Michel. "We know her prayers are answered. Some believe miraculously so."


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CNS PHOTO BY DIANNE TOWALSKI, ST. CLOUD VISITOR

**Catholic school student top of her class in safety**

**Kathryn DelZoppo helps students cross the street in front of St. Mary's School in Alexandria, Minn., April 4. The sixth-grade patrol captain will receive a national safety award for her quick action in stopping a boy from darting out into traffic earlier this year.**

# Pope clears way for four new saints, beatification of 12

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II cleared the way for the canonization of four new saints and for the beatification of 12 other individuals, including three priests he will beatify in Bulgaria.

The decrees recognizing the miracles needed to complete four sainthood causes and seven causes for beatification were published April 23, along with the formal recognition of the martyrdom of the three Bulgarians and of two Ugandan youths.

Assumptionist Fathers Peter Vitchev, Paul Djidjov and Josaphat Chichkov were executed Nov. 11, 1952, in Sofia, Bulgaria, and will be beatified there by Pope John Paul when he visits the country May 23-26.

Presenting the causes to the pope, Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, said the three were shot by Bulgaria's communist government simply because "they were Catholic priests."

The two Ugandan martyrs, David Okelo, 16, and Gildo Irwa, 12, were "fervent catechists who worked with the Comboni priests in evangelizing their people," the cardinal said.

"Threatened, they did not abandon their duties. Together they were killed with spears in 1818," he said.

The miracles attributed to the intercession of a priest and three nuns already beatified clear the way for the Vatican to schedule the dates for their canonizations. The four are:

— Blessed Giuseppe Maria Rubio Peralta, a Spanish Jesuit who died in 1929.

— Blessed Julia Maria Ledochowska, the Austrian-born founder of the Ursuline Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who died in Italy in 1939.

— Blessed Genoveffa Torres Morales, the Spanish founder of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Holy Angels; she died in 1956.

— Blessed Maria Maravillas Pidal Chico de Guzman, a Spanish Discalced Carmelite nun, who died in 1974. Cardinal Saraiva Martins told the pope her father was the Spanish ambassador to the Vatican at one point.

In addition to the Bulgarian and Ugandan martyrs, those set to be beatified are religious from Italy, France, Spain and Switzerland.

One of them, Franciscan Father Gabriele Maria Allegra, was born in Italy in 1907, joined the Franciscans and was sent as a missionary to China.

He translated the Bible into Chinese and cared for the sick, the poor and people with Hansen's disease, the cardinal said. He died in Hong Kong in 1976.

### Don't try this: Sixth-grader draws picture of nun, finds success

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (CNS) — Not all kids who draw pictures of their teachers get in trouble. Take Bil Keane, for example. For more than 40 years, he's been drawing the cartoon panel, "The Family Circus." But before he became famous drawing Billy, Dolly, Jeffy, P.J. and their parents, grandparents and household pets, he drew his sixth-grade teacher, Sister Ann, at St. William's School in Philadelphia. When his teacher, a Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, caught a glimpse of the drawings that were the talk of the sixth-grade class, she responded in a way no one had expected: she decided the class needed its own newspaper and Keane should be editor. Sister Ann also told him that she'd pray for his future success as a cartoonist.

### Devotion to St. Rita highlighted in new movie

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (CNS) — Who is St. Rita? Disney's recent release of "The Rookie" has prompted that question for many moviegoers, according to Augustinian Father Michael DiGregorio, director and pastor of the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia in Philadelphia. "It's too soon to say what kind of impact this movie will have on devotion to St. Rita," said Father DiGregorio in an interview with The Catholic Observer, Springfield diocesan newspaper. The movie, starring Dennis Quaid, tells the true story of Jim Morris, a high school science teacher and baseball coach who tried to motivate his team by agreeing to try out for a major-league team if his high school players win the district championship. When the team won, Morris, who had given up a career in pro baseball after an injury, tried out for — and was signed by — the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, making him one of baseball's oldest rookies ever. Throughout the movie, Morris shows a devotion to St. Rita, the patron saint of impossible causes.

### Lou Holtz urges priests to value their impact on people's lives

CHARLESTON, S.C. (CNS) — At a time when negative news regarding the clergy was appearing in the media on a daily basis, University of South Carolina head football coach Lou Holtz came to Charleston to deliver a pep talk for the presbyterate. "The primary purpose of being here is to thank you," said Holtz at a March 26 luncheon. "I cannot possibly thank the priests and the nuns for the effect they had on my life." The Ohio native and former altar boy was raised by Catholic parents and four Catholic grandparents, whom he said never missed Mass. "I can honestly say I owe more to the people in the priesthood and the sisters than anybody else, except my mother," Holtz said. "I believe that the most important foundation in my life is my religious beliefs, and that came from the nuns and the priests. I feel I have been blessed in so many different ways."

### Jury finds priest guilty of lewd conduct, not guilty of rape

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (CNS) — A Sonoma County jury April 16 found Father Donald W. Kimball guilty of two felonious lewd acts with a 13-year-old girl in 1981 but not guilty of raping a 14-year-old girl in 1977. He could face several years in prison. Sentencing takes place May 15. Father Kimball, 58, was a nationally known youth minister with his own radio show in the 1970s. A priest of the Santa Rosa Diocese, he has been out of active ministry since 1990 but has not been laicized. While he faced criminal charges only in connection with two girls, several other women who claimed to have been molested by him as teen-agers also testified for the prosecution. The woman who accused him of rape testified that when Father Kimball made her pregnant, he took her to a San Francisco clinic for an abortion.




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# Priests, deacons and religious honored by Knights of Columbus

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

HIGH POINT — The Bishop Hafey Council 4507 of the Knights of Columbus held their 32nd annual Religious Appreciation Dinner at Maryfield Nursing Home April 19.

Initiated by the supreme council of the Knights of Columbus in New Haven, Conn., the event is for Knights of Columbus councils to recognize and walk in solidarity with the priests, religious and deacons of their respective areas. The event has special importance this year to let religious and clergy understand that their work in the communities is truly appreciated by their parishioners and affiliates.

Knight George and Nancy Lautz coordinated this year's event. They have been in charge of the Religious Appreciation Dinner for the last five years — a tradition they took over from Nancy's parents, Al and Phyllis Ghosn, who ran the affair for years.

"It's our attempt to show the priests and deacons that their parishes are very close to them and to acknowledge our appreciation to the sisters who are caring for our children in the day care center and the Hispanic Center, as well as those who are caring for the elderly with such great devotion," said George Lautz.

According to Knight Rob Griffin, the master of ceremonies, the dinner was a great way to show solidarity with their priests and to express openly and corporately how they feel about them as individuals. Griffin said that as a people, we don't thank our priests and religious for their pastoral visits, the sacraments, the lessons and for all that they have given up for the people they serve, including fame, family, fortune and sometimes even their countries.

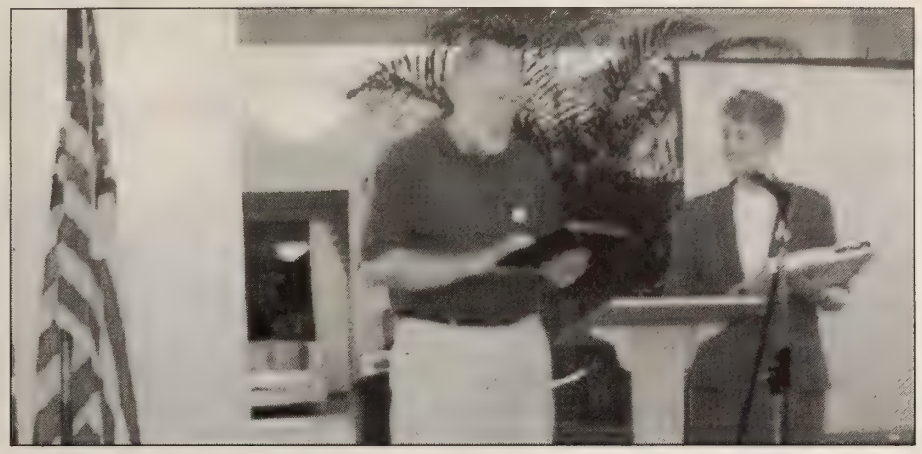


Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**Knight Joe Deering presents a flag, which had previously flown over the White House, and a plaque to Poor Servant of the Mother of God Sister Lucy Hennessy at the Knights of Columbus 32nd annual Religious Appreciation Dinner at Maryfield in High Point April 19. The plaque was in appreciation for everything the Poor Servants of the Mother of God have done for the elderly in the community.**

Griffin introduced the event's guest speaker, Dr. Thomas Walsh, as an inspiration for all heroes who do volunteer work due to Walsh's volunteerism at the Breast Cancer Center; his various community health projects; his membership in the Knights of Columbus; and as chairman of his parish council.

"How does one even begin to thank someone who reminds us about the right things to do, especially when those right things are not cool or contemporary?" asked Walsh.

Walsh spoke about his premature son who had breathing problems at birth and how he was away from his wife to take his son for treatments. "It was Deacon Joe (Smith) who made a tremendous difference because he was there to console my wife in my absence," said Walsh. "All of you do that. It means more than anything we medical professionals can do. Thank you all for your spiritual support."

Knight Joseph Deering presented a plaque and a new flag to Poor Servants of the Mother of God Sister Lucy Hennessy, director of Maryfield. The plaque indicated that the new flag had flown over the White House, and it will replace the worn flag that flew over Maryfield before being properly retired.

Gift certificates to a local bookstore were presented to the active priests, religious and deacons, while golf shirts were presented to the retired clergy and religious who were residents of Maryfield.

Those honored were:

From Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville: Oblate Father Joseph Zuschmidt; Oblate Father Jack Kelly; Rev. Mr. Joseph Smith; and Rev. Mr. Thomas Kak.

From Christ the King Church in High Point: Father Philip Kollithanath; Rev. Mr. Frank Manning.

From St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte: Charity Sisters Philo Mulakkara, Molly Puthanaotady, Liza Kuzhikandathia, Pushpa Kanjirakatt, and Archana Nariparayil.

From Maryfield: Msgr. Arthur Duncan; Father Patrick Gavigan; Father Joseph Waters; Rev. Mr. David King; Mercy Sister Patrice Manley; and the Poor Servants of the Mother of God sisters Columcille Smith, Agnes Fleury, Gabriel Ahern, Kathleen Clark, Mona Comaskey, Clair Houlihan and Lucy Hennessy.

Father Zuschmidt said, "These are always fun affairs that I enjoy. Their appreciation is always appreciated."

Msgr. Duncan, a former pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary and Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy, is a resident at Maryfield. He said, "It's nice to have this honor every year. It feels good to be appreciated."

Sister Mona, who has attended "quite a number" of these appreciation dinners, said that the Knights of Columbus, "have been very helpful over the years. We always look forward to them."

*Contact Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*


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# Latino Catholics move into church of their own

By TIM FUNK
*The Charlotte Observer*

CHARLOTTE — Sunday's noon Mass began with the Gutierrez family presenting their 3-year-old daughter, Irma, who looked like a tiny princess in the flowery crown and white lace dress her grandpa brought with him from Mexico.

The hour-long Mass ended with Maria Orozco and her four children giving another family a turn to keep the church's framed picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which had hung in Orozco's home for the customary week.

In between: More than 600 members of Charlotte's only Hispanic Catholic church prayed, sang and took Communion in their brand new worship house.

After many years of borrowing space from other churches and celebrating Masses in a cramped school gymnasium, this immigrant congregation of construction workers, hotel maids, landscapers and cooks has built a $1.8 million parish hall on Tuckaseegee Road near Charlotte/Douglas International Airport.

Besides a new address, the church long known as Centro Catolico Hispano (or Catholic Hispanic Center) has a new name:

"Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe," or Our Lady of Guadalupe, the name given the Virgin Mary by Mexicans who believe she appeared to peasant Juan Diego near Mexico City in 1531.

"Muy bonita" — Spanish for very pretty — said Orozco, a hotel kitchen worker, as she surveyed the 15,600-square-foot building.

The church, which draws 4,000 Latinos to its six Spanish-language Masses every weekend, plans also to build a $2 million sanctuary in the next decade. Until then, worshipers will attend Mass in the parish hall, where the 500 folding chairs fill quickly.

The only complaint: There's no room to kneel.

The Rev. Vincent Finnerty, a native New Yorker who spent 16 years in Panama and Mexico before coming to Charlotte in 1995, described his flock as "simple, hard-working people with a real devotion to faith, to Mary, and to their community. They also feel the suffering of others, and would sacrifice anything to help."

When Centro Catolico Hispano began in 1972, most of the members were middle-class Cubans who fled their island country to escape communism. Today, most who attend hail from Mexico or Central America, and work in low-paying jobs.

They still toss their dollars into the collection baskets every Sunday. And some of them raise money for the church by cooking Friday and Saturday nights, then selling their tacos, pupusas (Salvadoran corn pancakes with cheese and pork) and empanadas (Chilean meat snacks) after all the Sunday Masses.

"For many of them, Sunday is their only day off," Finnerty said. "Still, they'll get here at 8:30 in the morning and stay until 3 or 4 in the afternoon."

In the United States, the Roman Catholic Church began as an immigrant church, with a host of Irish, Italian, Polish and German parishes sprouting up in Northern and Midwestern cities in the 19th and early 20th century.

At Charlotte's Our Lady of Guadalupe parish, serving Hispanic immigrants today means honoring the culture and traditions they brought with them. In Latin America, for example, the church is like a second home.

"They're not used to a church that's locked," said Finnerty, the grandson of Irish immigrants who says he became a priest to work with the poor. "This church is used until 10 o'clock every night. And it's open again by 7:30 the next morning."

The church is used for prayer groups, karate classes, a radio show, weight-lifting, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, Nocturnal Adoration, choir practice and a youth group with 160 members.

The church also offers a range of social services, and brings in credit unions to explain bank accounts and immigration lawyers to go over their rights.

Coming up: an English-language Mass at 8 a.m. Sunday (starting May 5), a dedication of the parish hall by Bishop William G. Curlin (on June 2) and the construction of soccer fields.

To those who say many of the church's members came to the United States illegally and should go back where they came from, Finnerty has a religious answer.

"These are children of God," he said. "It doesn't matter how they got here. We have to minister to their needs and share our abundance."

Most came to boomtown Charlotte, he said, because they couldn't make enough money in their native countries to feed their families.

"Nobody is here because they want to be; they have to be," he added. "There are 23-year-old workers here who have been away from their families for six or seven years."

At the end of Sunday's Mass, Ecuador-born Olga Parra, a Bank of America senior administrator who helped found Centro Catolico Hispano, agreed how wonderful it was for Latino Catholics to finally have their own building.

"But what makes me happier is that we have built a community to fill it," she said. "I see so many young people who were once humble and shy. They're now in the front of church, confident because they have a place to go and a place to be a leader. This is more than a church: It's a big house for this community."

*Tim Funk is a staff writer for The Charlotte Observer. This article was reprinted with permission by The Charlotte Observer.*

## Vatican Meeting, from page 1

profound sense of solidarity and concern.

2. It is true that a generalized lack of knowledge of the nature of the problem and also at times the advice of clinical experts led bishops to make decisions which subsequent events showed to be wrong. You are now working to establish more reliable criteria to ensure that such mistakes are not repeated. At the same time, even while recognizing how indispensable these criteria are, we cannot forget the power of Christian conversion, that radical decision to turn away from sin and back to God, which reaches to the depths of a person's soul and can work extraordinary change.

Neither should we forget the immense spiritual, human and social good that the vast majority of priests and religious in the United States have done and are still doing. The Catholic Church in your country has always promoted human and Christian values with great vigor and generosity, in a way that has helped to consolidate all that is noble in the American people.

A great work of art may be blemished, but its beauty remains; and this is a truth which any intellectually honest critic will recognize. To the Catholic communities in the United States, to their pastors and members, to the men and women religious, to teachers in Catholic universities and schools, to American missionaries in all parts of the world, go the wholehearted thanks of the entire Catholic Church and the personal thanks of the bishop of Rome.

3. The abuse of the young is a grave symptom of a crisis affecting not only the church but society as a whole. It is a deep-seated crisis of sexual morality, even of human relationships, and its prime victims are the family and the young. In addressing the problem of abuse with clarity and determination, the church will help society to understand and deal with the crisis in its midst.

It must be absolutely clear to the Catholic faithful, and to the wider community, that bishops and superiors are concerned, above all else, with the spiritual good of souls. People need to know that there is no place in the priesthood and religious life for those who would harm the young. They must know that bishops and priests are totally committed to the fullness of Catholic truth on matters of sexual morality, a truth as essential to the renewal of the priesthood and the episcopate as it is to the renewal of marriage and family life.

4. We must be confident that this time of trial will bring a purification of the entire Catholic community, a purification that is urgently needed if the church is to preach more effectively the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all its liberating force. Now you must ensure that where sin increased, grace will all the more abound (cf. Rom 5:20). So much pain, so much sorrow must lead to a holier priesthood, a holier episcopate, and a holier church.

God alone is the source of holiness, and it is to him above all that we must turn for forgiveness, for healing and for the grace to meet this challenge with uncompromising courage and harmony of purpose. Like the Good Shepherd of last Sunday's Gospel, pastors must go among their priests and people as men who inspire deep trust and lead them to restful waters (cf. Ps 22:2).

I beg the Lord to give the bishops of the United States the strength to build their response to the present crisis upon the solid foundations of faith and upon genuine pastoral charity for the victims, as well as for the priests and the entire Catholic community in your country. And I ask Catholics to stay close to their priests and bishops and to support them with their prayers at this difficult time.

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# Cloning hot topic at Pro-Life Day

By DENISE KASPER
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — Make a loud noise and be heard. That was one of the messages delivered at the Pro-Life Day 2002 conference held in Greensboro April 20.

The daylong event sponsored by North Carolina Right to Life (NCRTL) featured workshops, a keynote address and a candidates forum. About 125 people filtered into two sets of workshops, garnering information about how to successfully lobby politicians to join the cause and pass pro-life legislation, establish pro-life community awareness and pitch adoption as an alternative to pregnant women considering abortion.

The buzz of the day, however, was the upcoming legislation about human cloning that could be on the Senate floor as early as this week.

"Our opponents propose destroying embryos for spare parts," said Carol Long Tobias, president of the political action committee for the National Right to Life (NRTL). "When an embryo is cloned, we have a human life. That is a human being and has the same rights to life."

Tobias explained that cloning refers to taking a human egg from a woman's ovary, removing the nucleus and replacing it with adult cells, like skin cells. She added that then the embryo develops and reproduces, just as if it had been fertilized with sperm, and carries the same DNA as the person who donated the egg.

Researchers using stem cells from the embryos propose to extract the stem cells after anywhere from 6-14 days of gestation and this extraction would destroy the embryo. Tobias pointed out, however, that if the embryo was kept intact and implanted into a woman's womb, it could survive and develop into a healthy baby.

There are two types of cloning, Tobias explained: reproductive cloning, which results in babies, and cloning for what pro-life opponents call therapeutic research. While pro-lifers don't necessarily support reproductive cloning, they ardently oppose therapeutic cloning, which results in the destruction of the embryos, Tobias said.

"We are not against finding cures for disease," she said. "Use adult stem cells, instead, to treat neurological conditions. (Cloning) would result in human embryo farms."

While the Brownback Bill, sponsored by U.S. Sens. Sam Brownback, Pa. (R) and Mary Landrieu, La. (D), calls for a ban on all human cloning, senators who support therapeutic cloning have a rival bill sponsored by Sens. Arlen Specter, Pa. (R), Edward Kennedy, Mass.. (D), Dianne Feinstein, Calif. (D) and Tom Harkin, Ind. (D). This rival bill would make it a federal offense to use cloned embryos for reproduction.

Tobias rallied conference attendees to call and write their representatives, urging them to support the Brownback Bill and reject the rival bill. Workshop hosts did role-playing and laid out step-by step how to contact representatives and be persuasive in getting them on board. Knowing the facts and being persistent were two keys to success, according to former NRTL and NCRTL lobbyists Christian and Jean Polking.

Tobias also touched on anti-abortion legislation, proclaiming that pro-lifers are getting closer everyday to overturning the legendary case of Roe v. Wade that legalized abortion.

"The number of abortions is dropping," she said. "We are making a difference."

While the battle to pass pro-life legislation trudges on, Tobias noter that the uphill incline has begun to ease since President Bush took office and made his position opposing human cloning clear.

"Having a pro-life president makes a difference," she said. "He has been wonderful, and he's been doing a lot of things for pro-life."

### Faith remains strong among majority of young Catholics, speaker says

MONTREAL (CNS) — Young adults have come of age "in a time of spiritual yearning" and been exposed to many religious movements in the "spiritual marketplace," but a majority of young Catholics "hold firmly to the core tenets" of their faith, a sociologist told a vocations gathering April 20. But while the faith of young Catholics is strong, the vast majority of them have not received good spiritual mentoring to help them "discern their true heart's calling, whatever that may be," said Sister Mary Johnson, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, in an address at the Third Continental Congress on Vocations in Montreal. Sister Johnson, an associate professor of sociology at Emmanuel College in Boston, shared results of research she and three colleagues did on a sample group of the 20 million U.S. Catholics who are between the ages of 20 and 39.

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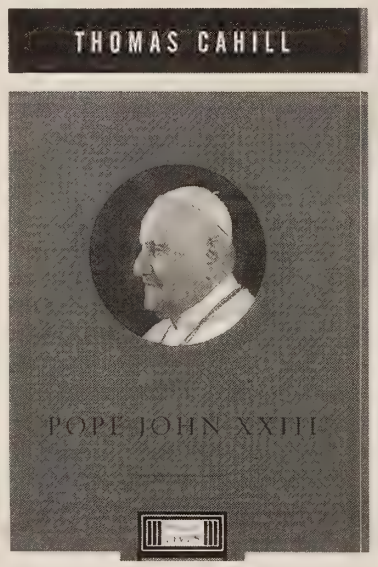
**Book Review**

# Pope John XXIII's brief reign revisited

REVIEWED BY GRAHAM G. YEARLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Pope John XXIII, the most beloved of modern pontiffs, had the second-shortest pontificate in the 20th century, a brief five years between 1958 and 1963. A compromise candidate at the time of his elevation, not considered distinguished as either an intellectual or theologian, his chief asset was his advanced age — he was already in his late 70s.

After Pope Pius XII's lengthy reign, the College of Cardinals was seeking an interim papacy, a short breathing space between two long papacies. No one would have predicted at Pope John XXIII's elevation that the short, pudgy patriarch of Venice would revolutionize the church, form the first truly ecumenical council and change forever the way Catholics view their church and the way the world views the bishop of Rome.




Although Pope John has been beatified and is only one step removed from sainthood, the long reign of Pope John Paul II, now in its 23rd year, has eclipsed this predecessor. Therefore, it is appropriate that Thomas Cahill, a popular historian and best-selling author, has brought back to our attention this beloved "father to the world" with his new biography, "Pope John XXIII," one of the series of Penguin Lives being published by Viking. Cahill, the author of three books on civilizations he calls "the hinges of history" — "How the Irish Saved Civilization," "The Gifts of the Jews," and "Desire of the Everlasting Hills" — is a thorough and respectable historian. But, alas, he is not a biographer.

As literature (as opposed to popular fiction) is concerned increasingly with other issues besides storytelling, biography has emerged as the primary long narrative form. Like the three-volume Victorian novel, biography satisfies the desire for lengthy and intelligent entertainment. However, biographies seem to be on a anabolic steroid regimen, bulking up to 600 to 800 pages, enough to daunt the most dedicated reader.

The Penguin Lives series offers a refreshing alternative — short (many less than 200 pages) biographies of significant people by best-selling authors, many of them novelists. Writers of fiction understand that, while a biography must be historically accurate, it also must tell a good story.

Cahill begins "Pope John XXIII" with a 70-page overview of the papacy from Peter to the late 19th century. While interesting in itself, it seemed a curiously disconnected way to introduce the life of Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli.

The second section covers less time, only 70 years or so, from Roncalli's entrance into the priesthood to the brink of his papacy. Cahill shows us his gradual ascent in the church's hierarchy, his long years outside of his beloved Italy as a church diplomat, and the intellectual and personal influences on him that led to the Second Vatican Council. Like a good historian, Cahill makes sure the reader has a clear picture of the civil and church politics that swirled about Roncalli. But the effect is similar to a portrait painting where we see clearly the chair, the rug and the Pekinese, but the subject remains in shadows.

The third section, covering John's papacy and the convening of Vatican II, is far livelier and, ultimately, deeply moving. We witness Pope John's death after only the first of four sessions of the council, to which he brought Protestants and Orthodox representatives as "brothers in Christ." (Pope John's dream of a tolerant and diverse Christian community remains painfully unrealized.)

Cahill ends his "biographical essay" with a brief portrait of Pope Paul VI's reign and a surprisingly astringent assessment of Pope John Paul's papacy. It is an odd way to end a biography of a man who showed in every smile the warmth of God's love.




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# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings:*
*April 28, 2002*
**Cycle A Readings: April 28, Fifth Sunday of Easter**
1) Acts 6:1-7
Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
2) 1 Peter 2:4-9
3) Gospel: John 14:1-12

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In the midst of the turmoil over the wrongdoing of some priests, I can't help reflecting on my own experience with some of the ordained folks I've had the privilege to know.

When I came into the Catholic Church 28 years ago, I spent a lot of time at my parish church, day and night. When I was there for evening programs, there was Msgr. Charles King. When I was at the church in the daytime, there was Msgr. King. I later heard stories about "9 to 5 priests," but in truth I don't think I've ever met one.

Then there was Father Joe, the good Franciscan priest at St. Andrew's, a perennially good-natured bear of a man. He would often let slip (to explain his grogginess) that he'd been called out to the hospital in the middle of the night the night before. Seemingly endless tales of his faithfulness were swapped at his going-away party. As with the lives of many good folks in the church, lay, consecrated and clergy, few of us knew the multiple acts of charity he had carried out in our respective lives.

And I could go on. We each have lists of our own favorite priests.

The psalm reading for this week speaks of God's goodness to those who are faithful, delivering them from death, preserving them in times of famine.

The Acts reading tells the story of the choosing of the first deacons to assist the apostles in attending to works of charity and fair distribution of each day's food so that they might attend to "prayer and the ministry of the word."

And the 1 Peter reading speaks of believers in Christ as "'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people he claims for his own to proclaim the glorious works' of the One who called you from darkness into his marvelous light."

In these troubled times, we need to remember our core identity as bearers of the light of Christ to others. And we need to remember the many fine priests among us who bear crosses of implied accusation because of the selfish and irresponsible actions of a few. And we need to express our solidarity with them and our appreciation for the lives of selfless service to which they have consecrated themselves. We owe them at least that much.

**QUESTION:**
*Have you sought in this crisis time to express your appreciation to the special priests who have served you and your loved ones?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of April 28 - May 4**

**Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Easter),** Acts 6:1-7, 1 Peter 2:4-9, John 14:1-12; **Monday (St. Catherine of Siena),** Acts 14:5-18, John 14:21-26; **Tuesday (St. Pius V),** Acts 14:19-28, John 14:27-31; **Wednesday (St. Joseph the Worker),** Genesis 1:26—2:3, Matthew 13:54-58; **Thursday (St. Athanasius),** Acts 15:7-21, John 15:9-11; **Friday (Sts. Philip and James),** 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6-14; **Saturday,** Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21

**Scripture for the week of May 5 - May 11**

**Sunday (Sixth Sunday of Easter),** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, 1 Peter 3:15-18, John 14:15-21; **Monday,** Acts 16:11-15, John 15:26—16:4; **Tuesday,** Acts 16:22-34, John 16:5-11; **Wednesday,** Acts 17:15, 22—18:1, John 16:12-15; **Thursday,** Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Matthew 28:16-20; **Friday (Bl. Damien of Molokai),** Acts 18:9-18, John 16:20-23; **Saturday,** Acts 18:23-28, John 16:23b-28


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# "Triumph of Love"

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A romantic farce first performed in 1732 Paris translates well to the silver screen in the generally delightful "Triumph of Love" (Paramount Classics).

As originally written in the 18th century by Pierre Marivaux, the story revolves around a princess (Mira Sorvino) whose misfortune is to have fallen instantly and utterly in love at first sight with Agis (Jay Rodan), who would be the king now had not her father usurped the throne from his father.

Agis, raised by stern philosopher Hermocrates (Ben Kingsley) and his spinster sister, Leotine (Fiona Shaw), to despise the princess and spurn all women, would seem an impossible conquest. The feisty princess, however, gains access to Hermocrates' Italian villa dressed as a man and promptly begins flirting with plain-Jane Leotine so she will allow him to stay a few days. The ruse works and soon she is winning over Hermocrates as well and finally persuading lonely Agis that they could be best of friends.

She has soon invented separate excuses to both men why she only pretended to be a man when she really cares for them as a woman. Leotine, meanwhile, becomes completely besotted by the handsome young "man" who lavished praise upon her, and the upshot is the princess finds herself simultaneously engaged to all three of them.

Collaborating on the screenplay with Marilyn Goldin, director Clare Peploe and her producer husband, Bernardo Bertolucci, turn in an above average period piece. The pacing never flags and the whole movie has a sun-dappled look as the on-location Tuscan villa setting becomes a beautiful backdrop to all the playful sexual intrigue.

Confidently anchoring the story is Sorvino's saucy performance as the good-hearted princess who wants to restore the throne to its rightful owner but also, more importantly, win his heart. She does feel bad using lies and deception to accomplish her goal and it is only her accomplished performance that makes her remain sympathetic as she breaks the sister and brother's hearts. Hers is a fleshed-out character, brimming with cunning as well as compassion, determined to win her love and right the wrongs of the past.

As the object of her desire, Rodan does not rise much above a pretty face, compared to the zesty comic turns by Kingsley and Shaw when they are transformed from dour siblings to romantic fools once mesmerized by their captivating suitor.

As sex farces go, this one is tasteful, discreet and enlivened by witty dialogue. Its deliberately choppy editing can be distracting and occasional shots of a modern audience watching the cast perform remind us this was a play but adds little else to the proceedings.

The ending is more upbeat than Marivaux's original work, but it does seem more in keeping with the lighthearted comic tone of the giddy romance.

With its burnished imagery, classical music and delicate handling of romantic indiscretions, "Triumph of Love" is a welcome far cry from the many gross-out sex comedies now polluting the silver screen.

Due to brief rear nudity and romantic complications, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

*Pare is director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*



CNS photo from Columbia Pictures

**Scene from movie 'The Sweetest Thing'**
**Thomas Jane and Cameron Diaz star in a scene from the movie "The Sweetest Thing." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

## Movie Capsules

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are recent capsule reviews issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.

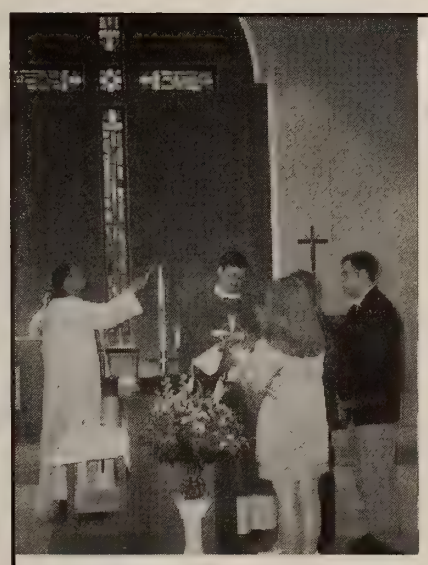
**"Enigma" (Manhattan)**

Reasonably entertaining historical thriller set in 1943 England in which a code-breaking genius (Dougray Scott) returns after a nervous breakdown to help decipher a new German code before a U.S. convoy of supply ships is attacked by Nazi subs. Director Michael Apted's film suffers somewhat from the inability to satisfactorily pull together the story's several strands, but pleases nonetheless with dynamic editing and heady atmospherics. A brief sexual encounter with partial nudity and minimal rough language and profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Murder by Numbers" (Warner Bros.)**

Creepy thriller in which two murderous high school seniors (Michael Pitt and Ryan Gosling) match wits with a fierce homicide detective (Sandra Bullock) who won't accept that the prime suspect, an apparent suicide, was the guilty party. Director Barbet Schroeder attempts character studies of the three leads to add interest, but the film remains at the level of a conventional thriller. Sporadic violence, brief sexual situations and substance abuse, some rough language and minimal profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Pope, at audience, says God wants to love and forgive, not punish

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God does not want to punish people, but to love them and save them, Pope John Paul II said at his weekly general audience.

"The last word in the relationship between God and a sinful people is never judgment and punishment, but love and forgiveness," he told an estimated 17,000 people in St. Peter's Square for his April 24 general audience.

"God does not want to judge and condemn, but to save and free humanity from evil," the pope said.

Continuing his audience talks on psalms used in the Liturgy of the Hours, the pope focused on Psalm 81, which opens with "a call to celebration, to song, to music," celebrating God's action to free his oppressed people and lead them to the promised land.

However, he said, the psalm makes clear that "biblical religion is not God's solitary monologue," but "a dialogue, a word followed by a response, a gesture which calls for adhesion."

God calls his people to worship him alone, to obey his commandments and to listen to his voice, the pope said.

"Only through fidelity in listening and in obedience can his people fully receive the gifts of the Lord," he said.

The second part of the psalm shows, however, that often people do not listen to God and do not follow his path for their lives, the pope said.

The sadness attributed to God in the psalm, he said, "is inspired by love and tied to a deep desire to fill his chosen people with good things."

God is hoping "for the conversion of his people, for a response of sincere and effective love to his ever generous love," the pope said.

As he did at his audience two weeks earlier, Pope John Paul treated the crowd to a Polish song, this time in honor of the first Polish bishop, St. Wojciech, also known as St. Adalbert, whose feast day was April 23.

## Guest Columnist



GINA RHODES
Director of Planned Giving

### Candlelight

Nearly 100 special friends of a charity gathered to hear the executive director report on organizational advances and share her vision for the future.

Five minutes into her talk the lights went out.

She urged the audience to be calm. "I'm sure the electricity will be restored shortly. Please be patient."

A minute passed. People began to fidget. And then, from the audience, a woman said, "I have a candle here in my purse and some matches."

A moment later, a flame appeared and the darkness rushed away. A sense of calm returned. Soon after, the electricity was restored and light once again flooded the room.

Interestingly, the speaker had just mentioned the importance of endowments. Now, with her microphone working again, she resumed her presentation. But not with the planned script. She was wise enough to seize the moment and draw on their mutual experience of the darkness and the candle.

"Endowments," she said, "are like candles. They provide light in the darkness of an uncertain future. They permit us to look ahead and plan with confidence. They shine rays of hope."

She talked about the perpetual flames of endowment funds and how they provide financial light for future generations. "You can create your own endowment and light a candle of hope. Future generations will benefit from your foresight."

The foregoing account is adapted from a true story. And though some of the details have been changed, it is entirely accurate to say that our endowments here at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte do help us plan prudently for the future. They are indeed candles aglow with promise.

One of the finest things you can do with part of your charitable giving is to light an endowment candle. You can do it now with cash or securities, or later through your will or a trust remainder. The paperwork is minimal compared to the satisfaction you will receive.

*To obtain information about our endowment program, please contact me (gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org) at 704-370-3320 or Jim Kelley (jkkelley@charlottediocese.org), Executive Director of the Foundation at 704-370-3301. Or write to either of us at: 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte NC 28203.*

## Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

### Dialogue With Muslims

*Q. Since Sept. 11 we hear often that Muslims have the same God as Christians. But in John (17:3), Jesus says salvation means knowing the one true God, the one who sent Jesus Christ. Paul says (1 Cor 8:6) there is one God, the Father who made all things.*

*I'm still trying to figure this out. Church leaders say we must "dialogue" with them. I don't see anything in common we can even talk about. Perhaps you can help. (New York)*

A. Islam and Christianity do believe in the same God, if by that we mean the one who created all things, a personal being with whom we relate on this earth and with whom those who are saved will, in some way, spend eternity.

The massive differences between us focus on how this God has revealed himself to us; who did the revealing; what God expects from us; and how we view the absolute, "unique" nature of our religions.

Both Christians and Muslims see their faith as the final, and only, valid revelation of God. For us, the bearer of that revelation and the embodiment, or incarnation, of God, is Jesus Christ. For them, the final prophet, the supreme messenger and revealer of God, is their founder, Muhammad.

As an additional source of conflict, both religions see themselves as missionary, intended for the whole of humanity. Jesus commanded his disciples to carry his "good news," his life, to all people, to the ends of the earth. Muslims believe it is their duty to bring all people to the "true path" of Islam, the only authentic worship and service of God.

I believe one cannot claim, therefore, that Christianity and Islam believe in different gods. In fact, scholars long ago discovered that the Eastern Christian churches significantly influenced much of Muhammad's theology and many of his prescriptions for worship.

As you suggest, with all these seemingly insurmountable conflicts of faith, how can there be discussion? What is there to talk about?

In February, Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna, Austria, addressed this problem in an enlightening manner. Speaking to a California university audience, he said at least four reasons convince him that our very certitude about Jesus and the church obliges us "not merely to the appearance of dialogue, but rather to a profound readiness to search for the truth together."

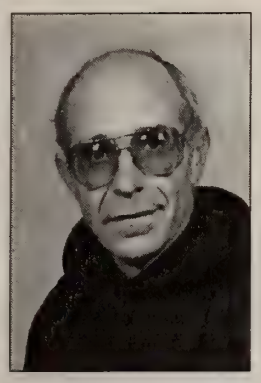
First, we are one human family, sharing one origin and one destiny. We need to identify and explore together the "great puzzles of human existence" to which all religions try to provide some answer.

Second, we cannot be arrogant about the priceless treasure of the truth entrusted to us by Christ, a truth we see now only "dimly," as in a very imperfect mirror (1 Cor 13). We should be humble enough to pursue every ray of light wherever it might shine.

Third, the responsibility of caring for the world and the whole human family has been entrusted to all human beings together. Engagement with Islam and all people of good will "confesses that God's love and providence exclude no one. That is the truly 'absolute claim' of Christianity."

Finally, claims Cardinal Schonborn, we believe we are not subject to forces of blind and arbitrary fate. We have every reason to hope. This hope, founded in Jesus of Nazareth, moves us to witness to that hope and search for traces of it in other religions.

Admittedly, this is a difficult road, one that requires great faith and courage. Even so, if we are to be faithful to the mission given us by Christ, the bottom line is, we have no other choice.



# Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM CAP
GUEST COLUMNIST

### The killer of mystery

The most beautiful experience we can have is the "mysterious." Whoever does not know it, will not wonder or marvel any longer. He is as good as dead. If our pursuit of happiness is not dominated by something more important than ourselves, spiritually speaking, we are walking to a cemetery rather than to heaven. The number one killer of the mystery is rationalization and greed. There is a good story of an old man on his deathbed. His sons had gathered around him for his last moments. The old man was lying as if asleep; however, he was able to hear the following conversation:

"We'd better start thinking about funeral arrangements," said one son. "If we hire 20 limousines, it will cost thousands of dollars." "Why do we need so many limousines?" asked another son. "Fifteen should be enough and will cost less." "All we need are four or five limousines — just for the family," said the third son. Suddenly the old man opened his eyes. "Listen boys, he said, "if one of you will just hand me my trousers and my shoes, I'll walk to the cemetery." During the Easter season of the year 2002, we may want to drop greed and rationalization and fill our lives with love and simplicity.

Fear and cynicism seem to rank very high as well on the scale of the mystery killer. We do foolish things when we lose track of our true destination. The early Christians, as recorded by the Acts of the Apostles, were filled by the Holy Spirit and they responded with enthusiasm to the call of the first Pentecost, even to the point of being ridiculed or accused of being drunk and disorderly. How courageous were those Christians who went out to every town and place, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. The truth is that when we proclaim the Good News, we become the Good News.

The true pursuit of happiness is the pursuit of peace of mind and heart and soul, which can only come when we say "yes" to Jesus. The test of this truth is your own life. Three doctors were driving to the hospital. Suddenly, the ride became very bumpy. The driver stopped the car and all three got out to see what was the problem. They began to look at the tires and stopped at the right rear one. "I think it's flat," said one doctor. The second made a close examination, and then said, "It certainly does look flat." The third doctor pressed his hands on the tire. "It definitely feels flat," he said. Then they huddled together in a little conference and nodded their heads in agreement. "We'd better run some tests!"

Jesus says, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word." (Jn. 14:23) We'd better run some tests on that! Jesus says, "I give you a new commandment: love one another. (Jn. 13:34) On a scale of one to 10, how do we score on Jesus' test?



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Of burning huts and silver linings

A lot of people are worried about the Internet, and understandably so. They worry specifically about the kind of trash that pops up, usually uninvited, on the home screens of American families. Much of it is downright pornographic, and it has a way of dirtying everything — and everyone — that it touches. I wish that our lawmakers could come up with a way of ridding us all of this filth, but their efforts so far have fallen short. Anyone who doubts that need only look at a sampling of unbidden titles to understand the depth of the problem.

But the record isn't all bad, and that's what I wanted to tell you about today. Thank heavens there are countless people out there lighting candles in the midst of the darkness, in the best Christopher tradition, to remind us of what we're called to be. I don't mean to minimize the pornography problem on the Internet, not for a minute. But these often-anonymous missionaries — for that's what they are — prove that the dazzling technology of the 21st century really can help each of us live better lives.

The other day a friend sent an e-mail story to me that I, in turn, was invited to pass along to someone else. I'll go one better. I'll pass it along to all of you because the message is one we can all use — and because it reminds us of how the Internet can so easily become a force for good.

Its title was "Is Your Hut Burning?", and it told of a shipwreck survivor who was washed up on a small uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly to God for help, but no rescuers appeared. Eventually he managed to build a driftwood hut that protected him and kept his few provisions dry, but one day after scavenging for food he returned to find his hut afire. What little he had was lost.

"God, how could you do this to me?" he called out in despair.

The next day he was stunned to see a ship approaching the island, coming to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" he stammered. "We saw your smoke signal," they said.

The lesson of my correspondent's story was obvious: It's easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart. God is always at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Remember, the next time your own hut seems to be burning to the ground, it just may be a smoke signal — one that summons the grace of God.

There was more: some scriptural reminders that for every dark cloud in our lives, God has a silver lining.

You say, "It's impossible," but God says, "What is impossible for mortals is possible for God." (Lk. 18:27)

You say, "I'm too tired," but God says, "I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

You say, "Nobody really loves me," but God says, "I have loved you." (John 13:34)

You say, "I can't go on," but God says, "My grace is sufficient for you." (2 Cor. 12:9)

You say, "I can't figure things out," but God says, "(I) will direct your steps." (Proverbs 3:6)

You say, "I can't do it," but God says, "You can do all things." (Phil. 4:13)

You say, "I can't forgive myself," but God says, "The Lord has forgiven you." (Col. 3:13)

You say, "I'm not smart enough," but God says, "I ... give you wisdom and understanding." (Dan. 9:22)

You say, "I feel all alone," but God says, "I will never leave you or forsake you." (Heb. 13:5)

So, courtesy of an old friend, that's my little e-mail sermon. The next time your own hut seems to be going up in flames, keep it in mind.

# Working Matters



JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Joseph the Worker

Everything is going well for you. You have a nice family and a good business that, while it isn't making you rich, provides what you need. Then, one night you dream that to save your child you must immediately uproot your family and your business, move to a country about which you have no knowledge, and start over. You go.

A couple of years later you have another dream, this one telling you to return to your homeland and start over — again.

Welcome to the wonderful world of Joseph, worker and family man.

Easy enough for him to do all this, you say. Joseph was a saint. Yes, but not until much later. In Matthew and Luke's gospels, Joseph worked to support his family and get along in the world. I'm sure he didn't think of himself as a saint, if he even knew what a saint was.

His neighbors didn't see him — or his son — as holy. In fact, when Jesus' teaching astonishes the hometown folks, they ask, "Is not this the carpenter's son?" (Matthew 13:55). That's the only Scriptural mention of Joseph's occupation. We know nothing about how he did his work or even if he liked being a carpenter (or "building contractor," as some scholars think). Yet we honor Joseph on May 1 as the patron saint of workers.

I see much about Joseph to emulate because of the way he lived his life.

First, there's the idea that Joseph and his family had enough, but no more. We always hear about how poor the family was, but that doesn't mean they lacked what they needed. After all, when Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem for the census, they didn't wind up in a stable because Joseph couldn't pay for a room, but because all the rooms were already taken. There was simply "no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7).

In a society without a middle class, a few were rich, but most were not. Joseph and his family were economically average for their time.

Then there's how Joseph was open to hearing and doing God's word, certainly a good way to conduct your whole life, including how you do your job or operate your business. Joseph is also the patron of interior souls, because he had developed this ability, something all of us can do. Augustinian Father Jim Vitali, in his homily at St. Margaret Church recently, said that we must all take time to quiet ourselves and listen to what God is saying to us.

I suspect that we don't listen for God's voice because we're afraid God might tell us something we don't want to hear. After all, look what Joseph had to do because he listened. He believed he was hearing God's messenger, but how many of us would think that's what we heard — unless we had learned to listen to and trust what God had to say to us.

I'm working on it, but I fear that I haven't yet reached the point of total acceptance. If I had such a dream, at least my initial reaction would be, "I can't go now, I've got work to do." Or, "That couldn't be what the dream really meant." I'd want to be in control.

Yet, there's much in life and in our work that we can't control. I believe that Joseph knew that, so he got up and took his family to Egypt. When they arrived, Joseph didn't waste time bemoaning his situation. He unpacked his carpenter's tools and went to work.

# Parishioners explore church ministries, engage in fellowship

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

HENDERSONVILLE — Anna Grace Kelsch, 4 weeks old, made her ministerial "debut" at Immaculate Conception Church's Ministry Fair April 14. While her parents, Frank and Jeni Kelsch, and her brothers Reece, 5, and Quinn, 3, manned the Evening Bible Study table, Anna Grace snoozed away in the arms of Anne Lilly, at the nearby Nursery Ministry table.

Nursery and Evening Bible Study were just two of the 33 ministries participating in the fair. Each ministry's chair, or another heavily involved person, was at each table to explain the ministry. Parishioners had the opportunity to learn more about the ministries, discover ministries they didn't know existed and to sign up to participate.

Loretta Franz decided to get involved with the Elijah Cup Ministry, which focuses on vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

"I think it's so important to pray for vocations," Franz said. "We need priests. It's so inspiring to know there are a whole lot of people involved in this."

The cup used is the chalice Father John Salvas, Immaculate Conception's parochial vicar, received from his father when he was ordained. After a Sunday Mass, Franz will take the cup and a prayer journal home for a week. During that time she will pray for vocations and will make a journal entry about her experience. At the end of the week, she'll return the chalice and journal to the church so another household can participate.

The Ministry Fair was a project of the Family Life Ministry. "St. Joan of Arc (Church in Asheville) had one a couple of years ago," said Karen Kater, who, along with Lilly, coordinated the project. "I brought it up to the parish council, and they said to go for it."

"It's for parish awareness," Lilly said, "so the rest of the parish knows what their parish is up to. I think it really helps boost community. It brings us all together."

Going for it meant meetings to plan the event. Ministry personnel spent about six weeks preparing for the fair, but setup in the church hall took just a couple of hours that Sunday morning. Every ministry made its own display material.

At the fair, the Sunday Coffee Hour Ministry provided refreshments to parishioners as they browsed the various tables. People signed up for nearly every ministry.

At least five new volunteers will be involved in Faith Link, which works with other congregations in Henderson County to support and encourage people who are in Work First (welfare) and continues to mentor them when they leave Work First. The new volunteers are really "gung ho," said Peg Costigan representing both the Faith Link and Interfaith Assistance ministries. "Their thought was, 'We're new in this area, and we've been looking for something to get involved in.'"

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

**Immaculate Conception Church Ministries**

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**Director of Faith Formation:** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church is a parish of 500 families looking for a professional minister to direct adult and teen faith formation. Master's degree in Religious Studies or related field necessary. Please send resumes and salary requirements to Search Committee, 700 Carnegie St., Fayetteville, NC 28311.

**Director of Youth Ministry:** Growing parish of 1300 families in eastern NC seeks youth ministry director for established program. Candidates should be practicing Catholics with strong interpersonal skills, committed to youth and their formation. Primary focus: high school youth in areas of liturgy and spirituality, catechesis, outreach, and social activities. Director serves as member of pastoral team. College graduates with at least 2 years' experience as a youth minister or equivalent preferred. Salary and benefits commensurate with education and experience. Send resume and references to Sarah McPherson, St. Peter Catholic Church, 2700 East 4th St., Greenville, NC 27858, or mcpherson@greenvillenc.com

**High School Coaches:** Bishop McGuinness Catholic High in Kernersville, NC seeks to fill head coaching positions for: cross country; varsity boys' soccer; varsity boys' basketball; varsity girls' basketball; jv boys' basketball. Call Dennis Allen at (336)564-1020.

**Nanny:** for homeschooling family in Charlotte's University Area. Slightly flexible schedule: 4-6 hours per day, 3-5 days per week. Experienced homemaker preferred. Call 704-453-6545.

**Teachers:** Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, located in Fairburn, Georgia, is seeking teachers in all disciplines for the 2002-2003 school year. Mercy offers an excellent teaching environment and well as competitive salary and benefits. Interested individuals should send resume and cover letter to: John Cobis, Our Lady of Mercy High School, 861 Highway 279, Fairburn, GA 30213.

## VACATIONS

**Resort Rental or Sale:** Wolf Laurel, 25 miles N. Asheville, NC; 1600 square feet, furnished, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, fireplace, deck, cable; pool, horseback riding, hiking, mountain view; $550/week, or $1600/month, or $6000/6 months. Sale price: $135,000. Call Sue: (828) 689-5908.

## Sculptor, from page 1

from a family of carpenters and cabinetmakers, he began to dabble with woodcarving. Having received a wood lathe from an uncle on his wife's side, he decided to give back for what he received by making his aunt a walking stick decorated with vines.

His next project was a 6-foot tall Celtic staff. From there, all in his spare time was dedicated to carvings, some of which are on display at the Marshall Gallery in Greensboro.

Always mindful of his religious background, and believing that nothing should be taken without giving back, Nixon has taken his talent to Guilford Technical Community College, where he is a wood carving instructor.

It was only two months ago that he was contacted and commissioned to carve the peace pole. The school had been looking for a sculptor, and Nixon had been looking for a challenging project. "I think God had a lot to do with what happened," said Shepard.

"I'll be carving up to the last minute," said Nixon before the unveiling. "I'm my own worst critic. I want to give it my all."

Although this project took away considerably from family life, Nixon's wife was very supportive of his effort to complete the pole on time. On weekends and at night, she would take Ana to her grandmother's house or keep her occupied so that he could work on his project. Nonetheless, Nixon always found the time to eat together as a family and read Ana her bedtime stories.

Being very spiritual, Nixon researched the types of symbols used not only universally for peace, but, especially, those that are meaningful to Catholicism.

"I truly enjoyed the process — the challenges and the research involved," he said. "I'm not only learning to carve the wood, but I'm learning about all that goes into it. The more I work with it, the more I discover about it."

In following the advice of other woodcarving experts — "Let the wood tell you what to sculpt," they told him — he decided to sculpt daisies where knots were located on the wood. He soon discovered that daisies were the symbol of the innocence of the Christ child.

On the pole, Nixon carved the word for peace written in English, Spanish, Italian, Latin, Chinese, Russian, Hebrew and Arabic. At its base is carved foliage to remind the viewer that this was once a living tree growing in a peaceful place. On the next level up, Nixon has carved children holding hands and dancing around the pole — an idea contributed by his wife.

Scattered between the words of peace are a variety of peace symbols that include: a peace pipe with an olive branch and peace feathers (the Oklahoma state symbol); a crane (a Japanese symbol of peace, especially after Hiroshima); the anchor (a Christian symbol of hope and stability); dogwood (a symbol of the crucifixion of the King of Peace); a loon (a Northwest Native American peace symbol); and a dove with an olive branch (a Judeo-Christian symbol of peace).

At the top of the pole is a figure of a Native American woman releasing a dove with the world perched upon its wingtips. On the reverse side of this is the rising sun (symbolizing hope of a new day of peace). Just below the sunrise are two boys — one is stretching his arm up to reach the goal of peace, the second reaching down to help without touching, symbolizing that peace has not yet been achieved.

"It's my own expression after Sept. 11 of what I want and feel," said Nixon.

"It (the peace pole) has far exceeded our expectations," said Shepard. "The details are what keep catching your eyes. You see something new in there every time."

After finishing the peace pole, Nixon said, "I'm really sorry that it is all over. I've found my passion in life. It's something that I truly enjoy."

But the end of one project is just the beginning of another — Nixon now has several projects waiting for him, including one for firefighters and some for Our Lady of Grace Church.

"It's a very special time," said Nixon.



**Paul Nixon, sculptor of the peace totem pole, with one of the 12 doves released at the International Peace Site dedication April 22.**

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY


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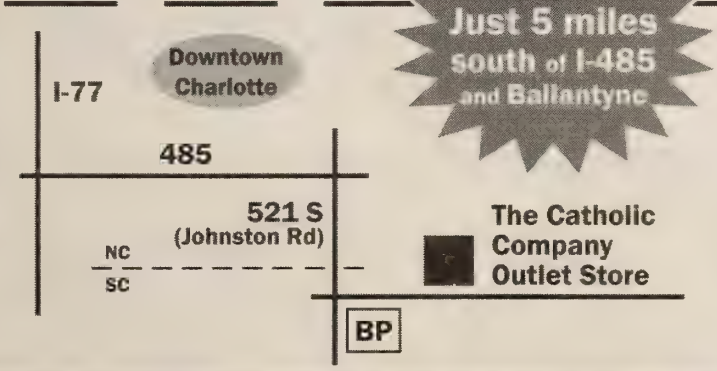
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# Franciscan sister focuses on Hispanic Ministry

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

LENOIR — Franciscan Sister Linda Scheckelhoff remembers the Hispanic migrant workers who came to her father's farm to help with the tomato picking season. She was not aware then that her early association with the workers would lead her to Hispanic Ministry later in her life as a woman religious. Sister Linda has been the coordinator of Hispanic Ministry in the Boone Vicariate for the past three years.

"The exposure I had as a child to Hispanics and seeing conditions in which many of them lived really drew me (to working with them)," said Sister Linda who worked in rural areas of Mexico for 10 years.



**Franciscan Sister Linda Scheckelhoff**

Her desire to work with people of Hispanic descent was as strong as her desire to become a woman religious when she was younger. She was surrounded by dedicated Catholics and saw positive examples of women religious and priests in her extended family. Her mother was also an influence on her spiritual life.

After her father passed away, her mother rented out the farm to her uncle, and young Scheckelhoff assumed some of the care taking duties while her mother went to work to support her six children.

"My mother was a real model of faith with all she went through. She was a real hope-filled and faith-filled woman," she said.

School also provided a source of faith for Scheckelhoff. Her seventh- and eighth-grade teacher, a Sister of St. Francis, was a role model for the young Catholic. "Sister Joan of Arc's whole way of being and her faithfulness to the Lord drew me to religious life," said Sister Linda. "The seed for a vocation had been planted early with my aunts who were women religious, and it came to fruition in seventh- and eighth-grade."

To accomplish her goal, she began attending St. Francis Convent School in Tiffin, Ohio, during her ninth- and 10th grade years. Although she was fond of the atmosphere, she felt as if she were missing out on some parts of her teen-age years. "I had some doubts if it (the sisterhood) was my vocation. I hadn't had much contact with boys and thought that I had better check some things out before deciding what to do," she said.

She returned to her hometown high school in Miller City, Ohio, and graduated in 1965. She had made plans for college and decided to go on a retreat before classes began. Thoughts of the religious life began to fill her head again, and she decided to enter the Sisters of St. Francis convent. After nine years, she professed her final vows in 1974, during which time she earned her bachelor's degree and was in the throes of Vatican II changes.

"We wore brown habits with black veils, and the only thing that showed was our face and hands. I still remember the day when we removed the coif — the hood-shaped cap worn beneath the veil," said Sister Linda who was attending Madonna College in Livonia, Mich., at the time. "We came down for dinner together, and everyone was staring. I was glad when we got rid of them because they were uncomfortable and hot."

She had been teaching for several years and had realized that her calling was in missionary work. The community had begun sending sisters to Mexico to work in several areas, and Sister Linda was eager to accept the challenge. A scouting mission led to her realization that working with Hispanics was what she was meant to do. She worked with priests and other religious, including her cousin, Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, now the diocesan director of Hispanic Ministry.

"We struggled with being able to speak to people and tried to adapt to the culture. It was a real shock adjusting to the poverty, boiling water, traveling by horseback and crossing rivers without bridges," she said. "We lived very simply, but we enjoyed it."

Her ministry included visiting families, coordinating religious programs including sacramental preparation and Bible study. "The people were very supportive, welcoming and hospitable. What impressed me most was their deep faith lives amidst poverty and injustice," said Sister Linda, who worked in and around Chiapas, Mexico, until 1988. "My experience in Mexico touched my life because it helped me to grow as a person and opened my mind to a whole new world."

Returning to the States did not mean the end of her work with Hispanic Ministry. She was aware of the growth of the Hispanic community in her own country. She served at a parish in Indiana for three years before coming to the Diocese of Charlotte in 1992. Sister Andrea needed her cousin's help with Catholics in the Yadkinville and Dobson areas.

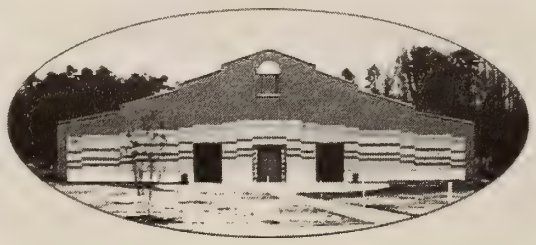
Sister Linda began working specifically with the congregation of Sagrado Corazon de Jesus (Sacred Heart of Jesus) Church in Dobson even before it became a parish. She focused on sacramental preparation, youth ministry, leadership formation and liturgical work.

In 1999 Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty, former diocesan director of Hispanic Ministry, asked Sister Linda to work on a diocesan level. With her office in her home in Lenoir, she travels among five parishes in six counties stretching into the steep mountain ranges around Boone and Jefferson.

"It is a lot of hard work, and sometimes, it's hard to get a hold on it. I want to establish lay leadership in parishes, and there is a core group in each parish who I am training to work in different areas of ministry," said Sister Linda. "(My work) has given me new eyes to see the world and see my role in church as a woman religious and as a missionary."




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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

May 3, 2002
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Jesus said to his disciples: "Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

—John 14:21

# Stewardship message amplified at national convention in S.C.

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

COLUMBIA, S.C. — "When stewardship takes hold as a way of life, the parish family is on fire," said Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte and one of the facilitators at the National Convention on Stewardship. The event was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel April 27, the newly designated ICSC Region IV Stewardship Day.

The event, sponsored and hosted by the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the dioceses of Charleston, Charlotte, Raleigh and Savannah, brought together the talent and experience of leaders from throughout the southeast to teach others how to make that fire of stewardship spread to every parish and home.

Retired Bishop John Snyder from the Diocese of St. Augustine, Fla., who is known for his innovative approach to stewardship, gave the opening address where he discussed how his own notion about "what it means to be a steward" has evolved over the years. He credited Barbara and Dutch Schultz, who staffed the first "stewardship office" in his diocese for enriching his own understanding of stewardship.

"They helped me to see that stewardship was about putting God first in everything. I had to learn that nothing is mine," he said. "Everything we have is a gift. It's all a gift."

After the keynote speech, individuals attended various workshops that highlighted aspects of implementing and understanding stewardship. Jim Kelley, director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte, gave a talk on "Forming Stewardship Committees" about the importance of having a stewardship committee and the desired qualities of its members.

"Look for people who are eucharistic, who have a deep relationship with Jesus, who are grateful for that relationship and who act on that gratitude," said Kelley. He also suggested seeking individuals who exemplify the qualities of a good steward, who are dependable and optimistic.

Kelley outlined the tasks of the committee such as effective publicity, developing an annual plan and organizing events like "Commitment Sunday," where parishioners have an op-

See STEWARDSHIP, page 8

# Teens "Think, Feel and Perceive with Christ" at youth conference



Photo by Mary Marshall

**Christopher Padgett shares his conversion to Catholicism with 350 youths from 33 parishes around the Diocese of Charlotte at the 25th Annual Diocesan Youth Conference, which was held at Camp Thunderbird April 26-28.**

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

LAKE WYLIE, S.C. — Catholic youth on fire about their faith — that was the predominant feeling found at the 25th Annual Diocesan Youth Conference: Sentire Cum Christo ("To Think, Feel and Perceive with Christ") held at Camp Thunderbird April 26-28.

Three hundred and fifty youths from 33 parishes throughout the Diocese of Charlotte spent the weekend learning, communicating and socializing as they attended workshops, concerts and Masses; gave testimonials; and listened to guest speakers.

Christopher Padgett shared his journey of conversion to Catholicism. Founder of the band Scarecrow and Tinmen, which performed Friday evening, Padgett integrated personal anecdotes, humor and lightheartedness into his story that captivated the audience.

As Padgett has performed for various denominations throughout the years, he said his curiosity about the Catholic faith has been piqued. "Visiting other denominations, I asked the same questions over and over, always receiving a different answer," he said. "I was frustrated with the denominational breakdown and always came back to the Scripture, 'And the gates of hell will not prevail over the church.'"

Padgett soon realized there was an unmatched consistency in the faith and morals of the Catholic Church. "I yearned to learn about the faith, the apostles, the Scripture. I was excited, on fire. I reached out expanding my knowledge. Many of my questions were answered. My life was changed; I was exploding with so much understanding."

Padgett encouraged all to be excited about their Catholic faith, to set examples and to blow people away with their beliefs.

The students were excited about their faith, many of them elated to be in a setting with fellow Catholics. Carmen Lara, a ninth-grade student and member of St. James Church in Concord, expounded on the topic of keynote speaker Msgr. Joseph Kerin, pastor of St. Mark Church in Huntersville, which

See DYC, page 14

### Pamphlets offer ideas for dealing with pain of abuse scandal

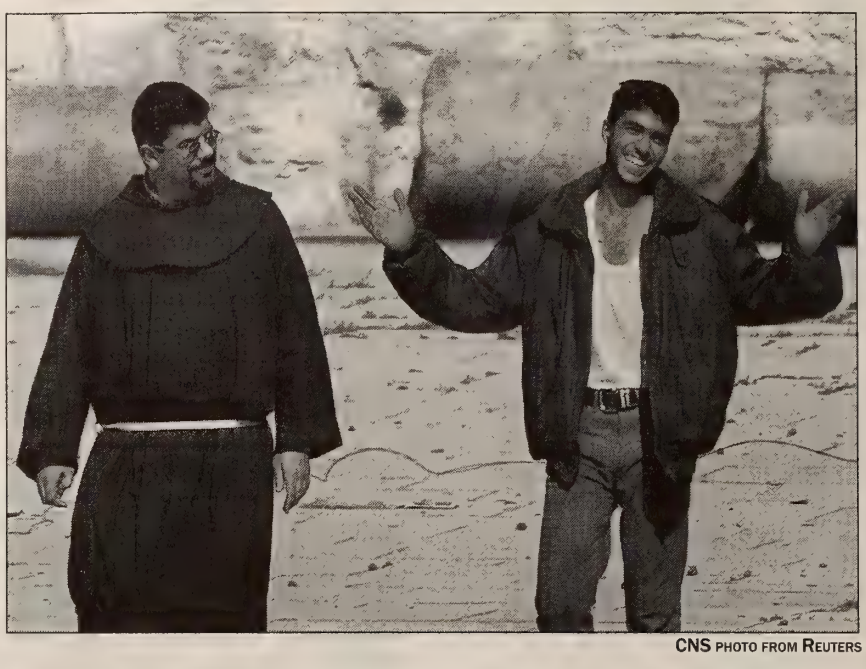
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic publishers are offering two new pamphlets to help Catholics deal with the continuing revelations of clergy sexual abuse or other problems caused by someone in the church. "When Someone Is Hurt by the Church," written by Lorene Hanley Duquin and published by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, based in Huntington, Ind., offers practical reflections and useful suggestions for helping Catholics who may have been hurt by someone or some process in the Catholic Church. The second pamphlet, called "Time of Crisis, Time of Faith," focuses more directly on the clergy sex abuse crisis and can be downloaded for free on the World Wide Web at www.pauline.org/church. Compiled by Pauline Books and Media, a Boston-based publisher run by the Daughters of St. Paul, the leaflet is intended for churches to distribute to parishioners.

### Bethlehem reduced to city of crushed cars, rotting garbage

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — The sounds and the smells of the old city of Bethlehem have changed. Now instead of the tantalizing smell of exotic spices and sizzling grilled meat mingling with the sounds of tour groups tramping their way to the Church of the Nativity, one hears the crunching of glass underfoot and smells the rotting garbage. Flies hover noisily over piles of overgrown trash, and burned-out hulks of cars litter the old marketplace, which a mere four years ago had been renovated with high hopes and foreign money, ready to greet the stream of millennial-year tourists. Cars battered and run over by tanks line the roads heading to the marketplace and the alleyways leading up to the Church of the Nativity. Almost a month after the Israeli incursion, only a few residents venture outside their homes, while children play among the shattered cars and scattered clothes that old women once sold at the market.

### Concern for seafarers spans from immigrants to tourists, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said the church's concern for sea-traveling people spans from tourists on cruise ships to illegal immigrants desperate to make a better life. "It is important to ensure that those who make up the great family of the sea are not lacking spiritual support," he told participants in a plenary meeting of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers. "They must be offered the opportunity to encounter God and discover in him life's true meaning," he said April 29. Caring for immigrants means ensuring that they have "adequate opportunities to cultivate their own faith and religious practice," as well as caring for their physical needs, he said.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Friar escorts Palestinian man from Church of the Nativity**
**A Franciscan friar accompanies a Palestinian man as he leaves the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem April 30. A group of 27 people filed out of the church after being holed up there for nearly four weeks. Israeli troops continued to encircle the church compound waiting for the remainder of the Palestinians inside to surrender.**

### Events give 101 reasons to end death penalty, cardinal says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The recent exoneration of the 100th death-row inmate and the release of the report from the Illinois Governor's Commission on Capital Punishment add up to "101 reasons to abandon the death penalty," according to the head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Policy. In an April 24 statement, Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington said the two news items help illustrate the need to limit and end the death penalty. On April 9, Ray Krone was freed by the state of Arizona after serving 10 years in prison for rape and murder. DNA tests vindicated him and pointed to another inmate as the likely person who sexually assaulted and killed a Phoenix waitress in 1991. His release marked the 100th death-row inmate in recent years to have been exonerated after conviction. A few days later, the Illinois commission recommended 85 steps intended to avoid wrongful convictions, prevent prosecutorial misconduct and ensure defendants are represented by competent counsel. It also recommended reducing the number of crimes eligible for the death penalty from 20 to five.

### Bishops of Americas to discuss idea for new Spanish Bible translation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Can one translation serve all the 300 million Spanish-speaking Catholics in the Western Hemisphere? The answer could determine whether the bishops in the Americas support a new Spanish translation of the Bible. Supporters of the idea say it would help unify the Spanish-speaking Catholics in the hemisphere, standardize the use of Bible quotes in catechetical and liturgical materials, and provide revenue through royalties and sales. Difficulties include variations in Spanish terminology from country to country, different cultural and social situations throughout the region which influence understanding and application of sacred Scripture, and finding a large enough group of biblical scholars with the time for the huge translating task. The U.S. church is taking the lead in advancing the idea. In March the U.S. bishops' Administrative Committee approved formation of an ad hoc committee to formally explore the possibilities of a new Spanish Bible translation with the Latin American bishops' council, known as CELAM, and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

### German nuns ordered out of Bavarian school over abusive methods

COLOGNE, Germany (CNS) — Bavarian state and civil authorities have ordered nuns of the Teaching Sisters of Our Beloved Lady to stop teaching in a school at the end of the school year due to abusive tactics. Parents accused the nuns of "teaching through fear" and of having an attitude "inimical to the physical" aspects of life. The nuns' activities were first noticed last fall at a school in Auerbach, when parents discovered the nuns had withdrawn state-approved eighth-grade biology books because they were unhappy with the way the books dealt with sex education. Tenth-graders were given biology textbooks with the first 14 pages torn out for the same reason. The school is run by a committee of local interests, including the town and the convent, but is publicly funded. The Bavarian education ministry told the nuns to restore the books, but they failed to do so.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**May 12 — 10:30 a.m.**
Confirmation
Sacred Heart, Brevard

**May 13 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
Our Lady of Lourdes, Monroe

**May 16 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Stephen, Elkin

**May 17 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Paul the Apostle, Greensboro

**May 18 — 4 p.m.**
Mass at Knights of Columbus Convention
Greensboro

## Diocesan planner

**May**

**8** CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a recognition of those couples celebrating their 50th anniversaries, lunch and a performance from Johnette Nichols, "the Bag Lady," in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Bobbe Conlin at (704) 643-1376 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

**11** SYLVA — A dialogue on welcoming Hispanics will be held at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., today from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The gathering — open to all interested in this ministry of the church — will include a history of Catholic immigration patterns in North Carolina, the teachings of the church, understanding Hispanics and their culture and spirituality and how people are responding to the U.S. bishops' pastorals on Hispanic Ministry. To register by May 6 and for other details, call St. William Church in Murphy at (828) 837-2000 or e-mail stwilli@tricounty.main.nc.us.

**12** CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., will be having its Christian Coffeehouse tonight from 7:30-9 p.m. following 6 p.m. Mass. Through food, fellowship and Christian music from Kathy and David with Redeemed, participants can join in the spiritual celebration. For reservations of a table of six or more, sponsorship opportunities and other information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 614-9100.

**14** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Arthritis Support and Education Group will meet this morning from 10-11 a.m. in Room D of the parish ministry center located at 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**14** NEWTON — There will be a diocesan school of leaders held at St. Joseph

### Religious orders, prelates endorse national housing trust fund

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic religious leaders are at the forefront of a coalition of religious leaders nationwide calling for the creation of a national affordable-housing trust fund. The fund, which would not require new taxes to finance it, would help stem a growing housing crisis for the nation's poorest households. Money for it would come from a surplus from the Federal Housing Administration. Through April 24, 187 members of the House had co-sponsored legislation creating the trust fund, 31 shy of a majority that could force a vote on the bill. The heads of 29 religious orders, and the leadership teams of 40 other orders, were joined by U.S. Protestant, Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist religious leaders in signing an April 24 letter to President Bush asking him to sign the bill should it reach his desk.

### French church leaders express concern over support for Le Pen

PARIS (CNS) — French church leaders voiced concern at the support for far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen after he placed second in the first round of presidential elections. "These results clearly show a radicalization of voters' political choices and highlight a deep crisis in our society," Archbishop Jean-Pierre Ricard, president of the French bishops' conference, said in an April 22 statement. "In the days ahead, we need to follow our intelligence rather than our instincts, discernment rather than spontaneous reaction, and calm rather than fear," he said. The archbishop spoke as campaigning intensified for a May 5 second-round ballot that will pit nationalist Le Pen against incumbent President Jacques Chirac.

### British church groups caution voters on racist issues in May election

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — British church groups and local pastors cautioned voters on potentially racist issues being raised in May 2 elections. Some Catholic groups have criticized some of the policies of the British National Party, which opposes immigration to Britain and is promoting a policy of repatriating immigrant families. More than 150 local authorities in England have elections with approximately 6,000 council seats to be decided. And following the surprising second-place win in the French presidential elections by the National Front's Jean-Marie Le Pen, there has been increasing speculation about the prospects of success in some areas by the British National Party.



CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL HOYT, CATHOLIC STANDARD

**Maryland Catholic school damaged in deadly tornado**
**A statue of Mary stands amid the wreckage at Archbishop Neale School in La Plata, Md., April 29, after a deadly tornado ripped through the area the evening before. Much of the elementary school's roof was torn off and several walls collapsed in the twister that left three people dead in southern Maryland.**

### Family of Catholic lawyer inside Church of Nativity awaits his return

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Each night after putting her four children to sleep, Rosybel Salman's thoughts turn to her husband, Anton, who has remained inside the besieged Church of the Nativity with some 200 other people. "I wonder what he is doing, if he is sleeping well and if he ate that day," said Rosybel Salman, 38, a Catholic. "Right now I must be strong. I can't do anything. If it will last much longer, I don't know if I will have the strength. I pray a lot." Anton Salman, 43, chairman of the board of the St. Anton Charitable Society and an attorney for the Franciscan friars, is one of the members of the Palestinian team negotiating to end the standoff at the Church of the Nativity.

### Vocations work seen aided by broadening image of God, humanity

MONTREAL (CNS) — To foster vocations in today's church, Catholics must broaden their image of God, change their view of humanity and embark on a contemplative path, the president of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas said April 20. Sister Marie Chin urged delegates attending the April 18-21 Third Continental Congress on Vocations in Montreal to "listen with different ears so we can hear the vulnerabilities and see with different eyes that all humanity is more connected than we can ever imagine." She added, "God will raise up vocations in our church where our deepest gladness meets the needs of the world."

### Mothers in Ramallah recall terror when Israelis took their sons

RAMALLAH, West Bank (CNS) — Although it had been more than 20 days since she had gone to Mass, Muna Fadayel, 49, did not go to church April 22, after the Israeli withdrawal from Ramallah. She waited instead at home with her sister-in-law, Samya, 49, and her mother-in-law, Mary, 85, for her son Rafat to return home. Rafat Fadayel, 25, his older brother, Fayek, 27, and four of their friends were arrested at the Fadayel home by Israeli soldiers April 10. Rafat Fadayel, a graduate student in accounting at Bir Zeit University, remained imprisoned, while his brother and friends were released a few days later. "When (the Israelis) took them, they were very strong. I told them to go with God, but I was very afraid," Muna Fadayel said. "Now every time the phone rings I think it is Rafat," she said.

Church, 720 West 13th St., tonight at 7 p.m. The topic will focus on postcursillo and witnessing using segments from the Christian Life talk. This will also be held at Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., with a discussion of environmental groups and witnessing on May 25 at 9 a.m. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665.

**18** GASTONIA — St. Michael Church will be sponsoring its first annual invitational golf tournament today at Cramer Mountain Country Club. The captain's choice event; which will include lunch, golf, cart, prizes and a reception; will begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. For further information, call (704) 867-1212.

**20** ASHEVILLE — The St. Martin de Porres Pro-Chapter of the Dominican Laity meets tonight and every third Monday at 7 p.m. in St. Justin's Center at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid, OPL, at (828) 253-6676.

**20** CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

**22** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**22** MAGGIE VALLEY — A series of presentations; sponsored by CSS Elder Ministry and facilitated by Richard Von Stamwitz, a national certified gerontological counselor; will continue throughout the diocese. Today's presentation will be given at St. Margaret Church, 1422 Soco Rd., from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Brown bag lunchtime with provided drinks will begin at 12:30 p.m. The topic, "Faithful Living in Later Life," will be presented in two sessions and will focus on vocation and ministry in the later years. For pre-registration and other information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Marlo Wallace at (704) 370-3228.

**25** MAGGIE VALLEY — Franciscan Father John Quigley will be facilitating "The Trinity's Invitation to Full Life" at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, this week through May 31. Participants will look at the spiritual, emotional and intellectual aspects of the Holy Trinity's role in people lives. For further details, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

**26** HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

**Upcoming**

ROCK HILL, S.C. — The Rock Hill Oratory, 434 Charlotte Ave., is hosting its annual "Horizons of the Spirit" July 15-19 with morning sessions from 8:45-11:30 a.m. and evening sessions beginning at 7 p.m. Anne Koester, associate director for the Center for Pastoral Liturgy in Notre Dame, Ind., and Keith Egan, founder of the Center for Spirituality in South Bend, Ind., will present the conference's theme, "Worship as the Source and Center of Life in the Spirit." For those who want to enrich their prayer and spiritual lives, call the Oratory at (803) 327-2097 or write to: P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, SC 29731.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the publication date.*

# Speaker tells Afghans' story of hope and fear

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — War and bombing campaigns have left millions in Afghanistan homeless, but not hopeless. Organizations like Catholic Relief Services (CRS), an international agency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, are helping.

Kathy Brown, CRS's advocacy manager, described "The Afghan Refugee Crisis," the keynote address during "We Are Called: A Conference on Social Justice Issues" at St. Eugene Church April 27. The Office of Justice and Peace, Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte, sponsored the daylong program.

Father Francis T. Cancro, St. Eugene's pastor, spoke on "The Spirituality of Justice." Afternoon workshops addressed global climate change, the death penalty, socio-economic concerns in Western North Carolina and how to legislate effectively.

Brown spent most of December observing CRS operations in Pakistani refugee camps. She said there have been as many as 2 million Afghan refugees in Iranian camps, 2.5 million in Pakistan and 7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Pakistan. Some have been in the camps for more than 20 years, victims of the Afghan/Russian war that began in the late 1970s; most recently, they are there as a result of the bombings after Sept. 11.

In the early 1970s, Brown said, Afghanistan was emerging from Third-World status. Boys and girls attended school together. However, most education for women and girls was in cities. "In the rural areas, there is no living memory of educating girls and women," Brown said. "These areas are where the Taliban came from."

Russia left in the early 1990s, but factional wars continued. The Taliban created stability through a hard-line approach and affected some reforms. However, they destroyed dams and much of the country's agriculture. In addition, southern Afghanistan and the areas around Kabul have suffered from drought for the past five to six years.

IDPs have no status as refugees because they aren't registered in refugee camps outside Afghanistan. Often, they don't know where the camps are. They wander around looking for food, shelter and safety.

The United Nations is responsible for the camps but asks other organizations to help with such needs as food, water and clothing. "Working through agencies like CRS, CARE and Lutheran Relief Services is a tremendous way to get aid to the people," Brown said. Assistance organizations also include the Muslim's Red Crescent, similar to the Red Cross.

The United Nations transports people who make their way out of Afghanistan to the camps and registers them. CRS gives them basic necessities. Each family gets wheat, beans, cooking oil, a tent, blankets (and prayer rugs, if needed), clothing and cooking utensils. Many of the items are purchased from American companies that have factories in Pakistan.

CRS also devotes itself to education, especially for women and girls; health services; rebuilding dams and restarting irrigation of cropland; and to reintegrating former combatants through such means as job training. CRS funds come from grants, donations and the U.S. government.

Brown said that the U.S. government has pledged $300 million for reconstruction; other nations have pledged $4.5 billion. Muslim countries are also providing aid. For instance, Jordan has given money and has provided doctors and nurses. However, $10 billion will be needed for Afghanistan's recovery over the next five years.

She added that Americans can pray for peace, help CRS raise $50 million for Afghan refugees and let members of Congress know that Americans care about the people of Afghanistan.

"In the camps," Brown said, "I asked people what message they would like me to take back. They all said, 'Tell our story, and then tell them that we are very afraid that once the bombing ends, you will forget us.'"

Remembering, Father Cancro said in his talk, is found in justice — born, nurtured and lived in relation to faith.

Justice was born in covenants: Abraham's covenant was about human dignity. Moses' covenant with God moved people from slavery to freedom. The new covenant is with Jesus, that humanity is worthy of salvation. "Our worth comes from being able to reflect the glory of God," Father Cancro said. "The way we relate to one another is in healing and forgiveness." We are to look for God's kingdom, he added, not "out there," but within ourselves.

Justice, he said, is nurtured by a life of sacraments and the virtues of faith, hope and charity, he said.

"Faith gives insight into God's presence in the world. God is present in all people, in all creation, not just in the comfortable but in the broken. What we experience is not the whole story," he said. "Faith keeps us from being ground down in the dirt for long. Hope is the recognition that there's someone inside of us who keeps standing up. Once we are able to hope, we can become hope to others."

Charity, such as volunteering time and contributing money "open opportunities to reflect on the situations other people find themselves in," he added. "Charity doesn't solve problems, but leads us to get at the root of those problems."

Justice lives in the Eucharist.

"Eucharist and justice live together in the same house," Father Cancro said. "Eucharist is the witness to breaking and sharing Christ's presence among us. We are challenged to become what we eat, to bring what we are to others. Eucharist is important nourishment because it teaches us what we need to become. The 'Thanks be to God' at the end of Mass is important because we can leave the church to be the eucharistic mystery to others."

Afternoon workshops and presenters included: "Global Climate Justice," by Kim Carlyle, western regional coordinator for the North Carolina Council of Churches Interfaith Global Climate Change Campaign; "The Death Penalty Moratorium: What Others Have Done, What You Can Do," by Ted Frazer, chair of Charlotte Coalition for a Moratorium Now; "Socio-Economic Concerns of Far-Western North Carolinian Families & Communities," by Joan Furst, director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, Bishop Begley Center for Economic Opportunity; "Effective Legislative Advocacy," by George Reed, executive director of the North Carolina Council of Churches.

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*




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# Spring Fling let seniors kick up their heels

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

HICKORY — About 140 seniors from around the Diocese of Charlotte gathered at St. Aloysius Church April 25 for a day of learning and activities at the 16th Annual Spring Fling sponsored by the Catholic Social Services Elder Ministry program. The event was also held at St. Mark Church in Huntersville April 18.

The day at St. Aloysius started with coffee, Danish, door prizes and a performance by the St. Joseph Church's Irish Step Dancers from Newton. The dancers, taught by Meg Barrett of St. Joseph, ranged in age from three to teenager and came from various churches in the area. They wore colorful costumes and demonstrated dances in soft and hard shoes. Barrett gave the historical background behind the various dances and told how she had come to learn them herself.

After the dance demonstration, the seniors in attendance had a variety of activities from which to choose.

They could play bingo, practice on a putting green, purchase religious items or buy raffle tickets. They were able to have their blood pressure checked by members of the Hickory Rescue Squad, and they could join a sing-along led by Mary Finlayson, a parishioner at Our Lady of Assumption Church in Charlotte, who played favorite tunes on the piano.

Helen Gassen from the Peaceful Dragon in Charlotte gave lessons in Tai Chi, an ancient Chinese system of meditation, breathing and gentle exercise. Ann Baggett, an exercise and art instructor for the Catawba County Council on Aging, taught a chair exercise program.

Seniors were also able to listen to a herbal presentation by the Carolina Foothills Herb Group and a presentation on Latino traditions and celebrations by Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, diocesan director of Hispanic Ministry.

Cindy Jordan demonstrated the healing touch, a technique used for calming and healing, on some of the seniors. Lisa Bruen and Art Drumheller operated the "Chairway to Heaven," giving five-minute chair massages.

Anne Richie was helping seniors with tips on caring for their skin, and Kim McClure from the Alzheimer's Association displayed activity aprons. The aprons have large buttons and zippers and are used to help Alzheimer's patients with their memories.

Dolly Gabor, a parishioner at St. Aloysius, had several craft ideas ready from which seniors could choose.

Most of these same activities were available after a lunch prepared by Chuck Spaller, a parishioner at St. Aloysius and owner of Ragazzi's restaurant in Hickory. During the afternoon session, line dancing lessons taught by Alberta Cutler from the Catawba County Council on Aging were added to the list of activities.

The day ended with a Mass celebrated by Father Ed Sheridan, pastor of St. Aloysius.

The chair exercise, herbal presentations and line dancing were new activities for the seniors this year, said Jenny Robinson, regional coordinator for Elder Ministry. "They (the seniors) loved the new events we added," she said. "They really seemed to enjoy the line dancing. I was really pleased with the outcome."

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## Pastoral Assignments

*Most Rev. Bishop William G. Curlin announces the following pastoral changes:*

**Effective April 5**

Rev. Matthew Kauth as temporary administrator of St. Francis of Assisi in Lenoir.

Rev. Matthew Leonard, administrator of St. Francis of Assisi in Lenoir, on leave at his request.

**Effective April 29**

Rev. Anthony J. Marcaccio as vice chancellor, while remaining as pastor of St. Pius X in Greensboro.

Rev. James Solari as temporary administrator of St. Pius X in Greensboro.

# Refugee relocation requires community outreach

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Reflect back on the work you've accomplished over the past year. Now imagine condensing all that work into three months. Welcome to the world of Catholic Social Services Refugee Resettlement Office.

Last week, *The Catholic News & Herald* reported the upcoming resettlement of 300 Montagnards into the Diocese of Charlotte, with the first wave arriving next Friday. Refugee Resettlement Office Director Cira Ponce said Charlotte is one of the three resettlement sites for the Montagnards; the others, Greensboro and Raleigh. All together, 905 Montagnard refugees will soon call North Carolina home.

To put this in perspective; last year, the Refugee Resettlement Office assisted 350 refugees. Next week, the office will begin the placement process for the single largest refugee group to descend at one time. Perhaps that task sounds daunting. Not for the Refugee Resettlement Office.

The first activity of finding housing is falling into place. "One landlord had 30 units — two and three bedroom units — available," said Ponce. The landlord extended a helping hand by allowing the Refugee Office time to ready the apartments before the first rent comes due.

Moreover, Ponce says the landlord is making an additional apartment available — *gratis* — providing a much-needed location for the Refugee Office to hold English as a Second Language classes and orientation classes. "We're getting such positive response (from the community), " said Ponce. "It is encouraging."

Father Mauricio West, chancellor and vicar general of the diocese, has extended an internal plea to employees of the pastoral center, asking the 120 employees to "work together to set up two apartments with donated furniture and household items."

The challenge now is furnishing and preparing the apartments for the impending arrivals. Everything, every room needs a helping hand. Living and dining rooms need furniture; kitchens need the full range of kitchen items; bedrooms need bedding and linens; bathrooms, towels, along with the full array of toiletries.

Across the city, Catholics are joining their Protestant neighbors in an ecumenical effort to help prepare for the new arrivals. "We're appealing to churches, civic groups, organizations and individuals for help," said Ponce. In a community outreach, Ponce has received pledges for help from various denominations and needs much more help. "It is a big commitment, and we will soon share in seeing a new life for these refugees thanks to the help of so many caring people," she said.

*Editor's note: Though the Montagnards will live in Charlotte and Greensboro, as well as in the sister-diocese of Raleigh, assistance is needed statewide. Ponce suggests individuals call Care-line, a help and information line provided by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Care-line calls should be directed to (800) 662-7030.*

**How you can help the Montagnards**

**Financially:** The 300 expected Montagnard refugees will be divided into approximately 60 "households" with five people to a household. For each household, $1,000 in additional funding is needed to cover expenses during the first three months after arrival.

**Time:** We need as many volunteers as possible to help set up apartments with donated furniture and household items for the refugees before their arrivals. We strongly urge groups of volunteers to organize the collection of donations and coordinate setting up apartments with the Refugee Office.

**In-kind donations:** In order to furnish apartments for the refugees, we need donations of furniture, kitchenware, toiletries and linens. Men's clothing in small and medium sizes is also desperately needed. Instead of donations of food, vouchers for area supermarkets are welcome. Please contact the number below for a detailed list of needed donations.

**Employment opportunities:** We will be trying to place these refugees in full-time, entry-level, non-skilled jobs with benefits. If you are aware of any opportunities, please contact 704-370-3285.

For more information, call **704-370-3256.**
Please send all monetary donations to:
**Catholic Social Services**
**Refugee Resettlement Office**
**1123 S. Church St.,**

### Cardinal Mahony has blood clots, faces lawsuits

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles was hospitalized late April 28 with blood clots in his left lung. The next day he was hit with two lawsuits accusing him of participating in a cover-up of sexual abuse of minors by priests. At an afternoon press conference April 29, his personal physician, Dr. Lee Parsons, said the cardinal was in good condition, resting comfortably and being treated with blood thinners. He was to remain at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank for several days. The archdiocese had no immediate comment on the lawsuits themselves, filed by two sets of brothers who claim to have been abused as children in the 1960s and '70s by Father Carl Sutphin, an archdiocesan priest ordained in 1958 who was forced to retire earlier this year. The archdiocese issued a brief statement, however, emphasizing Cardinal Mahony's "zero-tolerance" approach to any priest or employee found to have abused a child.

### Christian singer says own struggles with faith central to new album

DETROIT (CNS) — There's just one thing, according to Steven Curtis Chapman, that sums up what he wants to say on "Declaration," his 12th album. "God is God and I'm not," says the artist who has sold more than 7 million albums. In recent years, pain has seeped into Chapman's life. He has written and sung about sorrow — but it wasn't his own. "Declaration" is an album saturated in hope and set against a backdrop of pleading, "God I believe, help my unbelief." Chapman told The Michigan Catholic, Detroit's archdiocesan newspaper, "That's a prayer that I found myself praying more in the last couple of years than I have before." He said it holds him up as he watches his mother battle cancer. He clung to it as he dealt with a diagnosis of paralyzed vocal cords from a viral infection just before the release and tour of "Declaration."

### Confirmation class visits ground zero, thanks firefighters

NEW YORK (CNS) — The confirmation class from a parish in the Rockville Centre Diocese made a trip to ground zero in New York City and to a firehouse where 15 firefighters were lost in the World Trade Center collapse. After being greeted by New York Cardinal Edward M. Egan at morning Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral April 14, a group of 40 eighth-graders from Most Holy Trinity Parish in East Hampton and their chaperones went to the wooden viewing platform at ground zero. Standing in complete silence, the students stared out into the barren area where thousands of people died Sept. 11. "I was excited to see what it was going to be like" at ground zero, said eight-grader Austin Bahns. "Seeing how the Twin Towers were affected up close made me realize how tragic an event it was."

### Young Catholic population seen as fertile ground for church outreach

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholics ages 20 to 39 number about 20 million, a good-sized group that "a lot of faith traditions would give anything to have," said sociologist Sister Mary Johnson. The challenge for the Catholic Church is to teach this younger generation more about their faith and about the church's notion of vocation but also to listen to their questions and concerns, she told Catholic News Service in an interview prior to her address at the April 18-21 Third Continental Congress on Vocations in Montreal. In the interview and at the congress, Sister Johnson, who is a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur and an associate professor of sociology at Emmanuel College in Boston, shared results of research she and three colleagues did on a sample group of Catholics ages 20 to 39.

### Parishioners 'bless and send' choir founder who faces deportation

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) — Parishioners at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis said a tearful goodbye April 14 to the man who founded the parish's International Gospel Choir and who may be deported at any time. Their hope is that Nguando "Michel" Nyonzele will be allowed to go to a safe nation such as Canada, rather than to the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire, where he is considered a traitor for deserting the air force in 1986. Nyonzele and his supporters believe he will be captured and killed if he returns. At the end of the Mass, Father Michael O'Connell, pastor, blessed Nyonzele and anointed his hands with oil. Dressed in the white robes and gold sash of the choir, Nyonzele was emotional as he thanked everyone for their support and love. The "blessing and sending" ceremony was held in recognition of the fact that Nyonzele's chances for reversing his order of deportation are all but used up.

# St. Mark parishioners honored for devotion to students

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

DAVIDSON — Students at Davidson College wanted to let two very special people know how much they were appreciated.

The students honored Dr. Susan Roberts, associate professor of political science, and Barb Bagnall, coordinator for Catholic campus ministries, at the college's annual Spring Awards Convocation April 17. Both honorees are parishioners at St. Mark Church in Huntersville.

Roberts was awarded with the inaugural SGA Faculty Award.

"We on SGA thought it appropriate to designate an award that recognizes the contributions of professors to the lives of their students outside of the classroom," said Joey Harris, the out-going SGA president who presented Roberts with her award.

Harris noted that Roberts is "an amazing scholar, teacher, student advocate and mother who serves her students outside of the classroom environment in a number of different ways. No one can question Dr. Robert's tireless commitment to her students and the school."

Roberts has been involved in athletics as the faculty representative to the NCAA, chair of the college's athletic gender equity committee and as college liaison to several Southern Conference committees. She has also worked with the Patterson Court Judicial Board in furthering student understanding of plagiarism and the honor code.

"It meant everything in the world that they recognized me as a working mother," said Roberts, whose son, Jack, has been critically ill for the past five years. "It gave me hope that I had taught them something about life, not just political science."

She said it was wonderful to be honored by the students who have become a part of her life over the past few years. "I've won other awards at other colleges, but they just didn't mean as much as this one. This one came from the students," she said.

Barb Bagnall was awarded with the 2002 ODK Staff Award. While Bagnall is not an official staff member of the college, she has use of an office in the student union.

"She (Bagnall) makes herself available to counsel students, and she shares herself and her open heart with everyone, not just those who affiliate themselves with the Catholic faith," said Elizabeth Marie Melchionna, a member of ODK (Omicron Delta Kappa), a national leadership honor society.

Bagnall recently helped to mediate the college's Faith and Choice Week, a series of roundtable lunch meetings to discuss faith and the issue of abortion. Bagnall was commended for enabling students to express their ideas and questions, "even if they differed from her own," said Melchionna

Bagnall's service extended beyond the campus, Melchionna noted. For the past two years, Bagnall has taken a group of students to New Orleans to work with inner city children.

Bagnall was "shocked" by the award but was very honored to receive it. "It's the little shot that you need to go on," she said.

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334, or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*


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**For information on specific programs, please call your local office.**


## School Board Openings for the Diocesan School Board

The Diocesan School Board has school board vacancies beginning 2002-03 school year. The School Board is a consultative body to the Bishop's representative, the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools.

The Board meets monthly from September to May at various schools throughout the Diocese. The meetings take place during the week beginning at 6:30 p.m. and ending by 9:00 p.m.

**To be eligible to serve, a board member must:**

1. Be a practicing Catholic. A letter of verification and recommendations by the pastor is required.
2. Be a participating parishioner of a parish in the Diocese of Charlotte.
3. Have a genuine interest and commitment to Catholic schools.
4. Be able to work effectively with others in achieving consensus.

Members shall serve terms of three years.

Individuals having school committee, board, PTO, Athletic Association or other school experience are particularly encouraged to apply by sending a resume stating professional background and parish/school participation and letter stating why you would like to serve by June 3 to:

Dr. Michael Skube
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Catholic Schools Office
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*Feel free to contact Dr. Michael Skube with questions or comments at (704) 370-3271.*

# Retreat helps men grow closer to God, each other

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — From Friday evening, April 26, through Sunday afternoon, April 28, over 30 men of Hispanic origin congregated at St. Paul the Apostle Church for a Hispanic Retreat for Men.

According to Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, diocesan director of Hispanic Ministry, it is an ongoing function of Hispanic Ministry to hold separate retreats for Hispanic men, women and youth of the diocese. These are evangelization retreats similar to the Cursillo movement that was started in Spain in the 1949.

"The purpose of these retreats is to call the people to a more personal relationship with Jesus," said Sister Andrea. "Hopefully, the participants will desire to live the faith in their lives." Sister Andrea hopes the retreatants will take what they have experienced back to their small church-based communities. "Even more ministry should flow from there," she said.

Enedino Aquino, coordinator of Hispanic Ministry in the Greensboro Vicariate, has been active in the vicariate for eight years. "I am rewarded by the fact that my people go in the right direction, that they begin to know God better, and that they are growing both socially and spiritually," he said. "I am further encouraged that they have learned through personal experiences that God is always there for them."

Aquino said the local parishes have been very helpful. "They allow us to use their halls, kitchens and sound equipment and expect nothing in return. The priests are most helpful also," he said. "Father Joseph Waters, presently residing at Maryfield, heard confessions all morning and Father Christopher Davis, pastor of Holy Infant in Reidsville, said the closing Mass on Sunday."

There are two groups that are vital to the retreat. The first group is the "Equipo": the team that gave the talks and verbal encouragement to the retreatants. The second is the "Equipazo": the team that gave support behind the scenes either by cooking and cleaning up or by writing letters of encouragement throughout the retreat. The latter team was not visible to the retreatants until the end of the weekend.

"This is so that the people taking part in the retreat would not know who it was that sent them letters of encouragement but that they were there just to help them," said Germana Godinez, an active member of Hispanic Ministry.

Jose Flores, from Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, volunteers to work with married couples and with marriage preparation. Flores was in charge of putting this particular retreat together.

"Aside from receiving learning experiences about Jesus, about Mary and the Catholic faith, the retreatants will get some life skills that should give them confidence in themselves and for their personal life situations so that they can become even more productive in their local communities than they are already," said Flores. "They should be enabled to walk through their own problems by doing positive things with their lives. Also, by learning that others have the same, if not bigger problems, their own become easier to handle."

During the retreat, the men came forward and gave personal witness to Jesus and exposed their weaknesses. The men poured out their souls to one another, sharing their religious and life experiences, all of which were to encourage each other to grow in love with God and with neighbor. In self-revelation, many were able to overcome their own mistakes and help others to learn from these past errors of judgment.

Adrian Garcia, from St. Joseph Church in Asheboro, said he came to the retreat out of curiosity and thought he would be bored. "I am glad I'm here," he said. "It is a beautiful thing to know and learn about God and about Mary. I enjoyed the retreat."

Jose Sotelo, from Blessed Sacrament Church in Burlington, wanted to experience the men's only retreat because he only attended youth retreats before. According to Sotelo, "The topics are really different. The focus is more intensely on God. In addition, we can express our feelings more. I am getting to know myself better. I am beginning to learn from my past and will try to change so that I will not repeat my mistakes."

"I feel like my life just changed in the moment we were talking about Jesus," said Valentin Perez. "I felt free to say anything I wanted to let out. To just let out my feelings was a good experience. I was relieved that I could express my problems so freely."

*Contact Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218, or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*




# Province bishops recommend a "zero-tolerance" policy for priests

ATLANTA — The Catholic bishops of the province of Atlanta April 30 recommended a policy of "zero tolerance" regarding priests who have a confirmed or proven allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor child.

The bishops of the province have defined "zero tolerance" as a commitment that the church and her institutions will be a safe environment for children and that no priest will remain in any ministry who is a danger to them.

Archbishop John F. Donoghue, who holds the ex officio title of metropolitan of the province of Atlanta, released this statement following a discussion among the bishops of the province that includes Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina on Monday.

During this discussion the bishops were asked to address 14 proposals involving reassignment to ministry, reporting of allegations and accountability. Their responses were to be faxed to Most Rev. Harry Flynn, Archbishop of Minneapolis/St. Paul, so the responses could be reviewed before the general meeting of the full body of bishops in Dallas, Texas, June 13-15, 2002.

The following bishops voiced their concerns and provided Archbishop Donoghue with feedback: Bishop Robert J. Baker, Charleston, S.C.; Bishop J. Kevin Boland, Savannah, Ga.; Bishop F. Joseph Gossman, Raleigh, N.C. and Bishop William G. Curlin, Charlotte, N.C.

"In the past, the people of God have been unnecessarily wounded," said Archbishop Donoghue. "Therefore we will unanimously recommend to the Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse that they endorse our recommendation that we believe will prevent priests with proven allegations of sexual misconduct with minors from ever functioning in any form of ministry again. We recognize that our words may not be well received because of a lack of trust in the hierarchy of the church; therefore, we pray that our actions and our recommendations today send a clear message of our commitment to the faithful."

"We need families to know that if their child has been abused, that is one child too many," said Bishop Baker. "Once an allegation is proven we will act swiftly to prevent it from ever occurring again. We will never knowingly put a child in harms way. This is our commitment to the people of God from their bishops."

The bishops made it clear that their recommendation includes all past, present and future cases involving proven cases of sexual abuse with minors in any area of priestly ministry.

The bishops also restated their commitment to follow state laws unique to each diocese regarding the reporting of all past, present and future allegations with minors. If a minor or the parent of a minor reports that a child has been sexually abused, local church authorities will immediately report such allegations to the appropriate public authorities.

Among other items, the bishops unanimously recommended the following:

— No priest should ever be reassigned to any ministry after an allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor has been confirmed or proven.

— Each bishop and diocese should recommit itself to following state laws regarding the reporting of such allegations.

— It is recommended that the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops create a uniform policy regarding the sexual misconduct of priests with minors.

— The adoption of "zero tolerance" and full reporting policies by even a few dioceses impels the full conference of bishops to do the same.

— All bishops should commit themselves publicly to be accountable to each other and to the faithful for the proper implementation of policies regarding sexual misconduct with minors.

— Vatican acknowledgement of a national strategy for accountability is both proper and necessary.

During the discussion, the bishops expressed the following concerns that they wish to examine before or at the June meeting:

— An appeals process should be instituted for priests who have been accused of sexual misconduct with a minor;

— A well-defined, step-by-step procedure should be established by which an accused priest would be removed from service that protects both the rights of the alleged perpetrator and the victim. Any recommended policy must ensure that the process is fair and definitive for all parties involved.

— If a priest is found guilty of the crime of sexual misconduct with a minor by public authorities, a shortened Vatican administrative process for voluntary laicization (permanent release from vows) would be desirable. A Vatican process for imposed laicization is already in place.

"We will deal with those issues in which the law has been broken with full disclosure," said Bishop Boland. "Church authorities will offer pastoral assistance along the way to the victims and their families."

The bishops also expressed concern about the rights of victims.

"We want to respect the right to privacy of the victim," said Bishop Gossman. "Often victims come forward asking that the family or child's name be withheld. We will recommend that the committee also consider this fact when setting its final policy."

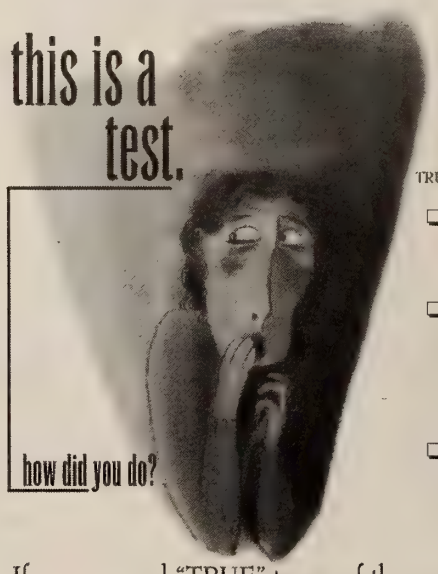
Throughout the dialogue the bishops reflected upon the need to continue to provide pastoral and spiritual support for victims of sexual misconduct.

"Since we know that child abuse has a ripple affect, we must remember to pray for the victims of this heinous act, their families and the universal church as we attempt to heal," said Bishop Curlin. "We must remind ourselves that these problems did not occur overnight, and therefore cannot be solved overnight. We commend the cardinals on making the first step. Our recommendation is another; the meeting in Dallas will be the next step."

Finally, the bishops of the province asked for prayers from the faithful of their diocese.

"We ask that the faithful pray to the Holy Spirit that all bishops receive His gifts of wisdom, understanding, fortitude and compassion as they attempt to make policies which will guide the church for years to come," Bishop Baker concluded.

"These are our recommendations," Archbishop Donoghue said. "Even though we will present them, we recognize they may not be accepted as submitted. This is simply another step in the refining process. In the end each of us has agreed to adhere to the directives and mandates of the Vatican when and if a national policy is developed."


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## Stewardship, from page 1

portunity to present or express their talents and gifts to the parish. He emphasized the importance of contacting people who express a desire to become involved.

"If people are not contacted and instead just have their names put in a book or in a computer, then they will not get involved in future stewardship efforts. They will also start to believe that stewardship is only about money," he warned.

Kelley and several other speakers touched upon the fact that children need to be a part of the parish stewardship efforts. One quote that Pat Spivey of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, who works with the church's stewardship committee, intends to share with her committee is: "If we don't teach our children about stewardship, we will have no adults who are stewards."

Spivey said that she has attended many workshops but felt that this one was the most useful because it presented strategies that could be implemented in most parish settings. "It was not theories but practical suggestions from people who actually tried them," said Spivey, who enjoyed having the time to ask questions and share with other participants.

Another aspect that Kelley addressed in his workshop on "Forming Stewardship Committees" was the benefits of lay witness. It was coincidentally played out during another workshop given by Franciscan Father Daniel Quakenbush from the Diocese of Raleigh on "Stewardship in the Hispanic Culture."

Father Daniel had several parishioners from St. Julia Church in Siler City, N.C. speak on their experience as stewards of God's gifts in a multicultural parish. By sharing their various projects, they concretely demonstrated how stewardship helped them work together and become one family.

"This session touched my heart to its core," said Gaddy, who plans to share aspects of this workshop, which was videotaped, with parishes integrating other cultures into their church community. "The witness of the Latinos and Anglos, speaking about being stewards to the parish and of God's gifts, had a powerful impact on everyone in the room," she said.

The question, asked and answered by many attending the conference, was first asked by Bishop Synder in his opening remarks, "What do I need to do to express my gratitude to God."

It will now be up to the participants to carry that question to their parishes so that it can be answered through acts of love and generosity.

*Jordan B. McMorrough, editor of The New Catholic Miscellany, contributed to this story.*

# Parishioner's devotion to poor lives on after death

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — She was a kind and humble women who loved her church and her fellow parishioners — so much that she wanted to continue helping them long after she was gone.

Ella Marie McGonagle Bickel, a parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church, died Dec. 2, 2000, at 89. A retired bookkeeper and widow, Bickel left her life savings to the church and parishioners that had touched her heart.

"She left more than $600,000 to St. Vincent de Paul to establish an endowment for the poor of St. Vincent," said Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development.

"She never made a lot of money, but both she and her husband were very frugal," said John de Jong, a close friend of Bickel. "She could have had a brand new car, but kept her old Buick. She was comfortable in it."

Through living below her means and clever saving, Bickel had amassed a large sum of money, de Jong said. "By her very nature, she was a bookkeeper ... she was very organized."

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Bickel came to Charlotte from Long Island, N.Y., in the mid-1980s after the death of her husband, Jean. She had retired in her 70s from the Diocese of Rockville, N.Y., and had moved to the Queen City to be closer to friends. It wasn't long before she became a familiar face at St. Vincent de Paul.

"I first met her in the visitation ministry that had just started at St. Vincent's," said de Jong, who leads the rosary group at the church. "She visited the sick and the homebound and those in the hospital. She visited the nursing homes; she would be feeding people who didn't know she was there."

Bickel also volunteered at Room at the Inn, a residence that provides maternity home care and childcare services to single mothers. De Jong remembers Bickel as "a very dear soul" who loved people, loved children and cared deeply for the less fortunate of St. Vincent de Paul. "(She was) a very nice woman, but very reserved," he said. "But she didn't want to be in the limelight."

When she wasn't attending to the needs of others, or caring for her mother (who had lived to be 102), Bickel was following her favorite sports teams on television. "With sports, she was an expert," said de Jong. "You couldn't tell her anything about basketball, baseball, football or golf. She knew everything about them."

Bickel was also an avid bowler with her own bowling ball, said de Jong. "At her age, it was unbelievable — she got strike after strike," he said.

Wanting to help everyone who needed her, Bickel donated generously to many charities. "She could not say no," said de Jong.

She had no children or immediate family, so when Bickel started to consider her will, it wasn't long before she determined that her church would best benefit from her savings.

"She really cared about the church, and she cared about the poor," said de Jong.

When de Jong suggested to her the idea of an endowment, "That just took off. She really liked that idea." While Bickel had wanted her money to help the priests, the sick and education, her main emphasis was to help the poor of the parish, he said.

"Through her gift, Ms. Bickel is leaving a legacy that will help meet the needs of poor people at St. Vincent de Paul for generations to come," said Father Mark Lamprich, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul.

Bickel's donation will be placed into the Foundation of the Diocese of Charlotte in the form of an endowment for the poor of St. Vincent de Paul Church. An endowment is a permanent fund placed in the diocesan foundation that earns income over time. The original amount is not spent, but the income can be used in a manner stipulated in the endowment agreement, according to Kelley.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization established to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations.

Not only are people in the diocese giving of their current income, said Kelley, they are taking another step in stewardship by giving their cumulative assets to take care of the church.

"What we're finding out is that more and more parishioners across the diocese are following Ms. Bickel's example and leaving something in their estate to take care of future needs in their parish, in a Catholic school or Catholic agency," said Kelley. "They live out the life of stewardship when they give back in gratitude for all the gifts God has given them."

In addition to a bequest in a will — in which you can stipulate that the Foundation or named endowment receives a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or other remainder after other bequests are filled — there are five other primary ways to donate an endowment to the diocese, according to the Gina Rhodes, diocesan director of planned giving. They are:

— Gifts of cash, securities, real estate, or other assets, which is an ideal method when the donated assets are highly appreciated.

— Gifts of life insurance, which allow you to make a gift that might be larger than if you were to give an asset outright. You can donate a paid policy that you already own, or you can purchase a policy to donate.

— Life income arrangements, which allow you to make a gift during your lifetime while retaining and even increasing your income from those assets for the remainder of your life. This includes trusts and charitable gift annuities.

— Gifts from retirement plans, which you can designate your endowment as the remainder beneficiary of an IRA, 401K, or annuity to receive what is left in your retirement plan after your death.

— A gift of life estate in real property, which allows you to enjoy your home or vacation property during your lifetime, while giving you the satisfaction of knowing your church will benefit from the gift after your death.

*To learn more about planned giving or to set up an endowment, call Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or Gina Rhodes at (704) 370-3320.*


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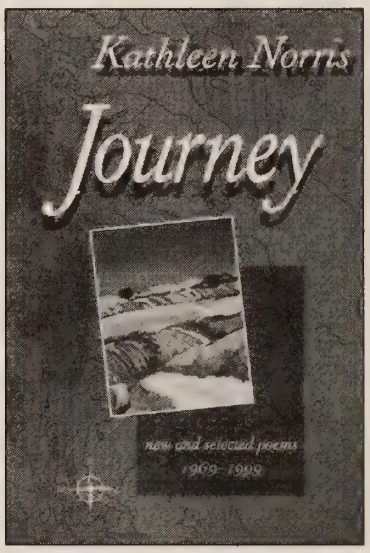
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**Book Review**

# Author reveals hidden presence of God in two offerings

REVIEWED BY JULIE MCCARTY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Kathleen Norris, best-selling author of "Dakota," "Amazing Grace" and "The Cloister Walk," opens her latest memoir, "The Virgin of Bennington," with a quote from St. Augustine: "But 'salvation is far from sinners,' and such was I at that time. Yet little by little I was drawing closer to you, although I did not know it." "The Virgin of Bennington" chronicles Norris' experiences as a young adult, examining the subtle ways God was at work in her life, unbeknownst to her.




Because of her selection of Bennington College for its creative curriculum — she wants to avoid mathematics at all costs — Norris is jolted into a world of partying, drug experimentation and sexual promiscuity. She earns the label "Virgin of Bennington" and "Norris the Nun" (she wasn't even Catholic) for her ability to resist temptation for three years. Looking back, the older, wiser author notes it wasn't that she possessed true virtue, but rather that celibacy provided a "means of retreating from other people and their demands."

Her eventual sexual experiments bring her a painful dose of reality. Her first job at the Academy of American Poets introduces Norris to the literary and artistic community of New York City. Amid the ordinary grind of typing, filing, and answering phones, she experiences the thrill of meeting famous poets and hanging out with the artistic Andy Warhol crowd at night. A good deal of the book provides details of the expansion of modern poetry in New York and the inspiration of her mentor, Elizabeth "Betty" Kray, the executive director of the Academy of American Poets.

"The Virgin of Bennington" is no ordinary celebrity expose. Like St. Augustine, Norris is looking at the hidden ways God was reaching out to her: through the lover who bluntly tells her "If you can't handle drugs, you have no business taking them"; in the failed relationships that taught her painful lessons about genuine love; in the ongoing, nurturing presence of Kray. God continues to seek us, often through other people, even when we put ourselves in the most compromising situations.

Norris' latest book of poems, "Journey," spans 30 years of poetry to 1999. Organized in sections relating to excerpts from the Bible's "Song of Songs," one can trace her spiritual growth. For example, the first section, poems of 1969-1973, relates to the bride in the "Song of Songs," searching for the lover (God) throughout the city streets, but not finding him. These poems, written while she lived in New York City, deal with such varied topics as angels, the trial of stomach aches and the heartbreak of young love.

The poems in "Journey" uncover the spiritual dimension lying dormant in the most ordinary of day-to-day tasks. In "Housecleaning," the tasks of cleaning out the basement and doing laundry lead to hymn-singing and reflections on Mary Magdalene. "Ascension" combines the downward movement of birthing a baby with the exhilarating feeling of the miracle of new life. In "The Monastery Orchard in Early Spring," she sees grist for reflecting on Newton and Augustine where others would see only apples. "The Presbyterian Women Serve Coffee at the Home" reveals an ordinary conversation among women about aging that leads to a theological insight about eternal life.

"The Virgin of Bennington" and the poems of "Journey" invite us to open our eyes to the hidden presence of God in our own ordinary lives.

*McCarty is a free-lance writer from Minnesota with a master's degree in theology whose work has appeared in numerous diocesan newspapers.*

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings:*
*May 5, 2002*
**Cycle A Readings:**
May 5, Sixth Sunday of Easter
1) Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Psalm 66:1-3a, 4-7a
2) 1 Peter 3:15-18
3) Gospel: John 14:15-21

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I love the progression of this week's Old Testament and New Testament readings, and how they speak to the "communication" of the Holy Spirit among believers. The first reading tells about the apostles laying hands on new believers who then received the Holy Spirit. The Gospel talks about the Father sending an Advocate, "the Spirit of truth," to those who love him, to live in them and reveal God to them (one might add, again and again).

During a confirmation preparation program I helped lead, parents joined us for one of the sessions, and at its conclusion we invited them to join the sponsors in laying hands on their children and other candidates in silent prayer. We hoped the young people would feel the warm reality of God's presence in the human touch of those who love them and who wanted the Spirit to come deeply into their lives. Subsequent comments from some of the candidates suggested that that was, indeed, what happened for them.

But comments from parents indicated that they, too, were touched powerfully by the Spirit as they laid hands on their young people. These were people who had held and hugged their kids throughout their 16 or 17 years of life, yet several remarked that they were thankful to have the opportunity, in the words of one, "to do this for my child." Many were moved to tears.

I laid hands on their children, too, and I can vouch for the fact that I truly sensed the Spirit of Jesus passing between us. As Catholics, we are fortunate to have tangible symbolic acts, such as laying on hands, to bring alive our spoken or silent words in prayer. And we don't come out of the experience wondering, "What just happened?" The Gospel explains it, "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you.... And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

**QUESTIONS:**

*How has God been revealed to you in the laying on of hands — either as the one laying on hands or the recipient? What other tangible prayer experiences have you had, and how has God been revealed in those?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of May 5 - May 11**

Sunday (Sixth Sunday of Easter), Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, 1 Peter 3:15-18, John 14:15-21; Monday, Acts 16:11-15, John 15:26—16:4; Tuesday, Acts 16:22-34, John 16:5-11; Wednesday, Acts 17:15, 22—18:1, John 16:12-15; Thursday, Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Matthew 28:16-20; Friday (Bl. Damien of Molokai), Acts 18:9-18, John 16:20-23; Saturday, Acts 18:23-28, John 16:23b-28

**Scripture for the week of May 12 - May 18**

Sunday (The Ascension of the Lord), Acts 1:12-14, 1 Peter 4:13-16, John 17:1-11; Monday, Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-33; Tuesday (St. Matthias), Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, John 15:9-17; Wednesday (St. Isidore), Acts 20:28-38, John 17:11-19; Thursday, Acts 22:30; 23:6-11, John 17:20-26; Friday, Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19; Saturday (St. John I), Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, John 21:20-25

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| | |
|---|---|
| *Rev. Edward C. Smith* | *1983* |
| *Rev. Henri Blanc* | *1972* |
| *Rev. James A. Stuber* | *1985* |
| *Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Keefe* | *1994* |
| *Rev. Francis J. McCourt* | *1982* |
| *Rev. William McShea* | *1973* |
| *Rev. James E. Noonan* | *1992* |

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# "Spider-Man"

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Kicking off the summer movie season is the thoroughly enjoyable popcorn picture "Spider-Man" (Columbia).

With the exception of a few minor points, director Sam Raimi has remained true to Stan Lee and Steve Ditko's 1962 Marvel Comics creation of the arachnid crime fighter with the humble background.

Bespectacled Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire) is an awkward high school nerd, bullied by schoolmates and even the bus driver. He can't get up the courage to speak to his pretty red-haired neighbor Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst), even though they've lived next to each other since they were 6. But Peter, an orphan raised by his doting Aunt May (Rosemary Harris) and affectionate Uncle Ben (Cliff Robertson), is in for a major change when he is bitten by a genetically altered spider on a high school field trip.

A large part of what makes this film work is Maguire, who infuses his working-class hero from Queens with quiet humor and vulnerability that allow Peter to connect with the audience. The day after he's bitten by the blue-and-red spider, Peter's vision is perfect. He stares in comic disbelief at his newly buffed body. And it isn't long before he discovers that, along with his superhuman strength, he's capable of spinning industrial size webs and scaling tall buildings.

Raimi handles Peter's transformation from dweeb to superhero in an affectionate and comical way. Trying to figure out how to shoot web strands from his wrists, Peter first tries to squeeze them out. Then he shouts words like "Shazam," taking a superhero stance in obvious self-mockery. When he finally gets it, he ends up swinging wildly from his web and smashing right into a brick wall.

Peter uses his newfound powers strictly for fun, until the night his Uncle Ben is killed by a carjacker in New York City. Suddenly, Peter sees the hard truth behind his uncle's words, "With great power comes great responsibility." His purpose becomes clear: He must protect the innocent by fighting crime.

Every superhero needs a worthy adversary, and Spider-Man gets one in the form of the Green Goblin (Willem Dafoe), a wicked creature fitted with metallic green armor who rides around on a souped-up glider like a rabid snowboarder.

And like Spider-Man, the Goblin has a human alter-ego, Norman Osborn, a scientist who swallowed an experimental potion that turned him into the evil green monster. But unlike Peter, Norman can't control when the Goblin will come out, which produces some very good scenes of Norman speaking to his schizophrenic self, as the Goblin pushes Norman into a murderous rampage. Dafoe's over-the-top performance evokes the film's comic book roots and works well with the film's fantasy elements.

Although the film has a lot of heart, it's missing a compelling story line. At its midpoint, the film turns a corner to become a more conventional bad-guy-vs.-good-guy movie. This downshift is helped by some clever details, such as Spider-Man fighting bad press from a cynical newspaper editor (superbly played by J.K. Simmons) who, unable to snap a photo of the crime fighter, barks out, "If he doesn't want to be famous, I'll make him infamous."

However, magnetic performances and an energetic pace fill in the narrative inconsistencies and lack of cohesion. Maguire and Dunst are great together, fusing electricity and innocence in a convincing manner. Simmons shoots out such great one-liners that the audience may wish he would slow down just to catch them all. And James Franco, as Peter's best friend with designs on Mary Jane, offers a fine performance. His character provides an underlying tension that makes things interesting, and his vengeful attitude is fodder for the sequel (expected in 2003).

More is likely to be expected from the visual effects, however. While the bird's-eye view of New York City as Spider-Man swings from building to building is exciting, many of the computer-generated images are stiff and obvious. And Spider-Man doesn't move with as much alacrity and grace as one would expect from the fast-crawling insect. But audiences may be willing to forgive the film these faults since it is a mostly diverting couple of hours spent with your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man.

Although the stylized violence may be too intense for younger adolescents, parents may decide their older teens might enjoy the film while understanding its fantasy elements.

Due to sporadic stylized action violence and menace with fleeting crass language, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

## Video Reviews

By Catholic News Service

*NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

**"Behind Enemy Lines" (2001)**

Harsh war film in which a Navy pilot (Owen Wilson) is shot down over enemy territory while on a reconnaissance mission in Bosnia and his commanding officer (Gene Hackman) must fight NATO politics to rescue him. Director John Moore pumps up a simple premise with skillfully choreographed action scenes depicting the brutality of war while attempting to comment on the importance of saving even one life despite the risks. Much battlefield and war violence with intermittent profanity and crass words and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Fox)

**"Can't Stop the Music" (1980)**

This vehicle for The Village People, a disco singing group, is a high-energy, low-IQ, 100-percent synthetic product. Directed by Nancy Walker, the silly comedy about the music publishing and recording business is marked by sexual situations and jokes as well as a homosexual sheen coloring most of the production numbers. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Anchor Bay)

**"Maybe Baby" (2001)**

Thin romantic comedy about a scriptwriter (Hugh Laurie) and his wife (Joely Richardson) who try every which way to conceive, and, unbeknownst to her, he uses their experiences to write a movie. Written and directed by Ben Elton, the film has a few witty, touching moments but the spotty script does not address the moral questions involved in artificial means of fertilization. Some sexual situations with partial nudity and several crass words with an instance of rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (USA)




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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Pope prays for workers during feast of St. Joseph the Worker

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On Europe's Labor Day, Pope John Paul II offered prayers for workers around the world and said men and women were called to perfect themselves through labor.

"One could say in a certain sense that through work, men and women become more human," he said May 1, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

"This is why industriousness is a virtue. But in order for industriousness effectively to permit a person to become more human, it must always be tied to the social order of work" so that human dignity is protected, the pope said.

The pontiff, who turns 82 May 18, spoke in a mostly clear voice but his breathing sounded labored and heavy.

Noting that the audience marked the beginning of May, a month traditionally dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the pope repeated his appeal that Catholics pray the rosary daily.

"It is a simple prayer, apparently repetitive, but very useful in penetrating the mysteries of Christ and of his and our mother. At the same time, it is a way to pray that the church be pleasing to the Madonna herself," he said.

### Text Audience

By Catholic News Service

*VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience May 1.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today, the first of May, is Labor Day, a day on which we honor St. Joseph the Worker.

Our thoughts therefore turn to the inalienable dignity of all men and women, called to perfect themselves through work. This is the deeply human and social significance of work.

Today is also the beginning of the month dedicated to Mary, the mother of God. Through daily recitation of the rosary, may all Christians enter more fully into the mysteries of Christ's life and find encouragement in their daily struggles.

As, today, we offer prayers for the world of work, let us also implore the divine gift of peace for the Holy Land.

I am pleased to greet the delegation from the Nagasaki Prefecture in Japan. I also greet the Norwegian students from Adger University College. I thank the Wartburg College Choir for their praise of God in song. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors present at today's audience, I cordially invoke God's blessings of grace and peace.

# Coming of Age



AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

### Will a spiritual "high" last?

When I was a high school junior, I made a retreat. It was a very intensive weekend retreat. We were shut off from the rest of the world. Our watches were taken away. All the clocks in the school where our retreat was held were covered.

We listened to lots of talks, mostly from our peers. We prayed together and apart. We experienced the sacrament of reconciliation. We were led through various exercises — a "Trust Walk," for example, in which we were led together, blindfolded, around the property, ending up in the school chapel in front a large crucifix where our blindfolds were removed.

And we wept. Partly because of emotion, partly because by Saturday night we were so tired, the weekend was filled with tears, tears which built to a flood by Sunday afternoon when we opened letters of affirmation and love from family and friends.

In retrospect, I have to say that I resent the emotional manipulation that I think moves that kind of retreat, but I also have to say that it did me a world of good right when I needed it.

I won't say I was completely transformed, but the experience did challenge me to open up a bit more to everyone around me and to see, with tremendous intensity, the depth and power of God's love for me.

The greater challenge, though, lay ahead. Could I keep it? It would be impossible to keep the weekend's high going the rest of my life, but would I be able to keep any part of it at all? Would the awareness of God's love I'd learned on the weekend stay with me for more than a week?

Maybe that's something you're feeling these days too. A lot of kids make retreats this time of year, and a lot of kids celebrate the sacrament of confirmation. Those can be moments of great spiritual realization and growth, and a lot of kids wonder, even as they're marveling at the fruits of those experiences, the same thing I did: How can I keep this going?

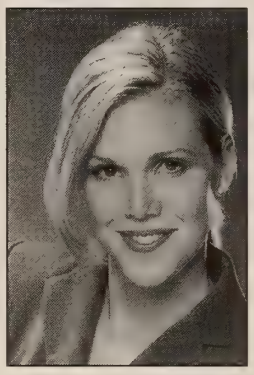
Here are some ideas.

First, be realistic. Highs don't last. Ask anyone who's experienced any time of intense experience. We even have a specific phrase — "the honeymoon is over" — to refer to the waning of the heights of emotion that such an experience evokes.

Second, understand that even though emotions wane, God's presence doesn't. You may have felt God's love and mercy in an intense way on your retreat, but the fact that your emotions aren't as strong a couple of months later doesn't mean that God's love and mercy aren't as strong either. God never stops loving you, whether you feel it or not. God is never less than ready to forgive you, whether you remember that or not. God is never away from you, whether you are aware of him or not.

Third, commit yourself to deepening your relationship with God. Don't depend on an external experience to do it for you. Make time to pray each day. Go to Mass. Continue to evaluate your heart and your life in God's eyes, not the world's.

When you do all that, you just might find that though the emotional high has passed, something better has taken its place: a calm, steady, inner sense of God's presence no matter where you are, no matter what. It is a kind of joy that outlasts everything, even emotion, believe it or not!



# Our Turn

THERESE BORCHARD
CNS Columnist

### A young mother's thoughts on her first Mother's Day

I often wondered what it would be like to wake up to breakfast in bed on Mother's Day or to wear the orchid corsage pinned to the pastel dresses of so many moms on this special day. I've envisioned the leisurely Sunday afternoon at the park holding the hand of a toddler who has just learned to take a few steps or how it would feel to find a homemade card — fabricated from the finest construction paper and crayons — sitting on the dining room table with a bouquet of freshly cut roses.

If my husband does his homework, this year I'll know. I've joined the elite sorority. I've become a mom.

As one who preferred pulling weeds to baby-sitting as a means of earning spending cash in my adolescent days, I spent my nine (and one-half) months of pregnancy fearing I would not like being a mom. My anxiety worsened when well-intentioned moms stole the few free moments I had between trips to the bathroom and consuming bottles of Tums to inform me of the overwhelming responsibilities that would be delivered with the baby.

"Get your last full night's sleep," one warned, as if pregnancy heartburn hadn't already interrupted my sleeping schedule.

"You'll never enjoy another moment to yourself," said another veteran mom.

Then there were the comments from those without children.

"Children are vortexes of need," one childless couple told me as their reason for retaining a nuisance-free, let's-get-away-this-weekend lifestyle.

With such encouraging sentiments, it's no wonder young adults today set their biological clocks on snooze until, at about age 38, the alarms ring so loudly they can be heard in neighborhoods on the other side of the country.

Gone are the happy homemaking days of June Cleaver, when women regarded child-rearing as a prestigious full-time vocation. With so many choices available, modern women are left confused. Forfeiting a successful career that has taken 10 or 15 years to establish isn't easy, even if the bright-eyed cherub on the Huggies ad is irresistibly cute.

Like many women today, I was nervous that having a child meant my mind would turn to mush, my inspiration would be thrown out with the dirty diapers and my thoughts would become as dull and bland as the rice cereal I was spoon-feeding my baby.

I worried that the little vortex of need would erase the professional accolades and work experience bulleted on my resume.

After talking to many moms who sought creative working solutions — calling on their husbands to take a day, setting up a home office, hiring part-time help — I became encouraged. Having a baby didn't necessarily mean giving up the life of the mind or throwing out the years and progress between graduation and now.

When Kate, my 20-year-old angel and our baby's second mom, shows up every Tuesday and Thursday at 12:30 to take little David for five and one-half hours, I cram as much as humanly possible into that time slot. And if I come up short at 6 p.m. on Thursdays when her 11 hours are over, I ask my husband to pitch in a few extra hours so that I can ever so deliriously check off another task at hand on my semiworking mom's to-do list.

The modern mama is a lot different than Beaver's mom. But some things will never change, like the penetrating joy most moms feels when pinning that orchid corsage to a pastel dress, the tears of delight when receiving a homemade card or the delicious smell of breakfast in bed on Mother's Day.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

### Someone worth knowing

Ever hear about someone from the past you wish you could have known? I read a column the other day by Bill Gallo, the respected sports cartoonist and columnist for New York's Daily News, about one of his early heroes. The man's name was Thomas Aloysius Dorgan. He, too, had been a sports cartoonist and writer. In the early decades of the twentieth century his byline, "Tad," was famous.

He obviously had a way with words as well as pictures. Gallo lists a number of slang expressions, such as "for crying out loud," that he says were "born in Tad's inkwell." They run from "hot dogs" and "red hots" for frankfurters to "cat's meow" and "cat's pajamas" for the epitome of cool in the Roaring Twenties. My favorite: "He'd give anybody the sleeves out of his vest." Tad was more than funny and smart. After an accident as a youth cost him the fingers on his right hand, he learned to draw with his left. Perhaps it was because he had to face up to that kind of serious challenge that, as Bill Gallo says, Tad "was always for the underdog."

But the main reason I wish I had known Tad was his positive attitude about life and success. He is quoted as passing along this advice to young people: "Remember envy never got anybody anything worth having. If you balance your abilities with your limitations and never count on luck to give you anything, you succeed."

It's unfortunate that many men and women let envy interfere with their opportunities for happiness and success. They constantly compare their lives to others. Wealth, possessions, popularity are certainly desirable. Up to a point, they can be good things.

But just what is that point?

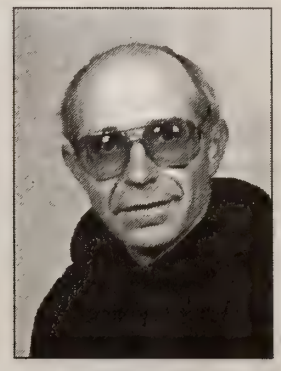
Another man I admire had something useful to say about that: "It is not wrong to want to live better; what is wrong is a style of life which is presumed to be better when it is directed toward having rather than being, and which wants to have more, not in order to be more but in order to spend life in enjoyment as an end in itself." So wrote Pope John Paul II.

Think about it. Just what is your most heartfelt personal goal? Is it having or being? Is it overcoming an obstacle? Seeking a particular achievement? And how does your goal serve God, His world and His people?

God has created a special mission in life just for you. It is a one-of-a-kind task that belongs to you alone and can be accomplished by you alone. Tad knew his mission; it was using his talents to entertain and inform. If you can figure out what is important to you — not just what the world tells you should be important — you'd make a good start toward actually achieving your mission. Then, by focusing on your God-given qualities and talents and seeking a level of excellence rather than an unattainable perfection, you can go a long way toward the true fulfillment and happiness that is at the heart of all you seek in life.

The more clearly we know ourselves and what we want to do, to be, to give in life, the less vulnerable we are to jealousy — and the more open to being the kind of person other people would love to know.

# Guest Column



FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap
Guest Columnist

### God's masterpiece: Our Mother

There is a Jewish Proverb that goes: "God could not be everywhere, so He made mothers." We may add that God did not know everything, so He made mothers-in-law. The writer or organizer of the Book of Proverbs brings to our attention this tremendous collection of statements about a great woman, who happens to be a good mother and a good wife. For example, we read: "A wife of noble character is declared to be worth far more than rubies." Prov. 31:10 — When we speak of mothers, we try to define what or who a mother is. Here is one of the definitions we may stumble on: "The mother is a woman who, having provided an ovum that is subsequently fertilized by an external agent, prepares it for the infusion of a soul and nurtures it from her own bodily substance till it can be physically separated from her." A little girl who heard these words from the expert biologist simply said: "Obviously, the poor fellow never had a mother." Are we talking about Mother Hubbard and Mother Goose? Rather than define who IS a mother, we may want to understand what a mother DOES, so we understand who she is. The mother loves, nurtures, makes the house a home, and, therefore, is God's masterpiece. Bishop Fulton Sheen had a better idea, as usual; he says that the mother is the world's first love ... and he is right again.

For the sake of puritanical concern, sometimes we become ridiculous as it shows in the following dialogue. A little boy asked his dad, "Where did I come from?" The good daddy answered, "You came from the stork." The little boy continued, "Where did you come from?" Dad replied, "I came from the stork." He didn't give up and continued, "Where did Granny come from?" He replied, "She came from the stork." The little boy said, "My goodness, did anybody have a normal birth in our family?

Mother's Day 2002 may simply be another day of the year or it may be an appreciation day for the masterpiece of God, called mother. Why not call her today, or send flowers or write a beautiful card? A friend of mine was so glad to have called her mother in Italy on mother's day! He said: "I called my Mom on Mother's Day. I just loved the excitement in her voice as she accepted the charges."

Here are some samples of mother's day cards, written by Angie, Diane, Frank and John:

1) Dear Mother, I am going to make dinner for Mother's Day. It's going to be a surprise. Your daughter, Angie. PS. I hope you like pizza and popcorn.

2) Dear Mother, I hope you like flowers I got you for Mother's Day. I picked them myself when Mr. Smith was not looking. Your daughter, Diane.

3) Dear Mother, I wish Mother's Day wasn't always on Sunday. It would be better if it was on Monday, so we wouldn't have to go to school. Your son, Frank.

4) Dear Mother, now that we have a mature, adult relationship, there's something I'd like to tell you. You're still the first person I think of when I fall down and go boom! Love, John

I thank God every day for my mother and so do you.

### Why priests wash their hands during Mass

*Q. What is the meaning of the priest washing his hands during Mass? Some claim it represents Pilate washing his hands during the trial of Jesus. Others say it's just washing, which doesn't make a lot of sense. What is the real answer? (Indiana)*

A. Part of the answer seems to be that this is one part of the Mass remaining from former centuries when it had a practical significance. At the offering of the gifts, food (produce, chickens, bread, etc.) often was brought forward and given to the presiding priest for the poor or for other purposes. He needed to wash his hands afterward.

When this practical reason no longer existed, the custom continued, with spiritual interpretations given for the washing. It was said to symbolize, for example, the spiritual cleanliness appropriate for celebrating the Eucharist.

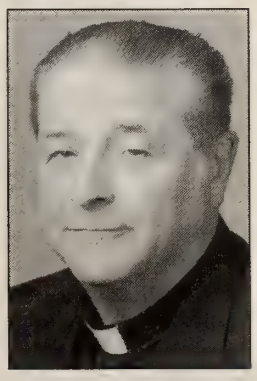
Publicly washing one's hands before a liturgical ceremony was common in older days, among Christians and others, to prepare oneself spiritually for a religious ceremony. Fountains for this purpose may still be seen in the courtyards of ancient Christian churches in Rome.

The priest's washing at the offering of the gifts was partly an extension of that custom.

Some other traditional customs related to the Mass have similar histories. Priests used to wear over their arm, as a Mass vestment, what was called a maniple, made of cloth the color of the day. This was a vestige of the old Roman handkerchief (Latin, "mappa" or "mappula"), carried fashionably in the hand (Latin, "manus") or fastened to the arm. Thus the name maniple.

When this item no longer served a practical purpose, it continued to be worn but was given a variety of somewhat spiritual meanings. This is the main reason a number of actions and articles formerly connected with the Mass, but with similar histories, have been discontinued. The maniple is no longer an official part of the priest's or bishop's Mass attire.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

### Accepting more than one stipend for Mass

*Q. Our parish bulletin had a note recently that canon law forbids accepting more than one stipend for each Mass, thus ruling out multiple intentions. Some parishes have Masses said for two or three families, but we are told no. Which is correct? (Michigan)*

A. I have a suspicion there is a misunderstanding here somewhere. Canon law (948) does require that a separate Mass be applied for each individual offering (stipend) accepted, however small. The reason is obvious. It is to avoid an abuse in which a priest might accept numerous stipends for one Mass.

This does not prohibit, however, one offering made for a group of people, even for several families. Mass intentions commonly are listed for the family of Joe and Mary Gray, the Girl Scouts, married couples of the parish, those killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, attack and so on. There is nothing wrong or against church policy in doing so.

I'm sure your pastor is well aware of these regulations.

# DYC, from page 1

was "carpe diem" ("seize the day) and "cum Christo" ("serve with God").

Lara said, "Msgr. Kerin encouraged us to use our mind, heart and soul for God and seize the day. Live for today was (Kerin's) message; we are today's church. As Catholics, we are the biggest minority in the state. I see how the Catholic Church has stood through troubles and hardship for 2,000 years and remains standing."

Will Zurich from St. Mark Church in Huntersville saw the conference as an opportunity to become closer to God. "I recognized that my faith is weak, but I know it is growing stronger. Here, we see teenagers' roles in the Catholic Church. It's amazing to watch so many teens excited about the Gospels and songs about Jesus."

John Robichaux, religion coordinator and middle school teacher at St. Pius X School in Greensboro and former chairperson and adult advisor of the Diocesan Youth Advisory Council, was also a keynote speaker. He spoke on, "How do we discern Jesus' voice?"

Robichaux pointed out that Jesus calls us gently while many other voices in the world — such as greed, selfishness, coldheartedness and violence — call us in other directions. He related Jesus' life story — refugee, immigrant, working class, homeless, teacher of justice, persecuted prophet, killed because of his love of the poor and oppressed.

Using an activity to stress his point, Robichaux arranged 10 chairs representing 10 percent of the world's resources and 10 people representing 10 percent of the world's population. He began by putting one person in each chair, which he said is God's design because God loves each of us unconditionally. Then, the chairs were distributed among the 10 participants in a way the world's resources are actually distributed. In the end, one person had eight chairs; two people had one chair. The remaining seven people shared the other chair.

Robichaux then challenged the teens to begin enacting the Eucharist in the world around them, by taking the lead of Jesus and the early Christian church to stand against injustice and work for justice and equality among all God's children.

He said, "Our challenge today is to go and live the Gospel in a way that is so genuine that you not only live it, but believe it with every fiber of your being, and in so doing, other people will follow."

Students had the option to attend various workshops on Saturday, such as "Catholicism 101," "Relationships 101" and "Catholic Courtship: Keeping it Catholic." Kathleen Lewis, director of youth ministry at St. Mark Church in Huntersville, led the workshop, "Vocations: He is Knocking."

Lewis referred to her faith during her high school and college years as the mustard seed that landed on bad soil — it sprouted immediately but died out because good roots didn't form. Attending college in the 1980s to become a lawyer and enter politics, she began having reservations and for years struggled with the Catholic part of herself. "It was a part of who I was, but didn't define who I am," she said.

Following an interview for a part-time job as a youth ministry director, Lewis heard a voice indicating she was the good soil. "This was a beginning for me," she said. "It was my surrender. Later I realized I had to surrender more. I committed to Jesus: 'You can do with me whatever you want.' I burst into a smile that never went away — I wanted to be a gofer for God. I am on call for the Lord of the universe; there is no better job."

Lewis encouraged all to say "yes" to God, as she revealed helpful ways of deciding the steps for one's journey using the acronym, PADAC: pray, access, discuss, act and commit. "It's time for you to choose," she said.


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### PRAYER & PETITIONS

Thank you, St. Jude, for your intercession. I am grateful for prayers answered. EKT

# King's nephew shares legacy

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — It was a fitting end to a message of hope and love shared by the nephew of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK). In his booming tenor, Rev. Vernon King ended his noontime talk at the Franciscan Center on April 26 with the song "If I Can Help Somebody."

In the same month that MLK was assassinated for strides he made during the Civil Rights Movement, Rev. King conveyed his theme of nonviolence and spirituality throughout his talk entitled "The Dream Lives On." Students from St. Leo School in Winston-Salem, parishioners from St. Pius X, St. Benedict and Our Lady of Grace churches in Greensboro and those from other faith traditions in the Triad area gathered to hear Rev. King, pastor of St. James Baptist Church in Greensboro, talk about the steps Americans have taken toward racial unity and equality and what still needs to be done in order to keep MLK's "dream" alive.

Rev. King, only seven when his famous uncle was killed, has listened to family stories and has studied and researched his relative in order to gain a better insight on his philosophy and belief system. He said that in looking at the audience gathered to hear him speak that his uncle would be proud.

"Just by the mere fact that we are sitting here in fellowship is living proof that the dream lives on," said Rev. King of the attendants of various ages, races and backgrounds. "People ask me 'what happened to the dream that your uncle shared with the nation?' The dream has not reached total fulfillment, and there is work to be done. But we thank God for the progress we have made. It will take you and I and our children to make the dream come true."

Throughout his talk, Rev. King used the dream concept of harmony among the races from MLK's speech, "I Have a Dream," delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., in 1963. Using two Bible passages from Genesis and Joshua, King drew parallels among Joseph, Joshua, MLK and society. He said that Joseph and MLK were both dreamers who were persecuted and ostracized for what they believed.

"When we stand up and do what is right, we become the 'Joshua generation.' You and I are members of the 'Joshua generation.' We must do our part to make this dream live," said Rev. King of the biblical figure who was Moses' successor and continued to keep the Israelites' "dream" alive. "We will see the dream become a reality in the way we act in everyday life. We have to make some sacrifices and changes."

He said his uncle became a hero because he was willing to sacrifice himself for his dream and was committed to its success and the changes it would bring for all people. "He (MLK) saw America in the future different than it was at the present. In the midst of segregation, he dreamed that one day we would live as brothers, and there would be no more racism," said Rev. King. "When he (MLK) was killed, the dream was still present. We have a challenge to finish the work to make the dream become a reality."

Rev. King said that the tragedy on Sept. 11 was a blessing in disguise because people from all areas of the country came together to share in sorrow and support. God wants his people to live in harmony and peace, he said.

Addressing the students present, he said that their well-being and understanding of MLK's message was most important because they are the carriers of the dream into the future. Adults play a large role in many of the problems that youth have because of lack of proper care, love and support. The dream cannot die with them; it has move forward, he said.

Georgette Schraeder, principal of St. Leo School, brought her eighth-graders to hear the message of Rev. King because of a fundamental need to educate her students about various cultures. "We are a small school, and we are seeking diversity for the population. I see the importance, and the families have expressed this as well," she said. "So any opportunity that we have to expose the children is something I feel we must do. We have a real admiration for Martin Luther King in our Catholic school curriculum. He is one of our saints, and we pray in thanksgiving for all of the work he has done."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*


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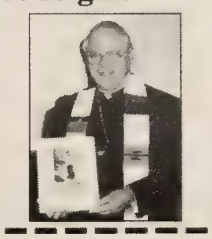
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# Years in Africa shape life of woman religious

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Holy Child Sister Jay McCann keeps her life wrapped in a rubber band in an old brown envelope. Pictures she has saved over the years depict her life at various stages from a church pageant in Florida to her ministry in Ghana as a woman religious. She frequently looks at her memories captured on film, some yellowing with age, all featuring a smiling nun, full of hope and love for those she has served over the years.

"I am happy with my choice in life. I have no regrets," said Sister Jay, whose legal name is a representation of her given name, Jacquline; her childhood nickname, Jimmy; and the name she took while in the convent, John Cantius. She said that all of those names start with the letter "J," thus her name, "Jay."

Her mother, a native New Yorker and teacher by profession, raised her four girls in Miami via Ohio and Coral Gables, Fla. The family would travel to the North during the summers when school was out to visit relatives. Sister Jay enjoyed growing up in the sunny climate with all of the accompanying warm weather activities including swimming, sailing and horseback riding. Her lessons came from family friends in the area who would gather for social and educational times with their children.

"As an adventurous person, it was a good place to be. I loved Florida and loved the outdoors," she said. "Sailing was a favorite pastime of mine. We weren't rich, but we were able to do many things that were ordinarily not available to many people. In all of those families that my mother knew, there was someone who could teach us different subjects."

Her mother grew up Catholic, and the family attended church regularly until the day when Sister Jay decided to leave the church. As a child, she would put an envelope into the collection in honor of her father's memory. That All Souls' Day tradition was shattered when the woman collecting the envelopes pushed it aside because of the lack of money contained in the envelope.

"I was hurt and insulted. I stopped attending church and was out from 1936 to 1946. I had a very strong relationship with God, so that didn't stop. I continued to pray," she said.

The pain from a car accident while in high school lurked in the shadows and would jump out when least expected for the next several years, but that did not stop her from graduating in 1941 and going to college. In 1944, she and several of her friends decided they wanted to do



**Holy Child Sister Jay McCann**

their part to help out during World War II. She left college after two years and signed up for the Coast Guard. Her residual pain from the spinal injury caught up with her, and she was hospitalized for five months — right through the end of the war in 1945.

Sidelined because of her injuries, she was not able to return to college and rested at her mother's house for a while. She was, however, able to graduate in 1949 with a biology degree, and that same year, she entered the convent. It was not a snap decision, but one that she knows was God-influenced. While in the service, she rejoined the church to pray for an acquaintance.

"I decided I would go back to church then. Not long after that, I decided to become a nun partly because I was so taken by the graciousness of God in resolving the problem. I had a lot of priests and nuns in my family, so we tended in that direction," said Sister Jay whose relative is the founder of her order, the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. "I decided to become a missionary."

After professing her final vows in 1957 after nine years of teaching in several states, she went to Africa in 1961 to teach biology and later a combination course involving agriculture and food processing called developmental science. "I wanted to serve people who had been marginalized," she said.

Sister Jay said her time in Africa was most enjoyable. In order to beat the African heat, she wore a white habit as opposed to their traditional black habits. She was back outdoors most of the day, which she enjoyed as a child, and especially loved teaching the children. After going on a safari in Kenya for a much-needed vacation after 16 years of service, she arrived in Ethiopia to continue her work but was put out by Communist government officials running the country at the time. She returned to the United States in 1977.

In 1980, Sister Jay was sent to Mississippi to work in the small town of Fulton in parish ministry. The town welcomed her with open arms, and she worked there until 1993. During her years in the southern town, she helped to establish the Redlands Literacy Project to train tutors and aided in the organization of the Good Samaritan Association, a transient ministry fund.

After a much-needed short sabbatical in California during which she further studied graphoanalysis, the study of handwriting, at a local college, she unofficially retired in 1993 and came to Charlotte to help take care of her friend and co-worker while in Ghana, Holy Child Sister Alma Cornelly.

Sister Jay became involved with St. Luke Church and became the director of drama and landscaping. She officially retired in 1997 but still tends the garden, one of her favorite hobbies. She asks that people view it in early June when most of the flowers are in bloom.

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

# Franciscan nuns offer street children an oasis

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (CNS) — On the edge of this former Soviet city, in a rundown, residential neighborhood where the smell of burning coal hangs thick in the air, a group of four Franciscan nuns has set up a tidy oasis of neat concrete walkways, newly planted trees and a bright classroom. Once a week, local street children come for a hot meal, lessons and a video.

On a recent Monday, between slurps of lima bean soup and with a nun looking on, four children talked about how they were drawn to the local Catholic church and the nuns' informal program. "I believe in God," said Zhenya Makhayeva, 15, prompting Franciscan Sister Regina Zuk-Oiszewska to interrupt her. "Tell us honestly," the nun said. "And I like to eat and watch television," added Makhayeva, who said she stopped going to school because she did not have money for books and clothes. Hundreds of such children live in Bishkek, a city of 670,000 at the foot of the Tien Shan mountains, said the nuns.

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One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord and contemplate his temple.

— Psalms 27: 4

# Sewing ministry weaves lives together



Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**St. Eugene Church Sewing Ministry member Cris Cicotello embroiders a name on the funeral pall, which contains about 370 names of deceased St. Eugene parishioners.**

By Joanita M. Nellenbach
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — Mary Mukosiej stitches Robert Thorne's name on the white cloth. When Thorne's widow, Shirley, arrives, Mukosiej makes room for her at the table and helps her embroider part of Robert's name.

His friends and relatives will certainly remember St. Eugene Church parishioner Robert Thorne, who died April 15, but the church's funeral pall will keep his name alive for the parish. St. Eugene Church was founded in 1959, and the pall — the cloth that drapes coffins during funeral Masses — now contains about 370 names, all of the parish's deceased members. This pall also covers the table holding the ash-filled urns at memorial Masses.

Every couple of months, sewing-ministry members Mukosiej, Cris Cicotello, Sabine Dieringer, Karen Poehlein and Rosey Eily meet in a room in the parish center after Sunday Mass to add the names of the most recently deceased.

They begin their meetings with a prayer that says, in part, "We ask your blessing on us as we stitch this remembrance of the members of the family of St. Eugene who have passed from this life to the next. Bless our hands that they may be steady and sure. Bless our hearts that they be filled with love and patience. Bless our time together as we grow in your gentle care."

Cicotello brought the ministry to St. Eugene from her former parish, the Church of the Ascension, in Virginia

See SEWING, page 15

# Bishops' official tells attorneys light must shine on abuse cases

By Catholic News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — The general secretary of the U.S. bishops' conference told diocesan attorneys that he doesn't think the current crisis in the church over the handling of sex abuse cases will pass until "every stone that is hiding some secret has been overturned."

The official, Msgr. William P. Fay, told a national gathering of diocesan attorneys that "the greatest crisis the church in this country has faced" has perhaps traumatized everyone.

> The fact that priests could abuse children "has shaken the faith of all of us in the goodness of the priesthood."
>
> — Msgr. William P. Fay

He also reported on the U.S. cardinals' meeting at the Vatican in April and on steps the American bishops are likely to take, beginning with their June general meeting in Dallas. Among possible steps is establishment of a national office for the protection of children.

The fact that priests could abuse children "has shaken the faith of all of us in the goodness of the priesthood," Msgr. Fay said. And that some bishops reassigned these priests to places where they could abuse children again, he said, "called into question the ability of the bishops to fulfill their God-given responsibility as shepherds and left many wondering about the present and future credibility of the church as moral teacher."

The text of Msgr. Fay's April 28 remarks to the annual attorneys' meeting, which was closed to reporters, was released several days later by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Msgr. Fay said the trauma to those in the church as been exacerbated by how the media has reported on it.

One media failure has been the

See MSGR. FAY, page 7

### Hip-hop puppets: Uzbek Catholics evangelize in nontraditional ways

FERGHANA, Uzbekistan (CNS) — Ferghana, renowned for nurturing conservative Islam amid some of Central Asia's richest farmland, is a place where a scarfless woman is a rarity and religious men center their lives around the area's several dozen mosques. But tucked away in a residential neighborhood next to a wheezing, Soviet-built factory is a modest whitewashed home that attracts a decidedly Bohemian crowd. Here, several times a week as night approaches, it is possible to sight women in pants and men with earrings, telltale signs of local Catholics. Young Catholic converts head to a rehearsal of their Christian hip-hop group in the makeshift recording studio that doubles as an office for Franciscan Father Pyotr Kava, group member and parish priest. Father Kava, a 36-year-old Pole, is nurturing singers, musicians, actors and puppeteers who are starting to travel throughout Uzbekistan, visiting some of the 3,000 people with Catholic roots.

### Msgr. George Higgins, America's 'labor priest,' dead at 86

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Msgr. George G. Higgins, America's foremost labor priest for half a century, died after a long illness May 1 in his childhood home town of La Grange, Ill. He was 86. He was hospitalized with a severe infection Jan. 19, just hours after delivering the keynote talk for an adult day of education on social justice at his boyhood parish, St. Francis Xavier, in La Grange. Despite emergency surgery to save his life, he never recovered from the multiple complications. Chicago Cardinal Francis E George was to celebrate the funeral Mass at 2 p.m. May 7 at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago. A memorial Mass was scheduled for 8 p.m. May 6 at St. Francis Xavier Church in La Grange. In Washington, Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick announced he would celebrate a special memorial Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at noon May 4.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Italians reach out to crucifix in annual procession**
**Italians reach out to touch a large crucifix as it is carried in procession in the city of Monreale in Sicily May 4. Sicily is the scene of spectacular religious processions during the spring.**

### Tornado rips through Maryland community, destroys Catholic school

LA PLATA, Md. (CNS) — When Father Matthew Siekierski, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in La Plata, was returning home April 28 and could not see the parish school in the dark, he thought to himself, "Where is my school?" Then he saw most of it — lying on the ground. Earlier that evening, around 7 p.m., a deadly tornado ripped through southern Maryland, leaving a trail of destruction in the town of La Plata. It killed three people, injured dozens of others and left Sacred Heart's Archbishop Neale Elementary School seriously damaged. Many of the school's walls were torn from the building, and roofing and other debris were scattered throughout the classrooms. The twister slammed against the school and then hit its childcare center, leveling it to the ground. Now the center's stairs lead to a mound of rubble.

### Report links oil development in Sudan to destruction, displacement

OTTAWA (CNS) — A report linking oil development in the western Upper Nile region of Sudan to mass displacements of civilians, bombings and burning of civilian homes has been released by the international humanitarian aid organization Doctors Without Borders. The 34-page report also highlighted what it calls "the appalling effects" of oil exploration near civilian populations. Talisman Energy Inc. of Calgary, Alberta, is a partner in the Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Co., one of two large oil consortiums operating in the western Upper Nile. Canadian churches and nongovernmental organizations, noting that a federal government report in the late 1990s said Talisman's presence in Sudan was exacerbating the lengthy civil war, repeatedly have called on the oil company to pull out of the region.

### Cardinal defends council's reversal on payout to Geoghan victims

BOSTON (CNS) — Cardinal Bernard F. Law May 5 acknowledged "the disappointment, the anger, and even the sense of fresh betrayal" arising from a decision by the Archdiocese of Boston's Finance Council to back out of a multimillion dollar settlement with victims of former priest John J. Geoghan. The cardinal said the archdiocese would continue to work for "a just and equitable solution" for all victims of clergy sex abuse. He talked about the rejected settlement during his regular Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston. He said the Finance Council, which under canon law was required to approve the $15 million to $30 million payment to settle claims by 86 of Geoghan's victims, had rejected the settlement out of a "laudable concern" that the payment would "negatively affect the response which the archdiocese can later give to the other victims."

### Residents see progress since Los Angeles riots, but say more needed

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Parishioners at Nativity Church in Los Angeles' South Central community remember all too well the riots 10 years ago that engulfed their neighborhoods for several days after a jury acquitted four white police officers in the brutal beating of black motorist Rodney King. "The immediate danger to the church was from the fires. We had fires all around us on three sides," Father David Herrera, then pastor of Nativity Church, recalled in an interview with The Tidings, newspaper of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. He said the parishioners, who brought water hoses to the parish, were heroic in their efforts to save the church. "It really is truly a blessing from the Lord that we were spared," he added.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**May 19 — Pentecost Sunday**
12:30 p.m. confirmation
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**May 20 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Leo the Great, Winston-Salem

**May 21 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
Immaculate Heart of Mary, High Point

**May 22 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Dorothy, Lincolnton

**May 23 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
Immaculate Conception, Forest City

## Diocesan planner

**May**

**12** CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

**18** GASTONIA — St. Michael Church will be sponsoring its first annual invitational golf tournament today at Cramer Mountain Country Club. The captain's choice event; which will include lunch, golf, cart, prizes and a reception; will begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. For further information, call (704) 867-1212.

**19** CHARLOTTE — A Byzantine Catholic liturgy will be celebrated this afternoon at 5836 Kinglet Lane. Byzantine Catholics and anyone interested in the Byzantine Catholic rite are welcomed to attend. For further details, call Olga at (704) 948-6471.

**20** ASHEVILLE — The St. Martin de Porres Pro-Chapter of the Dominican Laity meets tonight and every third Monday at 7 p.m. in St. Justin's Center at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid, OPL, at (828) 253-6676.

**20** CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

**22** GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is having its annual May luncheon today at Sedgefield Country Club at 11:30 a.m. A fashion show with the theme

### U.S. nuns raise issues of power, openness in talks at Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A top-level delegation of American nuns raised the U.S. clerical sex abuse scandal — including "issues of power" and openness — in regularly scheduled talks with Vatican offices, the group's leader said. Though they demonstrated a divergence of positions, the talks were respectful and warm, said Sister Kathleen Pruitt, a Sister of St. Joseph of Peace and president of the U.S. Leadership Conference of Women Religious. "There was discussion. Was there absolute understanding? In a two-hour meeting, it's hard to say we know exactly what was done. But we were respectfully heard," Sister Pruitt told Catholic News Service May 4 at the end of a week of Vatican meetings.

### Pope welcomes, encourages new recruits for Swiss Guard

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II welcomed 28 new recruits for the Swiss Guard, telling them their new job was an opportunity to deepen their faith and attachment to the church. Speaking before their swearing-in, the pope told the recruits always to see their service "as 'soldiers of the pope' as a mission that the Lord himself entrusts to you." "Be attentive to one another, (both) for support in daily work and for mutual enrichment, always remembering that there is more joy in giving than receiving," he said.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Swiss Guard sworn in at Vatican ceremony**
**A new recruit to the elite Swiss Guard is sworn in during a Vatican ceremony. The pope welcomed 28 men to the guard May 6, which marks the day in 1527 when nearly 150 guards died defending Pope Clement VII during the sack of Rome.**

### Research at Holy Cross leads to new chemical patent

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — Researchers from the chemistry department at the College of Holy Cross in Worcester have patented a new process that can be used to manufacture such pharmaceuticals as ibuprofen and Valium. A Holy Cross chemistry professor, with assistance from a student, created a clean, environmentally better alternative for the many applications of what's called Friedel-Crafts Reaction. It is an important chemical process that has changed little since Victorian times. The new process was published as U.S. Patent No. 6,362,375 earlier this year. The principal inventor is Martin A. Walker, a former Holy Cross chemistry professor now at the State University of New York in Potsdam. He was assisted by Patrick Birmingham, a 1998 graduate of Holy Cross, as part of the college's undergraduate research program. Birmingham is now at Loyola University Medical School in Illinois.

### Philippine archbishop condemns deadly attack on church festival

MANILA (CNS) — The president of the Philippine bishops' conference condemned a May 1 grenade attack that killed seven people and injured 127 others at a church festival. Archbishop Orlando Quevedo of Cotabato called on other religious leaders to denounce "the dastardly act of the basest kind," noting the "untold suffering" it has brought innocent families, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. While police blamed a teen-ager for the attack, the archbishop noted the unclear reports of the role of "terrorists" in the blast. Police reports said an unnamed teen threw a grenade that exploded in a gymnasium at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Cotabato City, 540 miles southeast of Manila. Parishioners were celebrating the parish's feast day May 1 with other villagers and guests, including Muslims, when the blast occurred.

### TV ad highlights research on possible abortion-breast cancer link

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — A TV ad with the message that abortion could increase a woman's risk for breast cancer by at least 50 percent has started to air in California as part of a statewide pro-life ad campaign. "Nobody told me that 40 years of research and 28 medical studies have shown a significant link between abortion and breast cancer," the ad says. "People don't know anything about this, and more so in California," Dana Serrano, executive director of the Women's Resource Network-California, told The Tidings, newspaper of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. The network has begun airing the ad in San Diego, and hopes to have it shown in Los Angeles and other California cities by September. The group is working to raise $7 million to carry out the ad campaign.

### Two film retreats to be held in July

BOSTON (CNS) — Two "National Film Retreats" will be held in July, one July 12-14 on the campus of Marymount University in Arlington, Va., and the other July 26-28 at the Center for Spirituality in Orange, Calif. The retreats, sponsored by the Partnership for Spirituality and Film, were announced by the Pauline Center for Media Studies in Boston, which is run by the Daughters of St. Paul. Under the retreat's format, participants view four feature films in their entirety; this is followed by reflection, conversation, and opportunities for prayer, liturgy and sharing insights about the movies. The theme of this year's retreats is hope. Given the Sept. 11 terror attacks, "we want to focus on what the world of cinematic storytelling can offer us as we journey toward the future in trust," said a statement from Frank Frost, a founder and director of the film retreat. There is a limit of 30 participants at each retreat. For details, call: (617) 522-8911 or visit the Web site: www.nationalfilmretreat.org.

"Clothes You Love to Live In," raffle and the board installation will be taking place at the luncheon. This year's charity is the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center. For further information, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

**22** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**22** MAGGIE VALLEY — A series of presentations; sponsored by CSS Elder Ministry and facilitated by Richard Von Stamwitz, a national certified gerontological counselor; are continuing throughout the diocese. Today's presentation will be given at St. Margaret Church, 1422 Soco Rd., from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Brown bag lunchtime with provided drinks will begin at 12:30 p.m. The topic, "Faithful Living in Later Life," will be presented in two sessions and will focus on vocation and ministry in the later years. For preregistration and other information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Marlo Wallace at (704) 370-3228.

**25** MAGGIE VALLEY — Franciscan Father John Quigley will be facilitating "The Trinity's Invitation to Full Life" at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, this week through May 31. Participants will look at the spiritual, emotional and intellectual aspects of the Holy Trinity's role in people lives. For further details, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

**26** HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

**June**

**2** CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will be gathering today at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information please call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 545-8133.

**2** HIGH POINT — Bishop William G. Curlin will be the celebrant and homilist at a Mass in honor of the Feast of Corpus Christi this afternoon at 3 p.m. at Maryfield Chapel, 1315 Greensboro Rd. There will be a procession of the Blessed Sacrament and blessing of the sick after Mass. For further information, call Maryfield at (336) 886-2444.

**2** SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**Upcoming**

ROCK HILL, S.C. — The Oratory Religion Camp will hold two separate one-week sessions in Kings Mountain State Park July 7-13 and July 14-20. Youth under 12 who will be entering grades 2-6 in Sept. can apply for consideration. Those 16 and older wishing to volunteer as counselors can write for a staff application. For more information and applications, write to: The Oratory Religion Camp, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, S.C. 29731-1586.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the publication date.*

# Essay affirms faith

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

WINSTON-SALEM — Hard times don't always lead to a lack of faith. One Catholic student wrote about that belief and was rewarded for it.

St. Leo School seventh-grader Gina Hurley won the seventh- to eighth-grade category in the Pass Ports "History Affects Today" essay contest. Gina, who incorporated her heritage and faith into her essay, was one of three first prize winners from different grade levels.

"I thought it would be a fun thing to do because I like to write," said Gina. "I had hoped to win but didn't think that I would."

Past Ports is a series of history curriculum materials produced by Madison, Wis.-based Demco. The contest, announced in a Pass Ports spring catalog, asked teachers and librarians to have students submit a 300-800-word essay addressing the impact of a historical situation in their lives.

St. Leo School librarian Christine Hurley saw the announcement as the students left for spring break.

"The (April 1) deadline was shortly before we got back from break," said Hurley. "Gina entered the contest on their Web site while we were on vacation. She was online typing away, and then she asked me if it was OK to enter."

Demco received nearly 300 essays ranging in topics from Sept. 11 and the Holocaust to the invention of the airplane, according to Terrie Anderson, an educational consultant for Demco. Anderson judged the essays on items such as grammar and spelling, and how the students drew and supported conclusions.

"There was remarkable writing and insight on the part of the students," said Anderson.

Gina's winning 500-word essay, which took no more than an hour to write, was on the Irish potato famine. "My immediate thought was to write about something that directly affected my family and the world," she said.

Gina's family had told stories of the their migration from Ireland to America during the infamous famine. "She felt that it did have a big influence on her, even today," said Hurley.

"It was because of the potato famine that both branches of my family came to the United States of America," wrote Gina in her essay.

"Gina wrote an outstanding essay. She did a really great job talking about the famine's global effects down to its effects on her own personal life," said Anderson.

Gina also wrote, "It was due to the large immigration of Irish after the potato famine that the Catholic Church became one of the largest churches in the United States ... My family is Catholic, and our religion is very important to us. It helped us 'weather the storms' in the past, and it still does today. ... So you see, the Irish held tight to their religion during hardship so they might overcome bad situations such as the potato famine with their faith. This unshakable faith often moved others to join the church and to join in this faith."

Anderson called Hurley to let her know the good news shortly before the winners were posted on the Pass Ports Web site May 1.

"I knew Gina would be thrilled. I was very happy for her," said Hurley.

"I had almost forgotten about the contest. I was so shocked," said Gina.

Gina received a $100 savings bond, a set of "History News" history books and a hieroglyphics rubber stamp set. Gina's mother, as school librarian, also received a Pass Ports curriculum package on the American Revolution, which Gina's class will be studying in the eighth grade.

Anderson said nearly 50 percent of the essasys came from Catholic schools. Two of the three first prize winners were from Catholic schools — John Shakespear of Boston Archdiocese Choir School in Cambridge, Mass., won the first prize fifth- to sixth-grade category with essay on the roots of slavery.

"The caliber in general was higher in the essays from Catholic schools, not only in mechanics but in how the students took a stand on how history had affected them," noted Anderson.

As Gina wrote in her article, "With the Catholic religion, Catholic schools came to the United States. These schools offer a great education for mind, soul and body. I am a student of a Catholic school, so I am able to experience these benefits first hand."

# Afternoon tea serves many



Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — Tea poured from a silver pot; pastries; tiny sandwiches; juicy chocolate-dipped strawberries; and Trinitarian Sister Marie Frechette even supplied you with an elegant wide-brimmed hat — traditional tea attire.

Families and individuals gathered beneath shady trees on the lawn of the Catholic Social Services Western Regional Office (CSSWRO) May 5 for an old-fashioned afternoon tea, CSS's opening for its annual fund-raising raffle. CSS will draw the winning names at a pancake breakfast on July 13.

Raffle proceeds help finance CSSWRO programs. The Diocesan Support Appeal meets about 46 percent of the office's $421,000 budget, with additional help coming from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and from service fees. CSSWRO still depends on individual and church donations for the rest of its money, said Sister Marie, CSSWRO director and counselor.

Opened in 1982, the CSSWRO offers a variety of services, including: counseling; pregnancy support; domestic and international adoption; crisis intervention; immigration; Hispanic-Latino; disaster relief; elder ministry; family life; marriage preparation; prison ministry; Respect Life; and natural family planning.


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# Couple's lives changed by encountering Christ in Focolare

By DIANNE M.A. RIGGS
Correspondent

LENOIR — Forgiving your "enemies," loving your neighbor, finding unity instead of differences and giving instead of receiving — What would it be like to encounter people living out this radical lifestyle rather than just reading, thinking or talking about it?

Thirty years ago, William J. (Bill) and Genevieve (Gen) Phillips attended a Focolare movement "Mariapolis" ("city of Mary") event in Pennsylvania with their children and met people living this charism, revealing stories of Gospel transformation throughout the world. They attended again the next summer.

Returning home after that second year, Gen realized, "Either we walk away from this movement now, or we jump into it with two feet. There is no halfway with this challenge."

Gen and Bill decided to attend Focolare meetings held in their New York area. Participating in the Focolare movement had a profound effect on Bill, who had taught school after college until his retirement in the early 1990s. "After 15 years teaching in New York City, I couldn't wait to get out." When he became involved in the movement, everything changed. "It went from, 'they're driving me nuts' to 'you may be driving me crazy today, but I love you anyway.' (Focolare) teaches us to see Jesus is the one that we're working with," said Bill. "If Jesus loves this person, who am I not to?"

The Lenoir couple, who are members of St. Francis of Assisi Church, are both cradle Catholics. They spent most of their lives in the Northeastern United States, moving to Lenoir in the early 1990s.

Focolare (which means "hearth" or "family fireside" in Italian) began in 1943 in Trent, Italy. Its founder and current president, Chiara Lubich, spent many hours during World War II in bomb shelters with her friends reading the Gospels. As young adults, they were hungry for an ideal that would answer life's deepest questions. There, amid shrieking air raid sirens, they realized God to be the ideal for which they would live.

The central tenet of their group was discovered one day in Jesus' words in the Gospel of John 17:21: "That all may be one as you, Father, are in me, and I in you." From that verse, Lubich and the other young women realized that God wanted their charism to be "unity." They came to understand that key to this unity was Christ's command to "love one another," that where "two or three are gathered in my name, lo I am in the midst of them," (Matthew 18:20).

From the second chapter of Acts, they took their cues from the early Christians and held all possessions in common. Their acts of charity and compassion, and their attempts to actually live out the Gospel message of unity and love, have attracted many people to the movement.

Focolare members range in commitment levels, including: vowed lay virgins (both women and men) and vowed married, volunteers who give a definite commitment and religious and clergy. The "Work of Mary," as Focolare is listed with the Holy See, was formally recognized and its statutes instituted during the pontificate of Pope John XXIII.

According to the Phillips, who are volunteers in the movement, there is a Focolare presence in 182 nations with about 200 centers and approximately 5 million members, including "adherents" — persons endeavoring to live out the spirituality of unity and love but having made no specific commitment. In the United States, houses of vowed members exist in Hyde Park, N.Y.; New York City; Chicago, Ill.; California; Boston, Mass.; Washington D.C.; and Texas.



Photo by Dianne M.A. Riggs

**Genevieve and William J. Phillips are Lenoir members of the Focolare movement, a Catholic lay movement also known as the "Work of Mary" started in Trent, Italy, in 1943 that now claims more than a million followers.**

From its inception, Focolare has had an ecumenical reach. In the 1950s, working relationships began with Evangelicals in Germany, then with the Lutheran and Anglican churches and Orthodox traditions. Today, people from many Protestant traditions are counted as part of the movement.

Focolare has had conversation and mutual ministry with many non-Christian traditions, including Buddhists, Jews, Muslims, Hindus and people of tribal religions.

"As volunteers, we are willing to do what we can, where we can," said Bill. They help as support staff for the regional Mariapolises. They also send "Word of Life" leaflets to about 30 persons who are interested in Lubich's monthly comments on Scripture.

"We are (also) willing to host monthly meetings (in Lenoir)," said Gen. It was these kinds of meetings in New York that gave support and instruction on the spirituality of Focolare. "It was overwhelming. I saw that the meetings had tools I could use to begin this process. I want(ed) to become committed to applying the Gospel to my daily life."

Two of the tools she expressed are: living in the present moment and, if you fall, get up and start again. Gen said being in a group is helpful because it allows sharing with others the experience of trying to live out the Gospel.

Also, "Where two or three are gathered, Jesus is in our midst," she said.

*Information on Focolare can be obtained from their international website: www.focolare.org.*


The Diocese of Charlotte
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Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3227
**Refugee Office:**
Cira Ponce (704) 370-6930
**Justice & Peace:**
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**Charlotte Region:** 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-6155
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Area Director: Sister Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146
**Piedmont-Triad:** 621 W. Second Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
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### Chicago-area priest donates part of liver to parishioner

CHICAGO (CNS) — When Miguel Zavala, a member of Holy Family Parish in Waukegan, needed a life-or-death liver transplant earlier this spring, his pastor, Father Gary Graf, became a "living donor," giving him half of his liver in a risky surgery. Zavala had suffered for three years from a rare blood disorder, primary sclerosing cholangitis. It's the same affliction that killed Chicago Bears running back Walter Payton soon after he retired. "Father Gary truly is the good shepherd," said Kitty Shumaker, a Holy Family parishioner. "He lays down his life for his parishioners in any way he can." For Father Graf's part, he is doing no more than any good father would do: taking care of his family. In a letter to the parish he wrote: "Celibacy, together with being a sacrifice for the kingdom, allows me to be part of a larger family. You, all of you, become my family."

### 'Nun fund' works to ease debt burden that is obstacle to vocation

VIRGINIA DALE, Colo. (CNS) — Christine Hudson knew at age 4 she wanted to be a nun. Now, at 30, she's still on what has been a long road to the abbey. Various things have stood between Hudson and her vows, but none so much as the enormous debt she incurred from school loans while pursuing a career as an opera singer. Currently, Hudson is living in Virginia Dale at the Abbey of St. Walburga and teaching at St. Joseph Catholic School in Fort Collins — an 80-mile commute. Currently, 96 percent of her salary goes directly to paying off the loans, Hudson said. Still, she estimates it will take another 10 years before she is debt-free and able to become a Benedictine Sister. But recently some friends have decided to help speed Hudson's dream along, presenting her with a small donation they had collected. That money now sits in a bank in a fund affectionately called "The Nun Fund."

### Residents see progress since Los Angeles riots, but say more needed

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Parishioners at Nativity Church in Los Angeles' South Central community remember all too well the riots 10 years ago that engulfed their neighborhoods for several days after a jury acquitted four white police officers in the brutal beating of black motorist Rodney King. "The immediate danger to the church was from the fires. We had fires all around us on three sides," Father David Herrera, then pastor of Nativity Church, recalled in an interview with The Tidings, newspaper of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. He said the parishioners, who brought water hoses to the parish, were heroic in their efforts to save the church. "It really is truly a blessing from the Lord that we were spared," he added.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Youths present fish to pope on Italian island**
**Young men in traditional dress present a fish to Pope John Paul II during his pastoral visit to the south Italian island of Ischia May 5.**

### Hispanics see increased voice needed in religious, civic affairs

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The growing U.S. Hispanic population is bringing demands for a greater Latino voice in religious and public life, said Hispanic religious leaders at a Washington conference. Hispanics are often discriminated against in their churches and in society, said many of the speakers. Survey results presented at the May 3-4 conference showed that religion plays a key role in shaping Hispanic attitudes and that Hispanics want their churches to take a more active role in social and political issues.

### Carmelite scholars honor Father Joachim Smet

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Carmelite scholars from across America gathered at the newly remodeled research center at Whitefriars Hall in Washington in April to honor Carmelite Father Joachim Smet, whose work led to one of the largest collections on Carmelite spirituality in the world. A portrait of Father Smet, painted by Chicago artist Stephen Titra, was unveiled as part of the April 12 prayer service and blessing in his honor. The Carmelitana Collection at Whitefriars Hall now houses more than 14,000 volumes of both rare and modern books, as well as a selection of microfilms and audiovisual material.

### Ohio woman wins Thomas Merton prize for poetry

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) — Lanette Cadle of Bowling Green, Ohio, won $500 and first place in the 2002 Thomas Merton Prize for Poetry of the Sacred contest. The native Kansan and mother of two, currently a doctoral student in rhetoric and composition at Bowling Green State University, won for her poem, "Elegy for an Engineer." It and other award winners will be published this summer in The Merton Seasonal, a publication of the International Thomas Merton Society, based at Bellarmine University in Louisville. The winning poems also can be read on the Web at www.mertonfoundation.org.

### Young Catholic Palestinian sees future fade as fighting continues

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — It was not too long ago that Sholine Botto thought she had a bright future. Israel and the Palestinians were engaged in peace talks, and, having graduated from Bethlehem University in tourism, the 22-year-old was working with a major American airline, traveling to Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv several times a week to welcome pilgrims to Bethlehem. Now, Botto has been a prisoner in her own home, which she shares with her mother and brother, for most of the 18-month intifada. No longer able to work in her chosen profession, Botto found a job working as an administrative assistant for the Latin Patriarchate in Beit Jalla, West Bank. "I am losing my life without doing anything. I need to live my life," she said while defying the Israeli-imposed curfew by playing cards with family outside her home.


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## MSGR. FAY, from page 1

use of a "one size fits all" approach, he said. Many stories about abuse cases that occurred decades ago are reported as if they happened yesterday, for instance, he said.

"Anyone who has had to deal firsthand with the events of this crisis ... knows that we are dealing with a reality that is extraordinarily complex, one that cannot be reduced to sound bites or to simplistic explanations," he said.

Msgr. Fay also criticized the news media for paying too little attention to reforms the dioceses have made. "There is no sense that a claim of the sexual abuse of a minor today is handled completely differently by the church," he said.

Msgr. Fay, in reporting on the cardinals' meeting at the Vatican, said the two most concrete actions to come from the discussion were the possibility of directives from the Holy See for national standards in handling sexual abuse of minors, and visitation of U.S. seminaries by apostolic representatives of the Vatican "to ensure that the education we are giving our candidates for the priesthood is as excellent and as effective as it can be in the areas of celibacy, chastity and boundary issues."

He said the cardinals' meeting helped U.S. church leaders focus on their June meeting in Dallas at which the subject will be addressed.

Among things they will consider are ways of guaranteeing that every diocese is taking steps to prevent child abuse, he said. "As our Holy Father said ... there is no place in the priesthood and religious life for those that would harm the young."

To ensure that, the bishops "need to find the most effective ways to engage all members of the church in this effort, and they need to attend to the fact that child abuse is a much greater societal problem than has yet been admitted," Msgr. Fay said.

"In this last regard, it is expected that the bishops will explore seriously the possibility of establishing a national office for the protection of children that will engage others in society towards the greater protection of our youth."

Msgr. Fay encouraged the attorneys to focus on how "the present is better because we addressed the crimes of a few years ago."

"The fact that these are trying times is no excuse to wallow in the present moment," he said.

He noted that the bishops have aimed to break the cycle of abuse in this generation and that much of what they are doing is aimed at that goal.

"We cannot ever lose sight of the fact that our collective energies have been directed to making the church stronger and better, not just protecting the assets or managing the scandal," he continued. "I am personally convinced that this moment will not pass from view until every stone that is hiding some secret has been overturned to let the daylight shine on that spot. Such a thing is happening now and the more it is resisted, the longer and more painful it will be."

# Diocese reports allegation to civil authorities

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Since Bishop William G. Curlin announced a revision of the diocesan sexual misconduct policy in March, six incidents of sexual misconduct have been reported. In accordance with diocesan policy, the most recent, an allegation of sexual abuse, was turned over to civil authorities on May 6.

The alleged incident occurred nearly 40 years ago, and the priest involved has been deceased for more than two decades. The diocese retains confidentiality of incident locations, as well as the names of the alleged victims and perpetrators.

In the past two months, the diocese reported that five alleged incidents involving priests have been turned over to civil authorities in the North Carolina counties in which the alleged abuses occurred.

A sixth case, involved a religious order priest serving in the diocese. He was removed from active ministry by the provencial of his religious order.

While a religious order operates autonomously, religious-order priests working in a parish or other diocesan institution are accountable under diocesan policies.

Last month, during a meeting via conference call, Bishop William G. Curlin joined his brother bishops of the Atlanta province, which includes Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, in a joint statement collectively backing a "zero-tolerance" policy on priests who have a "confirmed or proven" allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor child.

The bishops defined such a policy as a commitment that the church and its institutions will be a safe environment for children, and that no priest will remain in any ministry where he can be a danger to them.

In addition to Bishop Curlin, those who participated in the conference call were Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Altanta, Ga.; and bishops Robert J. Baker of Charleston; J. Kevin Boland of Savannah; and F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh. They addressed proposals involving accountability, the reporting of allegations and reassignment to ministry.

The bishops made it clear that their recommendation includes all past, present and future cases involving proven cases of sexual abuse with minors in any area of priestly ministry. "We must remind ourselves that these problems did not occur overnight, and therefore, cannot be solved overnight," said Bishop Curlin.

## School Board Openings for the Diocesan School Board

The Diocesan School Board has school board vacancies beginning 2002-03 school year. The School Board is a consultative body to the Bishop's representative, the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools.

The Board meets monthly from September to May at various schools throughout the Diocese. The meetings take place during the week beginning at 6:30 p.m. and ending by 9:00 p.m.

**To be eligible to serve, a board member must:**

1. Be a practicing Catholic. A letter of verification and recommendations by the pastor is required.
2. Be a participating parishioner of a parish in the Diocese of Charlotte.
3. Have a genuine interest and commitment to Catholic schools.
4. Be able to work effectively with others in achieving consensus.

Members shall serve terms of three years.

Individuals having school committee, board, PTO, Athletic Association or other school experience are particularly encouraged to apply by sending a resume stating professional background and parish/school participation and letter stating why you would like to serve by June 3 to:

Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of Schools
Catholic Schools Office
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*Feel free to contact Dr. Michael Skube with questions or comments at (704) 370-3271.*


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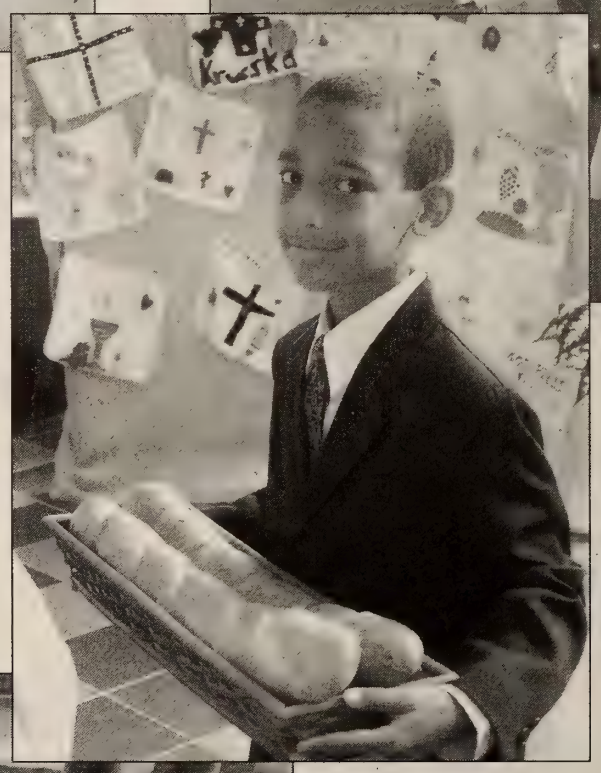
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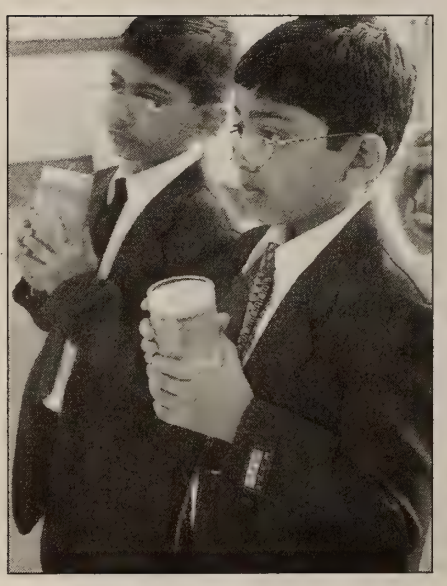





Just as spring brings new life, the month of May brings new life in formation, as children across the diocese, after significant preparation, receive the sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time.

On May 4, first communicants at St. Vincent de Paul parish in Charlotte took their faith to a new level as they received the sacrament during a special Mass.







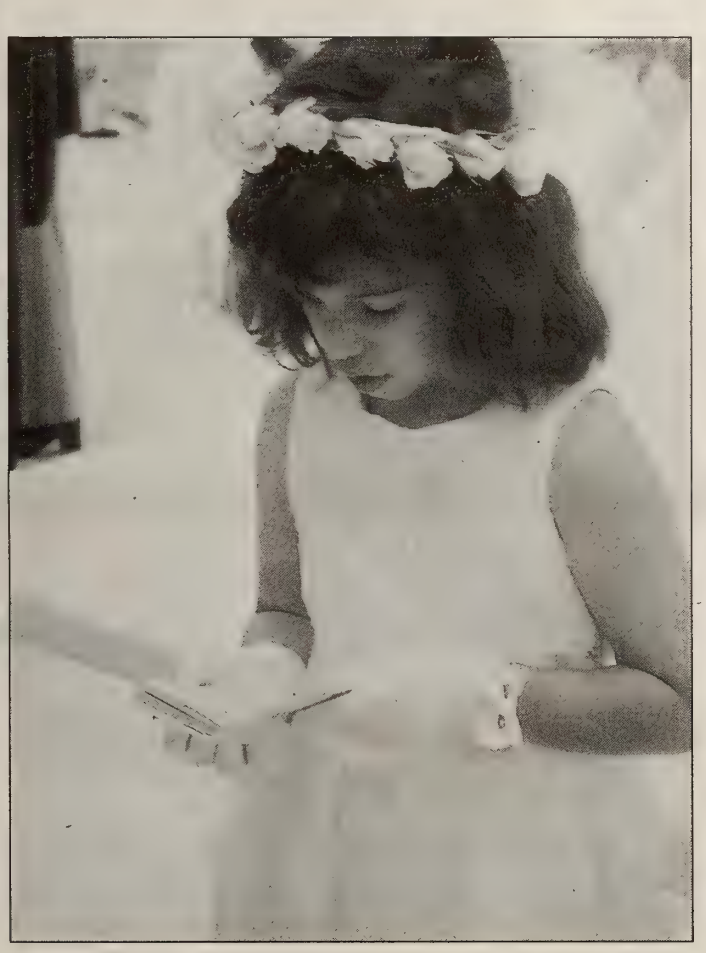
# Y COMMUNION



Photos by Joann S. Keane

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Then he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them and blessed them.

-- Mark 10:14,16









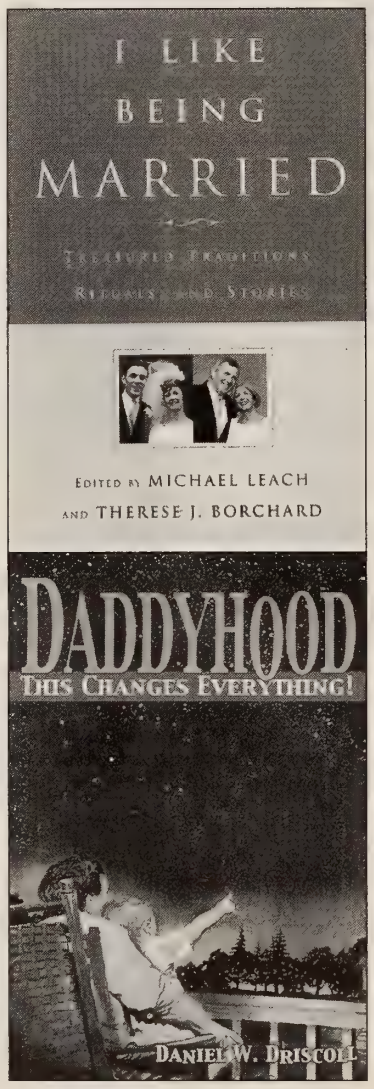


**Book Review**

# Books affirm joys and challenges of married life

REVIEWED BY DANIEL LIZARRAGA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"I Like Being Married" and "Daddyhood" are two new books affirming marriage and family. Michael Leach and Therese J. Borchard, who together edited the collection "I Like Being Catholic," have teamed up again to edit "I Like Being Married," a collection of stories and quotes from married couples, both celebrities and ordinary people, on what married life means to them and ways that love is manifested in the lives of two people who have joined together.




The selections include not just romantic correspondence and recollections of special shared moments but also stories of challenges that are a very real part of married life. One example is a story written by parents of a child with severe special needs. The couple shares how they have struggled and supported each other through this experience.

While not a spiritual book per se, many of the selections speak of the divine as an integral aspect of a successful marriage. There are quotes on love and relationships from the Bible and other religious texts as well as from vowed celibates such as Jesuit Fathers Teilhard de Chardin and Pedro Arrupe. These reflections contain universal elements of love and commitment that are embodied in married life.

"I Like Being Married" is not a recipe book for a successful marriage; neither is it a research study. Rather, it is an inspiring collection of personal journeys that reflect the mysterious and enjoyable dimensions of living a lifelong commitment with a spouse. Modern-day society would be well served with more such anthologies highlighting the very positive and very real treasure of married love.

Similarly, Daniel W. Driscoll's "Daddyhood" is a collection of the author's reflections on modern life as a parent of four young children. Subtitled "This Changes Everything!" (indeed it does!), the book is not limited to readership by fathers since the stories and reflections will be appreciated by moms and grandparents (as well as those who know families with young children).

Each chapter of Driscoll's book begins with a quote by a famous person that captures the moral of the story and ends with a prayer composed by the author. The quote may be accurate and/or humorous but the prayer is always meaningful and places the particular experience in the context of one's relationship with God and a personal interpretation of what God is trying to convey through the event.

Readers will smile and be touched by the simple and ordinary moments of children in which the author is able to see an extraordinary occurrence reminding him of God's infinite love of all of God's children. He provides a personal glimpse of family life and family dynamics in a manner of anticipation of the joy-filled surprises of each day.

Perhaps the thought of raising four children can be overwhelming for many of today's parents of smaller-sized families. However, the grace-filled stories in "Daddyhood" will inspire both daddies and mommies to take time in the midst of their busy schedules to savor the precious moments of the blessings of their children. In this way, they also will come to recognize the vital role they play in the lives of their children by providing the initial experience of God's love and desire for them to become the wonderful person God intends them to become.

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings:*
*May 12, 2002*

**Cycle A Readings:**
May 12, Seventh Sunday of Easter
1) Acts 1:12-14
Psalm 27:1, 4, 7-8a
2) 1 Peter 4:13-16
3) Gospel: John 17:1-11a

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I've just put the newspaper to bed, electronically sending it to our printer 80 miles away. I've been handling press relations, while struggling to get coverage of the Vatican/U.S. summit on priest/clerical abuse out to the people of our diocese, along with a letter from our bishop explaining our efforts to protect children and other vulnerable persons.

I struggle through and turn finally, very late and very tired, to my piece of writing, reflecting on the Scriptures for this week. And what do I find?

—A word of comfort from the Psalms: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The Lord is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid?"

—A call to incessant prayer in Acts, after Jesus' ascension into heaven (and preparatory to the outpouring of God's Spirit at Pentecost): "Together they devoted themselves to constant prayer."

—A message to take courage, to strengthen my resolve in the assurance of God's consolation in 1 Peter: "Rejoice instead in the measure that you share Christ's sufferings. When his glory is revealed, you will rejoice exultantly. Happy are you when you are insulted for the sake of Christ, for then God's Spirit in its glory has come to rest on you."

—And finally, word that we have not been abandoned, and that the One who has called us into his service and his fellowship is advocating for us still: "For these I pray — not for the world but for these you have given me, for they are really yours."

Weary though I am, I find in Scripture, in a specific set of Scriptures that I am forced to turn to by my commitments, all the encouragement and rationale I need, and all the encouragement that the Spirit of Christ can offer me.

Why do we (myself, first of all) not turn to God for our comfort in times of difficulty? He really is capable of providing all we need. Blessed be the name of the Lord!

**QUESTION:**
Have you neglected prayer and Scripture reading in your busyness? Have you thought to commit to daily time in God's word as a counter to an overscheduled life?

**SCRIPTURE TO ILLUSTRATE:**
"Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks" (Psalm 27:8a).

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of May 12 - May 18**

Sunday (The Ascension of the Lord), Acts 1:12-14, 1 Peter 4:13-16, John 17:1-11; Monday, Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-33; Tuesday (St. Matthias), Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, John 15:9-17; Wednesday (St. Isidore), Acts 20:28-38, John 17:11-19; Thursday, Acts 22:30; 23:6-11, John 17:20-26; Friday, Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19; Saturday (St. John I), Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, John 21:20-25

**Scripture for the week of May 19 - May 25**

Sunday (Pentecost Sunday), Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23; Monday (St. Bernardine of Siena), James 3:13-18, Mark 9:14-29; Tuesday, James 4:1-10, Mark 9:30-37; Wednesday, James 4:13-17, Mark 9:38-40; Thursday, James 5:1-6, Mark 9:41-50; Friday, James 5:9-12, Mark 10:1-12; Saturday (St. Bede), James 5:13-20, Mark 10:13-16

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# "Les Destinees"

BY ANNE NAVARRO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — An ambitious period piece, "Les Destinees" (Wellspring Media) follows a dynastic family involved in the porcelain business through the sweeping changes of World War I and the shift from artisanship to industrial manufacturing.

Yet director Olivier Assayas overindulges by stretching the film unnecessarily to the three-hour mark. The initial expectation is that these subtly drawn characters will somehow become the audience's intimate friends as more is revealed about them. However, this is not quite the result as, by the third act, the film pushes the audience's patience, making the viewer care less rather than more.

Set at the beginning of the 20th century among the bourgeois Protestant families of the Limoges region who have made their fortunes in cognac and fine porcelain, the film explores the passion and confusion stirred by sexuality, religion and the desire for material objects.

The film's three anchors are Jean Barnery (Charles Berling), a former Protestant minister who reluctantly guides the family business through sweeping changes; his first wife, Nathalie (Isabelle Huppert); and his second and more supportive wife, Pauline (Emmanuelle Beart).

Jean, however, is the driving force that fuels the film's more complex underpinnings. He begins as a man of God, then indulges in an idyllic, carefree life in the Swiss mountains with Pauline by his side, and ultimately, after taking over the family business, becomes an artist and a man of substance. And his two wives, Nathalie, with her strict moral temperament, and Pauline, exuding an earthy sexuality difficult to miss, represent the two opposite poles of his nature, which wage a constant struggle within him.

A visual feast with lush cinematography and outstanding attention to detail, "Les Destinees" sumptuously re-creates the past. The changing costumes throughout the years and the natural-looking aging makeup confirm the quality of the production, as do the fine performances from the large ensemble cast. But the film's slow tempo is a challenge as Assayas is unable to maintain the same level of interest throughout the 180 minutes.

Due to a sexual encounter and an extramarital affair, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

*Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*



CNS PHOTO FROM SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

**Scene from Sony Classics' "Nine Queens"**
**Leticia Bredice, Tomas Fonzi and Ricardo Darin star in the movie "Nine Queens" by Sony Pictures Classics. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**




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## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Pope, at audience, prays for success of U.N. meeting on children

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II asked for prayers that the U.N. special session on children would lead to real strides in protecting the "precious, but also vulnerable treasure" of the world's children.

Speaking May 8 at his weekly general audience, the pope said the U.N. meeting beginning the same day in New York should lead to international action to relieve the effects on children of "wars, poverty, exploitation and abuse of every kind."

In his main talk at the audience, transferred indoors at the last minute because of a heavy rain, Pope John Paul spoke about Psalm 51, known as the "Miserere" from its opening phrase, "Have mercy on me."

The pope said it was "the most beloved, sung and meditated upon of the penitential psalms, a hymn raised to the merciful God by a repentant sinner."

The psalm, he said, is a stark acknowledgment not only of a human being's tendency to sin, but of the evil one personally has committed.

"It is an experience which involves freedom and responsibility and leads to the admission of having broken a bond" with God, the pope said.

Quoting Origen, an early Christian theologian, Pope John Paul said there are many people who "after having sinned are absolutely tranquil and give no thought to their sin."

But one who loves God and is aware of being loved by God "is tormented by remorse" after sinning and pleads with God for forgiveness as the writer of the psalm does.

The psalm also shows that "the confession of one's sin and the awareness of one's misery do not lead to terror or the nightmare of being judged, but rather to hope for purification, liberation and being a new creation," the pope said.

"The power of God's love surpasses that of sin," he said.

The May 8 audience also appeared to have sealed a new papal practice; as he has done since Easter, the pope ended his audience remarks to his fellow Poles by singing a Polish folk song.

## The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist



**Touched by God: Stories of the saints**

I've always been a big fan of the saints. I was introduced to them as a child by the nuns. While my friends talked about Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland, I'd tell stories of St. Francis or Kateri Tekakwitha.

To me there was something fascinating about people who seemed to have a special connection to God. I think that, in a way, I may have been envious, wanting to know what it felt like to have something miraculous happen to you. Certainly, the miracles and visions that saints were said to have experienced struck me as far better than movie magic or whatever else was appealing or intriguing.

I've never stopped reading about the saints. Whenever a new book comes out, giving new insights or information about saints, I am fascinated.

Bert Ghezzi, an author and father of seven, tells me he has the same reaction. In fact, he is so attracted to these spiritual giants we call saints that he embarked on a journey to get to know them better. With the help of a friend who has a library of books detailing the lives of some 2,000 saints, some famous, some obscure, Ghezzi began to see these amazing people in a new light.

"These saints, canonized by the church, worked miracles, but they were not canonized for these wonders. I don't believe miracles make anyone holy," said Ghezzi. "What makes one holy is the presence of the Spirit in their lives, their love, their faithfulness. I found these people were saints because they lived extraordinary lives for God"; God "touched their lives."

Ghezzi decided to focus on a number of saints known as mystics, writing about them as "ordinary people" with blemishes and weaknesses, yet as profound lovers of God and people, so much so that when they put their love into action, miracles flowed. His stories are now in a book titled "Mystics & Miracles, True Stories of Lives Touched by God" (Loyola Press).

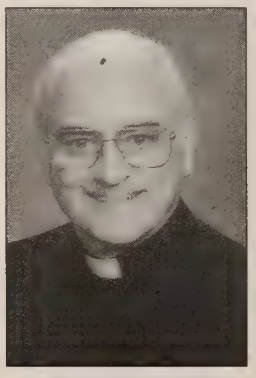
As for who is a mystic, Ghezzi answers simply: They are people with a "special closeness to God. They get rid of all the clutter in their hearts to make more room for God."

Ask this man what he hopes a reader will learn from his book and he quickly answers, enigmatically, "If [the saints] can do it, why can't I?"

He adds, "I feel too many of us keep saints at a distance, on a pedestal. Subconsciously we may believe they're genetically different from 'poor old me,' who's 'full of sin.' But it's not 'them and me.' The church gives us these souls to honor, but they're just like us except that they consistently decided to follow Christ, and I don't."

As for why miracles happen, Ghezzi believes that "God seems to work extraordinary things to attract attention to the truth." Long a leader in the charismatic movement, Ghezzi underscores the Holy Spirit as the one behind the miraculous in this world.

"If we really want to be like the mystics, we won't look for miracles. Nor will we chase after spiritual experiences," says Ghezzi. "Rather, we will let God's Holy Spirit touch our lives."



## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

**Our feelings about God and the church at a time of scandal**

Did you know that there are more than 110 million unchurched people in America? With all these scandals, that number is increasing daily.

Cynicism is the last refuge of the disenchanted idealist. Unfortunately, it only leads to unhappiness. I am hopeful that you will reject it and try to keep your spirits high because Jesus came to bring joy. The devil does all he can to disrupt our peace and joy, and we must not let him.

Divine revelation helps us to see that Jesus is the answer to all problems. In the Book of Isaiah we read: "I will place the key of the House of David on his shoulder, what he opens, no one will shut, what he shuts no one will open. On him shall hang all the glory of his family."

The key of the House of David is the symbol of authority given to Jesus, who has come to lead us home to the kingdom of joy. He gives us clarity about the meaning and destiny of human existence. He feeds our spirit with joyful anticipation.

There are many baptized Christians who feel distant from God and his church. They have suffered because of the sins of a few and have become alienated. The Lord wants them to put their trust in him, not in men. He also wants them to put their feelings aside and realize that intimacy with God does not depend on cozy feelings.

Jesus was never closer to God than when he was being crucified by the sinful clergymen of his time. He asked the Father to forgive them in spite of his feelings.

I remember a time in 1954 when I was in the Army doing guard duty on Christmas Eve. I was cold and tired as I heard the sounds of hymns being sung at the post chapel. I was alone and feeling sorry for myself. As I tried to unite in spirit with those at Midnight Mass, I still felt a million miles away. I had doubts about my faith and strangely seemed to lose my feeling for God and the church. I was both angry and confused.

What I learned upon reflection later was that intimacy with God does not depend on my feelings at any given moment. Union with God always depends more on his love for me than on my love for him. At baptism we are bound to the Trinity for life, on good days and bad. Our true hope is always in him, not in the men who carry his message.

In this time of crisis in the church, many of us have confused feelings ranging from outrage and fear to sadness and frustration. Remember that feelings are not facts, however justified they may be. The fact is that you and I are never alone or abandoned. Our union with God is secure because it always depends more on his love for us than on our feelings for him or his church.

He is always purifying the church, holding us to his heart. Don't be afraid of this scandal. It will pass. We have lived with scandals ever since Judas betrayed the Lord, and we will live through this one. We will come out of it a better church.

Jesus promised to be with us all days, even until the end of the world.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### The scandals: Beyond the shock and sorrow

For several months now, the Catholic Church has been buffeted by focus on priestly scandals involving pedophilia, the abuse of minors. It has to be faced head on, and the way to begin is to try to find a way to make it better.

You can't get better, of course, until you start to admit a problem, and that's what the Church must do right now: admit it has a problem — first, in harboring priests who would even do something like that to a child; and second, in failing to act to permanently remove a true pedophile from ministry and children. We can't get better as a Church until we admit that we've done wrong.

Having said that, it's also vital that this crisis be put in perspective. Even one child abused is too many. There is no excuse at all for a priest taking advantage of his privileged position to hurt or exploit minors. But in condemning those bad actions of some priests, we must never forget what the overwhelming majority of priests are about: true good.

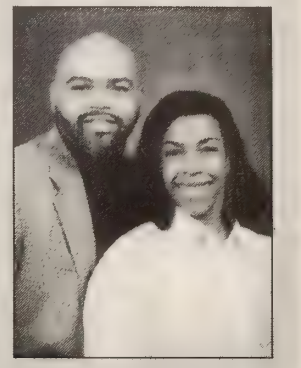
Even severe critics of the Church admit that sexual molesters of children might include three or four percent of all priests. And that's awful. But it also means that at least 96 or 97 percent of priests have never and would never harm a child. In the midst of all this focus on the few, we need to remember the good of the many. I know of no priest who is not demoralized by the recent stories of scandal. We choose this vocation with hope and joy. We feel called to ennoble the world by service to God's people. When you love that vocation as most of my brothers and I do, your heart breaks to see it compromised by the actions of some.

Few priests are as passionate about dedication to the priesthood as is Pope John Paul II. He has spoken of the scandals in clear and unmistakable language. Among his insights is the acknowledgement that as priests, we are all afflicted by the sins of some of our brothers. He talked about the "mystery of evil," wondering what could possibly make otherwise good people do such awful things. He admitted that now there is a "dark cloud of suspicion" over all priests, because some have so badly violated public trust. Happily, he voiced a deep concern and compassion for the victims of this sinful behavior.

The pope begged for divine grace in this great crisis. The Holy Father also used this sad occasion as an encouragement not only to priests, but also for all to search for holiness. He wisely reminded us that being a person of true holiness isn't a once-and-for-always attainment. It needs to be worked on each day. Just as a wedding ceremony doesn't automatically guarantee that a married person will remain eternally faithful to his or her vows, so no priest is automatically holy because he is ordained. For all, it takes an ongoing recommitment to seeking the good, the spiritual, and the holy.

Finally, John Paul II suggested that from this painful reality, the Church must experience a "re-awakening." I'd like to continue this discussion in a forthcoming "Light One Candle." At that time, I'll get down to some practical ideas about how we might accomplish that "re-awakening." How do we take the darkness of these sins and turn it into a candle of shining brightness?

# Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

### Relaying messages of hope and spirit for the future

Family announcements can make for great creativity. Think of the many stories you've heard about how someone proposed marriage or announced a pregnancy. People can go to great lengths and creativity to make the announcement a memorable occasion. Once in a while, that creativity is born of spontaneity.

Don and Alena Boucree of St. Peter Claver Church in New Orleans gave birth to their fourth child yesterday morning. The pregnancy was unplanned and unexpected. Don took the news of the pregnancy with all smiles. Alena had some reservations about the idea of another child — at first.

Baby Leah arrived a few weeks earlier than expected. Her parents, siblings and some family friends who had anticipated her arrival got the news of her conception in a creative, spontaneous way.

They were all at a Chinese restaurant. As each read aloud the fortune from his or her fortune cookie, Don pretended to read from his cookie, "Mommy will have a baby." The general response from their three children, whose ages range from 14 to 7, was "yeah, right!" Their disbelief persisted as they continued to read each fortune from their cookies. When it was Alena's turn, the fortune she pretended to read was "Daddy's right!"

Once it sunk in after a momentary pause, the kids all rallied around their parents, elated with great jubilation. The spontaneous joy from the kids erased Alena's minor ambivalence and marked the beginning of her joyous anticipation.

Baby Leah's birth may have been yesterday morning. However, the celebration of her life began months ago. The wonderfully clever announcement of her coming was her initiation into their circle of love.

She enters this life into a family in which love is no stranger. Months before her birth, she had the love of parents who love each other, and siblings who'd gladly move over to make room for her in their circle of love. She is also received by a faith community that promises to stand by her for a lifetime. Baby Leah enters this life naked and underweight, fragile and totally dependent. Yet, she starts life with the riches of the Kingdom of God in her grasp.

Congratulations, Alena and Don! Welcome to the world, Leah!

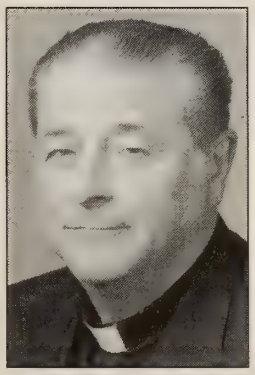
Questions for Reflection:

* What story of a creative family announcement can you recall?

* When has the anticipation of a child's birth drawn you closer as a family?

* How has the support of family, friends and church been a source of strength for you?

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Communion more than once a day?

*Q. At one time a priest told us we could receive Communion more than once a day, for example at a morning wedding and then an evening Mass. Now we are told we can receive only once. Which is true? (Illinois)*

A. The rule allowing Communion only once a day was relaxed years ago. The Code of Canon Law (917) provides that anyone who has received the Eucharist may receive it again on the same day, but only during a eucharistic celebration (Mass).

In 1984 the Vatican commission for interpreting canon law ruled that, even at Mass, Communion should be received no more than twice. That is the policy today.

The church knows from experience that some people are tempted to treat sacred things, even Mass and Communion, in a superstitious manner. I once knew a woman who proudly claimed she attended 11 Masses, at least the "essential parts," every Sunday.

To prevent people from collecting Communions this way was one reason for the stricter once-a-day rule in the past. Today's broader policy trusts that fuller awareness of the meaning of the Eucharist will discourage abuse and at the same time prompt people to receive Communion whenever it is appropriate, even more than once a day.

### Thieves or revolutionaries?

*Q. This past Passion (Palm) Sunday, in the reading of the Passion according to St. Matthew, the word "revolutionaries" was substituted for "thieves," referring to the two men crucified with Christ (27:38). In my Bible the word is "bandits." Why the change? (Pennsylvania)*

A. You, and several others who wrote to me asking the same question, were certainly alert.

A full response would be too involved for this column. A brief explanation might be interesting, however, and help one realize that words in these translations are not chosen arbitrarily.

It is true that many Bibles traditionally call these men "thieves" or "bandits." Other names, however, like "insurgents" (original New American Bible) and "revolutionaries" (revised New American Bible) are now common and probably a more accurate translation.

The description of Barabbas in the four Gospels is significant for a response to your question.

Two of the Gospels, Mark and Luke, describe Barabbas as one who was in prison for taking part in an insurrection, a rebellion, during which a murder was committed. John calls him a "lestes," a Greek word that means a thief or a renegade, a rebel.

This designation of Barabbas has been seen, for example, as showing the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders, who denounced Jesus as an alleged political criminal but now seek the release of a real enemy of the Romans.

Several verses later, Mark (15:27) and Matthew (27:38) both refer to the two men crucified with Jesus by that same Greek word.

Based on the connection of John's word "lestes" with insurrection and murder in the other two Gospels, it seems appropriate to identify the two men on the cross as revolutionaries or insurrectionists, rather than simply thieves.

The New American Bible is a translation of Scripture from the original languages, authorized by the bishops of the United States in 1970 and revised in 1986. It is the English translation used in most Catholic American parishes and is the one you heard on Passion Sunday.

# CSS to raise awareness and funds with Vineyard of Hope

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — People will have the opportunity to sample wines, bid on auction items and help Catholic Social Services Charlotte Regional Office (CSS) in the process. Vineyard of Hope will be held May 16 at the Gateway Village Promenade from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The idea behind the wine-tasting and auction is multi-layered — a CSS fund-raising effort, a time for fellowship and a way to inform people about CSS.

"We wanted to try a fresh approach to the annual dinner in terms of the program and getting new people involved," said Ann Kilkelly, director of development for CSS, who has been working for the diocese a little over a year. "We are looking to continue this as an annual event."

The name comes from the wine-tasting portion of the event and the work of CSS in the community. "Hope speaks about what CSS does in people's lives whether it is someone who comes for counseling, adoption or any kind of help that they can't get anywhere else," said Kilkelly. "CSS responds to people's needs, and the bottom line is helping people."

The evening will include wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres and a silent and live auction.

People will have the opportunity to hear a description of the wines before tasting, view auction items before bidding and hear live jazz music. Mike Collins of Charlotte Talks, a National Public Radio show, will be the emcee, and George Erdle, wine consultant, has been working with the CSS event subcommittee to provide information about the wines to be sampled.

Dr. Bill Rice, co-chair of the subcommittee and chair of the CSS advisory board, said that the wine tasting and auction will serve as a new venue for gaining friends and financial support. The board is looking for innovative ways to attract supporters and let the public know about CSS.

"We're really trying to build fellowship. CSS has been very busy, and resources are limited. So, we are looking for new ways to raise money," said Rice. "We are hoping to reach young people who are untapped with this kind of an event held uptown. We are trying to reach out to the young adult community because there has been such as influx of young Catholics to the diocese who don't know what CSS does."

Bea Staub, co-chair of the subcommittee, is very familiar with CSS. She and her husband, Pat, adopted their two children, Dylan, 6, and Danielle, 8, from Russia through the CSS International Adoption Program.

"My husband and I were blessed with two wonderful children, and we are in debt to CSS for life and would do anything to help them," said the auction coordinator. "CSS is the best kept secret; they do so much with limited staff and resources. We are here to create an awareness and spread the word about the wonderful things they have done."

Auction items will include a 1971 convertible Mercedes from Ron Shue Imports, a weeklong family trip to Beaver Creek, Colo., a golfer's dream weekend, sports memorabilia and other donated items. "We are in awe of the generosity of the donors," said Staub.

Geri King, director of the CSS Charlotte Regional Office, said that they are looking forward to a great time when they can enjoy friends on behalf of the agency.

**For further information and reservations, call (704) 370-6155.**

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*


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## SEWING, from page 1

Beach, Va. Father Francis T. Cancro, St. Eugene's pastor, liked the idea; implementing it took more than a year.

Parishioner Mary Hazinski, volunteering to sew the pall, went to a funeral home to measure a casket. Her husband, David, an engineer, designed the 11-foot-by-17-foot pall so that it would fit a coffin and hang evenly.

The center panel, which covers the top of the coffin, is a thick, white fabric. The side panels, where the names are inscribed, are of a soft, open-weave cloth. "It had to be something that was easy to embroider on, but cross-stitch material is too stiff," Cicotello said.

Initially, about 20 women volunteered to embroider the names, which were all preserved in a book at the church. "When we first started, we didn't have individuals (outside the ministry) to stitch; we had a team that stitched," Cicotello said. "It was very hard. We actually had people, who were experienced stitchers, who said, 'I can't do this.' It was amazingly difficult.

"It was hard because of it not being a traditional stitch, it's not a cross-stitch — and it's a solemn responsibility. No one wanted to make a mistake. We checked and double-checked spellings. And there was the time pressure for each person to finish her 17 or 23 names by the end of the month," she said.

For four months, four different women took the panels home each month. Those who had the long, side panels stitched 23 names; those with the end panels embroidered 17 names. A red cross separates each name from the one beside it.

Then Hazinski sewed the panels to a white, flannel lining. Father Cancro blessed the pall during a commissioning ceremony.

Even those who have no names are not forgotten. One corner panel, dedicated to all stillborn and unborn children, contains a simple black outline of the Mary and the Christ Child. A red cross represents the mother's heart. However, if a child has been named and then dies, his or her name appears with those of other deceased parishioners.

Any friend or relative can help embroider the name of a deceased St. Eugene parishioner. A sewing-ministry member helps with the stitches. On the same Sunday that Robert Thorne's name took its place on the pall, Ann Hunt, Tobey Livingstone and their sister-in-law, Barbara Reid, added the name of Ann and Tobey's father, Philip Reid — one of the original parishioners.

Reid, 87, died at sunrise on Easter Sunday. "He said he wanted to spend Easter with Jesus," Barbara Reid said.

"It meant a lot to me that Daddy will be remembered; this church meant a lot to him," Hunt said after embroidering part of her father's name.

"When I started doing this," Mukosiej said, "I was thinking, 'This is something that will be remembered.'" That's important to Mukosiej, who does not know where her mother is buried. Born in Poland, Mukosiej and her family were deported to Russia during World War II. Her mother died in a Russian hospital and was buried in a mass grave.

Cicotello hopes to eventually dedicate one of the pall's corner panels to all parishioners' family members who were not St. Eugene parishioners.

"When we started this, I don't think any of us knew how much this would affect us," Cicotello said. "Of all the ministries that I have ever done, and do, if someone said, 'You have to give up all your ministries and can only keep one,' this is the one I would keep. You saw the families that were here today. They tell their stories. It's very healing, and that's what church is about. Even if you don't remember the person, you remember the name, and that is remembering the person."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*


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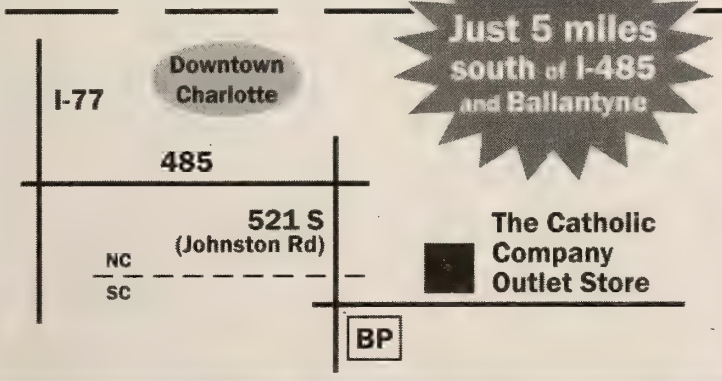
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# Bridges for Women span many lives of faith

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — Twenty-four women from St. Paul the Apostle Church gathered to celebrate Mass and share in a modest breakfast, fellowship, talk and meditation May 4. Pattie Disney, Vicki Schaller, Pam Johnson, Mary Anne Baumgartner and Sue Perez were a part of the core group that brought "Bridges for Women" into reality.

"After members of this core group attended an Ignatius-style retreat in Atlanta, we became excited about the faith and needed a way to enhance our faith journey," said Disney.

Bridges for Women is a way of accomplishing this mission.

The name "Bridges for Women" came from the belief that human-crafted bridges are awesome, but that the most magnificent bridge of all is the one not crafted by human hands — Mary, who fully cooperated in the Incarnation and continues to bridge the gap between humanity and her divine son, Jesus.

Meeting quarterly and always on the first Saturday of the month, the women's evangelization efforts began Nov. 3, 2001. There are always two speakers at the meetings — one who gives the faith-filled viewpoint of the younger women; the other who offers the experiences, knowledge and faith of the older women.

Because the month of May is traditionally the month of the rosary, and the entire month is dedicated to the Mary, she was the topic for the May 4 meeting.

Oblate Father Anthony Gilborges, parochial vicar of St. Paul the Apostle Church, started the meeting with Mass. Afterward, Johnson gave the welcome and introduced the first speaker, Susan Raybold.

A Greensboro native, Raybold attended Our Lady of Grace School and received a bachelor's from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. A member of St. Paul the Apostle Church for the last 13 years, Raybold is an active catechist and has contributed her expertise to high school level faith formation classes for nine years.

Raybold explained how her friendship with Mary grew through the faith and devotion of her own mother who always prayed the rosary. Raybold referred to the Annunciation found in St. Luke's Gospel to show that Mary's role as a woman was one filled with risk and danger from the time she gave her "fiat" to God.



Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**Susan Raybold stands beside a portrait of the Virgin Mary while speaking to a group of over 20 women at the "Bridges for Women" meeting at St. Paul the Apostle Church May 4.**

"At a time when women had no rights and were aware of the possibility of stoning just for being pregnant before marriage, Mary was faced with these challenges and all of the other physical and emotional changes women go through," said Raybold.

Mary, said Raybold, is the silent example who confirmed everything she did through God. "Even as Mary took care of Jesus and encouraged him at the wedding feast of Cana, she enabled me to get through the trials of my own life by sharing them with her and with Jesus," said Raybold.

Raybold said the rosary is a tool to help get through life's trials. "Meditation on the mysteries and envisioning Mary wrapping her mantle around me totally changed my life," she told the group.

"Of course we honor Mary. But remember that she is named in the Apostles' Creed," said Raybold. "There is a definite bond between Mary, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we can't have one without the others."

The second speaker was Libby Lennon, a mother of six, a St. Paul the Apostle parishioner for 28 years and an Associate of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God at Maryfield. Lennon spoke of Mary through her own experiences.

"Mary was a young girl who lived an ordinary life extraordinarily," she said.

Lennon also noted, "Prayer is the gate used to gain entrance to God. My life has been steered by prayer, especially the rosary."

"Mothers are the saints of God," added Lennon. "You are all important. We can help each other. We must live one day at a time as we walk with God and with Mary."

Robin Conklin, a new member of Bridges for Woman, said that she realized how Mary affects her everyday life. "I relate to Mary. I look to her. The rosary is very important in my life," she said.

Kate Smith, who attended her first meeting, said, "The Holy Spirit is truly working today. I can't live without the rosary. It has helped me get through many situations. It is my whole life. Mary has been my strength all along."

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218, or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*


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# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

— 1 Cor 12:12-13

# To Halley's comet and beyond

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — The astronauts worked diligently aboard the space station while their counterparts assisted from Mission Control. Their performances were impressive, especially considering they were only sixth- and seventh-graders.

Students and young astronauts club members from Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem traveled to Discover Place science museum May 17 for a unique immersion learning experience — a space mission to launch a probe into the tail of Halley's comet.

"When kids go on a field trip, they think it's just going to be time out of class," said seventh-grade teacher Kae Mattingly. "After watching kids work in the Challenger Learning Center, they're so focused and involved. They're busy doing their jobs (to complete the mission)."

The Challenger Learning Center (CLC) is part of a growing network of centers nationwide established by the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, in memory of the crew of the ill-fated Challenger space shuttle. The CLC was designed to teach students crucial lessons in a unique atmosphere that stimulates learning.

Incorporating math, science and technology, the nearly two-hour mission allows students to role-play in both a Mission Control Center and a space station, USS Horizon. Working in teams — including Navigation, Communications, Life Support and Medical — students must perform a series of vital tasks at computer consoles in order to maneuver the space station along side the comet, as well as to build and launch the scientific probe into its tail.

See HALLEY'S COMET, page 15





Photos by Joann S. Keane

**Above, Our Lady of Mercy School students get mission instructions from their flight director aboard the USS Horizon, a mock space station at Discovery Place in Charlotte. Left, students Matthew O'Neill and Patrick Lawler work with controller John Austin in the mock Mission Control Center to help build and launch a science probe into the tail of Halley's comet during an interactive learning simulation.**

# Gathering concentrates on Hispanic growth

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

SYLVA — The Diocese of Charlotte ranks top in Hispanic population growth among the 25 U.S. Catholic dioceses with a minimum of 25,000 Hispanics. In 1995, U.S. Census figures showed 146,100 Hispanics in the diocese. By 2000, that population had risen to 235,829, a 61.4 percent increase.

To learn more about how to help the immigrants, members of the Smoky Mountain and Asheville vicariates met May 11 at St. Mary Church for a dialogue: "Welcome — Bienvenidos: Yes or No? (Hispanics, Hospitality, Harmony)." The Smoky Mountain Vicariate sponsored the conference.

Presenters were Father George M. Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hayesville and vicar of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate; Eduardo Bernal, Hispanic ministry worker for the Asheville and Smoky Mountain vicariates; and Father C. Morris Boyd, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin.

A central concern was that not all parishes welcome the newcomers and that this nonwelcoming attitude is contrary to scriptural and Catholic teaching.

Father Boyd quoted from "Welcoming the Stranger Among Us," [U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2000]: "Perhaps the greatest obstacle to welcoming the stranger is that many Americans have forgotten their immigrant past. 'Nativism' assumes that there is just one image of a 'real American' and that immigrants either cannot live up to it or willfully refuse to do so.

"Like the Catholic 'Americanizers' of the 19th century, who opposed the establishment of national parishes, the critics of multiculturalism today want immigrants and other distinctive groups to shed their languages, customs

See HISPANICS, page 8

### South Korean religious leaders urge end to politics during World Cup

SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — Leaders of various religions in South Korea have asked politicians to cease political wrangling for the sake of the World Cup soccer finals. Seven religious leaders representing Catholicism, Protestantism, Buddhism, Confucianism and three other religions issued the joint appeal during a May 8 press conference in Seoul, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. "At least for the period of the World Cup finals, which is the greatest festival in the world, we hope that we can maintain political stability of the nation," they said. South Korea and Japan are hosting the cup finals, which begin May 30.

### Pope expresses relief over end of crisis at Bethlehem church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II expressed his relief that the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, West Bank, had finally been "restored to God and the faithful" after a monthlong standoff between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli soldiers. The pope, speaking at a noon blessing May 12, offered thanks to all those who helped make sure that "this holy place was given back its true religious identity." He expressed particular appreciation to the communities of Franciscans friars and nuns and Greek Orthodox and Armenian Orthodox monks who "with notable sacrifices remained faithful custodians of the sanctuary." The pope encouraged the people of Bethlehem to once again take up the road of faith and hope in God.

### Army of volunteers scrubs clean remnants of Church of Nativity siege

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — In just over two hours, dozens of volunteers and clergy had scrubbed and cleaned the Church of the Nativity after a five-week siege ended May 10. "The first thing I can say is that thank God it is over. We have lived the faith of Jesus in Gethsemane. We had the hope that God would protect us," said Franciscan Father Amjad Sabbara. "All the parishioners are working now to clean the church. They are volunteering. I am very happy to see them and proud of them," he said. In addition to the garbage left behind by the 200 Palestinians who sought refuge in the church, the Franciscan parish hall and three rooms of the Greek Orthodox convent had been blackened and charred — apparently by fires set off by Israeli mortars or flares. Inside the parish hall, brand new organ pipes were a mass of twisted and melted metal.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**U.S., Korean children play soccer at Seoul temple**

**U.S. and Korean children play a soccer game at a Buddhist temple in Seoul May 14. The game was held in celebration of Buddha's birthday and to promote the FIFA World Cup finals in South Korea**

### World Youth Day organizers downgrade estimates to 350,000 pilgrims

TORONTO (CNS) — The World Youth Day 2002 national director said he hopes for 350,000 registered delegates for the gathering in Toronto July 23-28. By May 5, more than 172,000 people from 165 countries had registered, said Basilian Father Thomas Rosica, World Youth Day national director. The United States had the largest delegation, with more than 46,000, followed by Canada at nearly 29,000. Italy had more than 12,000 registrants. Initial projections estimated 750,000 participants. Ottawa archdiocesan officials also have downgraded predictions for the days in the diocese — a period of prayer, service and learning about the local church — which precede World Youth Day. Some 25,000 young people originally were expected to participate in the Ottawa Archdiocese; now some 5,000 are expected.

### Colombian bishops consider excommunicating rebels who bombed church

BOGOTA, Colombia (CNS) — The Colombian bishops are "seriously considering" excommunicating members of the guerrilla group that killed 117 people inside a Catholic church. "I personally have no doubt they deserve excommunication, because they have placed themselves outside the church by brutally attacking ... and showing total contempt for the house of God, and especially for innocent people," said Archbishop Alberto Giraldo Jaramillo of Medellin, president of the Colombian bishops' conference. The rebels who would be excommunicated belong to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known by its Spanish acronym as FARC. On May 3, they attacked a Catholic church in the rural town of Bojaya. The church, the only brick-and-concrete building in a town of homes made of wood and hay, was being used by the local pastor as a refuge for some 500 civilians who had been fleeing FARC military actions in the region.

### Catholic school students check out bugs on Internet

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — Kids like bugs almost as much as they do dinosaurs. Just ask Jan Spillane, the second-grade teacher at St. Paul School in San Francisco. Her class has an even stronger bug interest after taking part in a special Internet project called "Bugscope." The project, sponsored by the University of Illinois at Urbana, connects young students in classrooms across the country via computers with a special environmental scanning electron microscope that uses sophisticated technology to examine the three-dimensional structure of surfaces in great detail. Through it, students can see bug parts that are undetectable to the naked eye. Individual classes across the country can send their own bug specimens to Urbana, Ill., where four high school students at University High School have been trained to run the microscope. They prepare the specimens and put them into the microscope's viewing chamber. The high school students and scientists are also available for online discussions with

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**May 25 — 5:30 p.m.**
Confirmation
Our Lady of Assumption, Charlotte

**May 26 — 11 a.m.**
Confirmation
Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte

**6 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. John Neumann, Charlotte

**May 27 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Luke, Charlotte

**May 29 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
Sacred Heart, Salisbury

## Diocesan planner

**May**

**22** GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will be having its annual May luncheon today at Sedgefield Country Club at 11:30 a.m. A fashion show with the theme "Clothes You Love to Live In," raffle and the board installation will be taking place at the luncheon. This year's charity is the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center. For further information, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

**22** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**22** MAGGIE VALLEY — A series of presentations; sponsored by CSS Elder Ministry and facilitated by Richard Von Stamwitz, a national certified gerontological counselor; are continuing throughout the diocese. Today's presentation will be given at St. Margaret Church, 1422 Soco Rd., from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Brown bag lunchtime with provided drinks will begin at 12:30 p.m. The topic, "Faithful Living in Later Life," will be presented in two sessions and will focus on vocation and ministry in the later years. For pre-registration and other information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Marlo Wallace at (704) 370-3228.

**26** HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

**June**

**2** CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian

### Blue Mass held for law enforcement, public safety officials

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the lives lost Sept. 11 still in the hearts and minds of those in attendance, the Washington Archdiocese's eighth annual Blue Mass honoring public safety and law enforcement officials was held May 10 at a packed St. Patrick Church in Washington. Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick was principal celebrant of the Mass, which was attended by about 700 people, the largest turnout for the annual celebration in recent history, according to Msgr. Salvatore A. Criscuolo, a police chaplain who is in residence at the church. Father John Delendick, pastor at St. Michael's Parish in Brooklyn, N.Y., and chaplain of the New York Fire Department, was homilist at the Blue Mass, formerly called the Police and Fireman Mass and now named for the hue of their uniforms. In attendance were honor guards from around the Washington metropolitan area and color guards representing the various law enforcement departments along with the directors of both the FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and local police chiefs from the surrounding jurisdictions.

### Education carries responsibility, Ashcroft tells CUA graduates

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Attorney General John Ashcroft urged more than 1,000 graduates at The Catholic University of America in Washington not to take their education for granted. "Just as education enriches freedom, it confers responsibility," he told the graduates assembled in the shadow of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception under a blue sky May 11. "Your obligations do not end with this day, but have only just begun." Ashcroft, who is a member of the Assemblies of God, a Pentecostal denomination, also advised the graduates not to take their freedom lightly, saying it does not give "license to behave in any way

### Bishop says pope has left clear trail of support for migrants

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the first "migrant" pope in 400 years, Pope John Paul II has had much to say about the world's responsibility to people who leave their homes for other lands, noted the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration in a May 13 presentation. Speaking at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio of Camden, N.J., said the pope can be considered a migrant not because of his many travels, but because he is the first pontiff in centuries who isn't Italian, a fact the pope joked about soon after his election. As a defender of human dignity and human rights of migrants, "no pope before him ... was ever able to accomplish as much," Bishop DiMarzio said. He went on to elaborate on the variety of formats in which the pope has spoken about the rights of migrants.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Negotiator Salman shakes hands with Isreali soldier**

**Negotiator Anton Salman shakes hands with an Israeli soldier as he and Franciscan Father Ibrahim Faltas temporarily leave the Church of the Nativity compound for talks May 8 during the standoff**

### 'Taste of the Game' fund-raiser at Notre Dame fights hunger

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Sloan Suciu and Amanda Benham jumped into the pool at the University of Notre Dame and swam freestyle down the lanes as coach Tim Welsh watched. The youngsters' small splash was part of the first "Taste of the Game" fund-raiser organized by Share Our Strength, the agency that has raised more than $105 million to fight hunger since it started in 1984. At the $25-a-ticket event, Notre Dame coaches and players instructed children and their parents in swimming, tennis, football, golf, basketball, soccer and volleyball. Separate offerings for adults included strength and conditioning, sports photography, sports reporting, how to be a good sports parent, and balancing sports and academics. Share Our Strength founder Bill Shore said his Washington-based organization raises $5 million a year with about 100 "Taste of the Nation" food and wine events featuring chefs and restaurants. "We started to think about how can we take that same idea into other venues," he said

### Workers reflect on coming end of trade center recovery work

NEW YORK (CNS) — Seven months after the terrorist attacks on the twin towers of the World Trade Center, police officers rotated in and out of the Port Authority's command center in lower Manhattan. This late April day they wandered through to watch a little TV, grab a quick lunch or take a break on their 12-hour shifts working on debris removal and the recovery effort at ground zero, where the trade center once stood. The effort is expected to come to a close early this summer. Port Authority Police Officer Frank Accardi, a member of St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish in the Diocese of Metuchen, N.J., offered to take a reporter from the diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Spirit, with him through his day at a place all the world has been watching. "The families will always come here because this is where their brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers were lost," Accardi said. "They will always come to the World Trade Center."

### Despite vow of poverty, Marianists give millions to school

DAYTON, Ohio (CNS) — How can a group of men take a vow of poverty, then turn around and give $17.5 million to the University of Dayton? That's the total value of the "Call to Lead" gift of the Cincinnati province of the Society of Mary over the six years of the University of Dayton's campaign. In fall 2000, the province announced an initial $10.5 million gift, the largest gift from an organization in the university's history, but on May 6 it increased its total commitment to $17.5 million, pushing the University of Dayton's $150 million fundraising campaign to $153 million, with only two months left to go. The Marianists' monetary gift will be used to fund scholarships and various other initiatives that strengthen the university's Catholic and Marianist identity.

Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will be gathering today at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information please call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 545-8133.

**2** HIGH POINT — Bishop William G. Curlin will be the celebrant and homilist at a Mass in honor of the Feast of Corpus Christi this afternoon at 3 p.m. at Maryfield Chapel, 1315 Greensboro Rd. There will be a procession of the Blessed Sacrament and blessing of the sick after Mass. For further information, call Maryfield at (336) 886-2444.

**2** SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**3** CHARLOTTE — Groups in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight and every first Monday at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on June 4 and every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**3** CHARLOTTE — The bereavement support group will meet tonight from 6-7:30 p.m. and every first Monday in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. This support group is for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. For details, call Ruth Posey, CSS counselor, at (704) 370-3238.

**3** CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on July 1. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

**5** CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will be having a meeting with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**8** CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo community will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight and every second Saturday of the month for a school of leaders at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For further information, call Ky Do at (704) 532-9094.

### Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — New Creation Monastery, 11517 Spreading Oak Lane, is a house of prayer in south Charlotte off of the Carmel Rd. Extension below Hwy. 51. Father John Hoover invites everyone for weekend retreats, vespers, prayer and other ministries. For reservations and other information, call (704) 541-5026.

CHARLOTTE — The Knights of Columbus Council 770 will host bingo every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Ann Church activity center, 3635 Park Rd. Call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte is a social group for singles 21 and over striving to maintain a warm and caring environment for singles by fostering friendships and enriching personal growth in the light of Christianity. Monthly events include Mass and brunch, weekend trips, movies, dinners, and much more. For more information and a calendar, call (704) 547-9844 or (704) 504-8509 or visit the website at www.catholicsinglescharlotte.faithweb.com.

# College student contemplates life as woman religious

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

CULLOWHEE — Like her fellow college graduates, Melissa Hatch is excited about the future. But her future will be different from the rest of Western Carolina University's Class of 2002.

Since graduating on May 11 with a bachelor's in birth-through-kindergarten education, Hatch has been visiting her family in Kernersville. Near the end of May, she'll leave for her new life in the School Sisters of Notre Dame's Mankato, Minn., province, one of eight provinces in North America.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame have accepted Hatch as an affiliate. During her affiliation period, she will live with other affiliates in the order's House of Welcome, but she could have her own apartment if she preferred. Affiliation can last six months to two years. As an affiliate, Hatch will continue to discern whether she wants to live a vowed religious life. It's informal — a time to "come and see," said Notre Dame Sister Mary Warner, Ph.D., who teaches English at Western Carolina University and has been mentoring Hatch.

Because affiliates must take care of their own financial needs, Hatch has been investigating teaching positions in Mankato.

Hatch, 23, is the second of four children of Steve and Cynthia Hatch, parishioners at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro. She began thinking about religious life two years ago. "It was a random thought that popped into my head," she said. "I was in church with my mother and sisters, and I said (to myself), 'No way.' But the thought kept popping up."

She couldn't become a nun, she would think; she wanted to get married and have a family. She also wanted to teach. Hatch had planned to be a chef, but during her senior year in high school, she worked at a daycare center. Interacting with the children told her that teaching was the career for her.

However, the idea of a religious vocation persisted. "I didn't know anything about religious life," she said. "Being in North Carolina, you're not around it that much. I thought I might have to give up teaching. I didn't know."



Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**Melissa Hatch (third from right) teaches the third-grade faith formation class at St. Mary Church in Sylva. Near the end of May, Hatch will leave for her new life in the School Sisters of Notre Dame's Mankato, Minn., province.**

At Western's Catholic Center, she happened on a copy of The Vision, a magazine featuring articles on various aspects of religious life.

Then she attended a diocesan college retreat. In "Me? A Nun?," an article she wrote for The Mustard Seed, Western's Catholic Campus Ministry newsletter, Hatch said that during the retreat she was in a small group that included a priest who talked about how everyone has a vocation.

"That retreat really made me think," Hatch wrote. "I thought to myself, 'Maybe God really is calling me to give something different.' At first that really scared me, because I had all these plans to find a man, get married and have a family."

Gloria Schweizer, campus minister, put her in touch with a nun who was a vocation director in Baltimore, Md., but last year she happened to sit next to Sister Mary at a baccalaureate dinner. The two started talking and something clicked.

"God works in mysterious ways; I truly believe that," Hatch said. "Before that, I knew God was calling me, but I didn't know where."

Since that evening, "I've been serving as her contact person," Sister Mary said. "Every couple of weeks, we have dinner together and pray evening prayer."

Sister Mary invited Hatch to Mankato for the province's jubilee celebration because the talks would be on vocations. Hatch also accompanied Sister Mary to an English conference in Baltimore and visited the School Sisters of Notre Dame's Baltimore province's motherhouse. At first, never having lived outside of North Carolina, Hatch thought she might choose Baltimore, but then decided that Mankato was where she wanted to be.

"Their charism for education, their spirit, their sense of community are just amazing," Hatch said. "Seeing the sisters interacting together was special."

If Hatch decides that religious life really is what she wants to do, she will ask to be accepted as a postulant. Postulants move into the religious community, focusing on aspects of community life. The next stage is novice, in which spirituality is stressed. Sometime during the novice phase, Hatch can request to make her final vows. The whole process takes several years.

"Community is a big thing," Hatch said, "but I really feel that's what God wants me to do, to give my life to that and to a life of deeper prayers. It will be easier for me to do that in community. I'm not really giving up anything; I'm giving more."

Affiliates are single women, usually ages 18 to 35, who have been members of the Catholic Church for at least three to five years. They have completed some postsecondary education and want to continue their educations. Affiliates are aware of their strengths and weaknesses, are self-directed and are attracted to the School Sisters of Notre Dame's teaching ministry.

They also have healthy relationships with a variety of persons and groups, maintain balanced lives and share their gifts with others. During her time at Western, Hatch was much involved at the Catholic Center, where she sang in the choir and was on the coordination team for eucharistic adoration. She also performed in a clown ministry at nursing homes, homeless shelters and festivals and filled in for several weeks teaching third-grade faith formation classes at St. Mary Church in Sylva.

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

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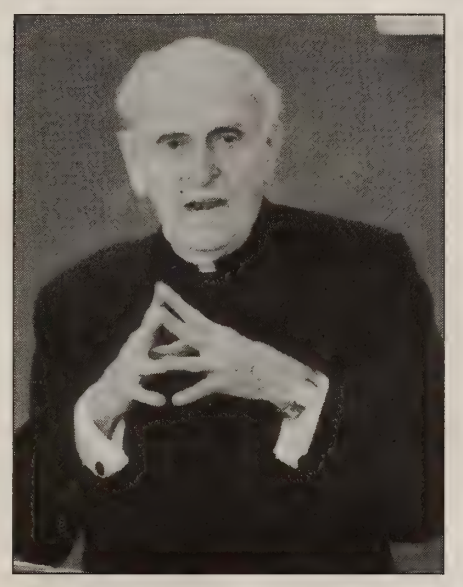
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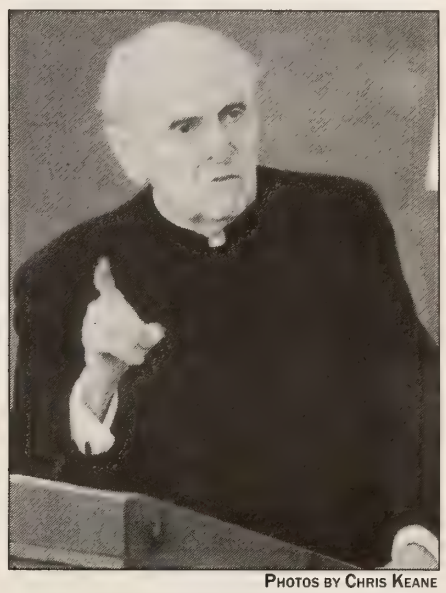
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# Young adults must be informed, says Jesuit congressman

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor







Photos by Chris Keane

CHARLOTTE — Who better to speak to high schools students about the importance of ethics, laws and politics than a priest and former lawmaker?

The Echo Foundation sponsored a dialogue between Jesuit Father Robert Drinan and students at Myers Park High School May 8. Father Drinan, a Washington, D.C., Georgetown University Law Center professor and a former U.S. congressman, stressed the importance of their budding responsibilities as citizens.

"How many of you here can vote this November?" was Father Drinan's opening question to the mostly juniors and seniors.

One of the first votes Father Drinan cast as a representative from Massachusetts during the 1970s was to lower the voting age from 21 to 18. Father Drinan urged the students to get involved in the world and take control of their futures.

"You are the beneficiaries of that (vote). You have to make an intelligent choice for this fall," said Father Drinan. "You know you have a race for the U.S. Senate, and you should say, 'I'm going to pick the best person,' and go vote for them."

Father Drinan referred to voting as "the first, great ideological fight that you have." Yet one of the tragedies of the United States is that "hardly anybody votes. Fifty percent of the people voted in the last election," he said. "You can't walk away (from voting). Silence is the worst of all the sins."

Father Drinan also encouraged students to work for candidates, revealing he, like many people running for office, relied on their help with campaigns. It was with the help of 55 students that Father Drinan defeated a "well-entrenched, powerful member of Congress who had been there for 28 years," he said. "It is possible to replace someone with whom you disagree."

Many young campaigners admit that campaigning changed their lives, said Father Drinan. Their devotion and passion has also helped to guide the votes of their parents and families.

There are many topics that need to be addressed, said Father Drinan, such as the future of the environment, health insurance, handguns and especially terrorism.

"You are the first generation that has to cope with this," said Father Drinan. "I urge you to be well-informed. You are citizens; consequently, you have a very serious obligation and a duty to be well-informed."

So Father Drinan informed them: 42 million citizens are without health insurance; 13 kids die every day from guns; almost 300 people are currently locked up in the United States because they "look like terrorists or have funny names"; four to five million Muslims live in the United States and have the potential to be locked up also, simply because they are Muslims.

"It's all preventable," said Father Drinan.

A relevant topic for the students was college tuition. "In Europe and in most every developed country, everybody who wants to go to the university goes there for free. In the United States, we have this idea, 'you've got to pay for yourself.' Students are getting out of Georgetown Law School where I teach with an average debt of $78,000."

The government should make it easy to go to college, said Father Drinan. "(People) shouldn't be restricted or restrained by the debt that they're going to get," he said. "You should be able to go to any college or university in this country where you are accepted, regardless of the cost."

Father Drinan revealed proposals currently in the Congress to give more aid, loans, grants and scholarships to students. When it comes to voting, "you should be well-informed about that," he said.

The reason the United States continues to make so many mistakes, said Father Drinan, is because "the citizenry doesn't rise up. We are the children of revolutionaries, of rebels, of people who are not going to take tyranny."

Fighting and encouraging others to fight for their rights is something in which Father Drinan is quite familiar.

Ordained a Jesuit priest in 1953, Father Drinan has spent three decades advocating for human rights and has visited more than 18 countries on human rights missions. Holding numerous degrees, Father Drinan teaches courses at Georgetown, has served as the dean of the Boston College Law School, serves on various committees devoted to human rights, and has authored 10 books.

Father Drinan felt the United States has great potential, yet over "50 percent of humanity" believes the country to be materialistic, utilitarian and selfish. "There's some reality in that. And it won't go away unless we change things. The country has very serious problems. If you don't participate, the problems are never going to be solved," he said.

Father Drinan opened up the floor to the students, taking the time to address every question asked. One student asked how to infuse ethics into politics. While Father Drinan felt that politicians shouldn't be more religious, he said, "They should be there for some more philosophy to which they should aspire."

Other topics included racism, terrorism and how the young can be more effective leaders. "I haven't talked to high school students in a long time," Father Drinan admitted later, "but I was impressed (with their questions)."

Senior and St. Vincent de Paul Church member Chris Sinay was impressed with how Father Drinan blended Catholic theology and democracy. "He was able to emphasize the correlation of the Catholic Church and our American government," said Sinay.

"It's a problem that young people don't care about politics," said junior Amanda Shintay. "Father Drinan sent out the message to be knowledgeable about the issues, long-term. It was a very strong message to inspire students to think about where they stand."

"A lot of kids nowadays take for granted what the older generations fought for," said Sinay. "This was a good reminder."

"Students will walk away from this and remember who he was and what he talked about," said Lauren Voler, a sophomore and member of St. Gabriel Church. "It was very thought-provoking."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*


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### Memorial Day Mass to honor priest-chaplain proposed for sainthood

HYANNIS, Mass. (CNS) — The memory of an American Korean War hero will be alive and well come Memorial Day on Cape Cod. The hero — a Catholic priest and chaplain in the U.S. Army — has been promoted for canonization. Father Emil J. Kapaun is most noted for his compassion and sacrifice while a prisoner of war of the Chinese communists in North Korea in 1950-51. He died in captivity at the age of 35 on May 23, 1951. Father Kapaun will be remembered May 27 in the Fall River Diocese at a noon Mass to be celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Francis X. Roque of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services. Joining Bishop Roque will be U.S. veterans, including at least one friend and battalion mate of Father Kapaun.

### Bishop Kinney honored with award from university

COLLEGEVILLE, Minn. (CNS) — Bishop John F. Kinney of St. Cloud is the 2002 recipient of the Pax Christi Award, the highest honor given by St. John's Abbey and University in Collegeville. "It is the purpose of the Pax Christi Award to honor those whose lives exemplify Benedictine ideals," wrote Michael Hemmesch, director of communications for St. John's University, in announcing this year's recipient. The announcement cited Bishop Kinney's "Christian leadership and service to priests and parishioners from Minneapolis-St. Paul to Bismarck (N.D.), to St. Cloud and the greater church beyond." It also cited Bishop Kinney's pastoral letters, his "groundbreaking" global solidarity efforts in Kenya, and his committee work with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

### Juan Diego symbolizes Latino experience, says theologian

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sainthood for Juan Diego, the Mexican Indian to whom Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared, is important for U.S. Hispanics because he symbolizes the Latino experience, said Father Virgilio Elizondo, professor of Latino theology at the University of Notre Dame. "He is a prototype of what we have been: marginalized, poor and thought to have nothing to offer," he said. "But he is also someone who stands up when he is energized by holiness," he said. "Someone who felt he was like nothing is transformed by the spirit of holiness and becomes a spokesperson for his people." Father Elizondo, a priest of the San Antonio Archdiocese, is founder and past president of the Mexican-American Cultural Center, which trains people for Hispanic ministry.



CNS PHOTO BY SAM LUCERO, CATHOLIC HERALD

**Centenarian weaves warmth for ill children**

**Arthritis and poor eyesight do not stop Eva Wess from crocheting afghans for seriously ill children. Wess, a resident of Milwaukee Catholic Home, turned 100 April 29 and says she will keep making blankets for children.**

### Ade Bethune dies at 88; was Catholic Worker illustrator

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A funeral Mass was celebrated May 4 at Portsmouth Abbey in Portsmouth, R.I., for Ade Bethune, whose art work appeared in The Catholic Worker newspaper for more than 60 years. Bethune, 88, died May 1 of complications from pneumonia and leukemia in Newport, R.I. Born Adelaide de Bethune in Schaerbeek, Belgium, she emigrated to the United States in 1928. She signed her art works "A. de Bethune." Because of a misunderstanding at the printer's shop, her first byline was "Ade Bethune." She kept the name, and pronounced the first name AH-dee. Her rendering of Jesus with his hands on the shoulders of a modern Madonna with a baby on her back and a black man wielding a pickax has been part of The Catholic Worker newspaper's masthead since 1938. In the image, the Madonna and the black man clasp hands, and all three figures are shown against a cross.

### Every stitch is a prayer in Connecticut woman's life

DERBY, Conn. (CNS) — For Ana Horvath, every stitch in the hundreds of altar cloths and other sewing creations she has made over the years literally is a prayer. Today, her artistic embroidery, weaving and cut work adorns the altars of five Connecticut parishes. All were donations, and all were the result of a promise she made to God when she was imprisoned during the war in Europe. "She does a beautiful job," Father Daniel Sullivan, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Hamden, told The Catholic Transcript, newspaper of the Hartford Archdiocese. "It's all handmade, a beautiful piece of work," he said of the altar cloth she donated to that parish. "We used it at Christmas and we plan to bring it out again for Easter." For Horvath, those accolades are worth more than any title, money or mansion. And the 93-year-old native of Croatia has spent her entire life thanking God for this one gift that has sustained her through so much.

### Archbishop O'Meara awards for mission reporting announced

NEW YORK (CNS) — Top honors in the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Awards for 2002 went to Catholic News Service and diocesan newspapers in Kansas, Ohio and Florida. The awards were to be presented May 30 by Father John E. Kozar, national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, during the annual Catholic Press Association convention in Minneapolis. CNS took first place in the "visits to the missions" category for Stephen Steele's on-location reports from Pakistan after Sept. 11. The Leaven in Kansas City, Kan., took top honors in the "interviews with missionaries" category for Joe Bollig's article, "Pray for the children." First-place awards also went to The Catholic Universe Bulletin in Cleveland for Dennis Sadowski's article on relief efforts in El Salvador and to The Florida Catholic in Venice, Fla., for Josh Noem's series on Haiti.

# Suspended Baltimore priest shot over abuse allegations

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Father Maurice Blackwell, a priest of the Baltimore Archdiocese who is on a leave of absence from the priesthood, was shot several times in Baltimore May 13 by a man who alleges he was sexually abused by the priest in 1993.

According to a news release from the Baltimore City Police Department, the suspect, Dontee Stokes, 26, spoke with Father Blackwell, 56, in front of his home at about 6 p.m. and then shot him several times with a .357-caliber handgun.

Father Blackwell was taken to the University of Maryland's Shock Trauma Center, where he was listed in serious but stable condition May 15.

Stokes turned himself into police at 11:45 p.m. May 13. He was charged with attempted murder, first- and second-degree assault and handgun violations.

Father Blackwell, ordained in 1974, served at St. Bernardine in West Baltimore before becoming the first African-American priest to be named a pastor in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. His assignment as pastor was at St. Edward in 1979.

In 1993 Father Blackwell was accused of improper touching of a minor, now identified as Stokes, and was removed from the parish for evaluation and counseling. The police investigation into the allegations was dropped because of insufficient evidence. The archdiocese's investigation led to no conclusions. Father Blackwell returned to St. Edward in 1994.

When new charges of alleged child sexual abuse surfaced in 1998, Father Kempisty said, adding, "Violence is not the proper response to any situation."

## Pastoral Assignments

*Most Rev. Bishop William G. Curlin announces the following pastoral change:*

**Effective July 1**

Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren: From director of lay ministry and part-time vicar for women religious to full-time vicar for women religious.

# Spectrum of domestic abuse brought to light

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — It is an abuse that uses fear, intimidation, threats and violence to gain control over the victim. It is a problem that has only reached the surface of understanding within the last few decades when it was finally defined as a criminal offense.

The Franciscan Center was filled with people interested in Dr. Noel Busch's insights on the tragedy and causes of domestic abuse May 7.

"Everyone has experienced or knows someone who has experienced domestic abuse, which cuts across all economic, racial and religious barriers," said Busch. "The cycle of violence occurs over and over again."

Domestic abuse can take many forms, said Busch. Victims are commonly women controlled by their spouses, but this form of abuse does not exclude children or the elderly.

Domestic abuse includes: physical abuse, which usually begins as minor hitting or slapping and eventually escalates to more frequent and serious incidents, including murder; psychological abuse, which encompasses habitual verbal abuse, isolation, deprivation of economic resources, excessive possessiveness, harassment and destruction of property; and sexual abuse, when the abuser forces the victim to have unwanted sex or to unwillingly participate in deviant sexual activity.

There are three phases of domestic abuse, said Busch. "The 'honeymoon phase' is where everything goes along great, especially since the perpetrator is remorseful, crying, and says 'I will never do that again,'" she said.

Following comes the "tension phase," generally consisting of mental and economic abuse wherein the abuser isolates the victim, threatens to take the children, etc. Thus, with no money and no means of support, the victim feels helpless in the face of loosing her children.

The final step is the "battering phase," when the abuser beats the victim with increasing intensity, which often ends in the victim's death.



Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

"Throughout all of this, the victim thinks, 'If I can just hang on everything will be like it was in the 'honeymoon phase,'" said Busch.

Busch, who has a master's and doctorate in social work from the University of South Carolina, is a member of the faculty at the University of Texas at Austin.

Her first job was organizing and lobbying for domestic violence issues. She soon found herself as an advocate for incarcerated, abused women who had killed their abusers; women who had been tried and convicted before domestic violence had become a criminal offense.

One of Busch's cases involved a woman who killed her husband out of fear for her own life and served almost 18 years of a 999-year sentence. Busch thought justice was more than done, especially considering that women receive 10 to 25-year sentences as compared to men who typically receive 6 to 8-year sentences.

Citing past cases, Busch showed that prominent men are not exempt for spousal battering. One case involved a successful surgeon who used his feet to inflict physical abuse so that he wouldn't injure his hands. Another involved a respected minister who the community refused to see as an abuser.

"The biggest problems facing abused woman is that society gives confusing, polarized messages," said Busch, such as, "'Families must be kept together' versus 'you must get out and take the children out of that violent situation.' In the meantime, the church takes the stance of no divorce."

The church does indicate that no one needs to stay in an abusive or dangerous situation, she noted.

According to David Harold, director of Catholic Social Services Piedmont-Triad Office, "We do have counselors for those in abusive situations and a referral system. This includes bilingual counselors who are connected to the Hispanic Action Office." Yet, outside of Catherine's House run by the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont, there are no other shelters run by the church throughout the diocese.

Busch noted that there is not much private or public funding available for victims of domestic abuse. She felt there was a need for the creation of many more shelters for the abused, along with additional childcare centers, legal support centers and job skill training centers.

"Support groups are a way in which the victims can help each other," stressed Busch. "Comments coming from other battered women make them sound and feel different."

For those involved with helping the victims, the listener must always be non-judgmental. "Always express concern, especially when children are involved," said Busch. "The community must be able to reach the young and to talk about relationships, jealousy, power and control." When it comes to helping the abusers, "The abuser must also be asked why he is abusing. He needs to become aware of his own violence."

Carol Cambell, a Methodist who spent the night in a hospital with a woman who had been bludgeoned by her husband, said, "We don't intervene enough." But, "Noel did a really good job."

*Contact Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218, or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

# CCHD grants awarded in diocese

ASHEVILLE — Literacy, community development, job development, education and after school activities are the foci for the 24 projects and programs receiving local funding from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) in 2002.

Representatives from nine of the organizations attended the inaugural CCHD event for presenting the awards at St. Eugene Church April 27. The presentations were made following "We Are Called: A Conference on Social Justice Issues," cosponsored by St. Eugene and the Office of Justice and Peace.

The following 24 organizations received CCHD funding:

Centro Latino of Caldwell County Inc. in Lenoir ($2,000); Computer Lab Support, Bridge Job Program in Charlotte ($1,000); Cultivating Common Ground, Wilmore Neighborhood in Charlotte ($1,500); CYO Family and Academic Resource Center in Charlotte ($2,500); Ellerbe Hispanic Center, St. James Catholic Church in Hamlet ($2,500); ESL Classes, Hispanic Outreach Program in Wadesboro ($485); Family Advocacy, Family Resources, Cherokee County in Murphy ($1,500); Family Law Project, Appalachian Community Law Center in Boone ($2,000); Family Partners for Independence, Transylvania Christian Ministry in Brevard ($2,000); Good Samaritan Ministry, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Hendersonville ($2,000); Homeless Family Services, Interfaith Hospitality Network in Greensboro ($3,000); Individual Development Account (IDA) Program, Gaston Community Action Inc. in Lincoln County ($1,500); Improving Literacy for Spanish Speakers, Yancey County Literacy Council in Burnsville ($1,000); Multi-Cultural Community Student Union in Concord ($500); Optimist Park Community of Shalom in Charlotte ($1,000); Our Next Generation Community House in Asheville ($1,000); Pueblo Hispano Despertad, Hispanic Ministry, Vicariate of Hickory in Hickory ($500); Summer Academy 2002, NAACP in Greensboro ($1,000); Summer Experiences in English for Kids (SEEK), Volunteers for Wilkes Literacy in North Wilkesboro ($2,000); Summer Reading Program, Genesis Park Neighborhood in Charlotte ($2,500); Vegetable Gardening for Transitional Housing Families in Salisbury ($350); Welfare Reform Liaison Project in Greensboro ($2,000); Yancey County 4-H summer Inclusion Program in Burnsville ($1,500); and Youth at Risk, Neighborhood Family Resource Center in Charlotte ($2,000).

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# Hispanics, from page 1

and identities as quickly as possible, to become Americans 'just like the rest of us.' But the 'rest of us' are, in fact, a culturally plural society — Catholics, Protestants, Jews and Muslims; believers and nonbelievers; Southerners and Northerners; Irish, Italian, and Mexican — proud of our heritages and proud to be Americans, all at once."

**"Does History Repeat Itself? What Does Jesus Say? What does the Church Teach?"**

Father Kloster said that many mainline churches are not serving Hispanics.

"We don't want to be in competition; we want to be in collaboration," he said, "but many of these other churches have recognized full well that Catholics are not up to the task. If Hispanics cannot get to us, we cannot help them."

There is irony, Father Kloster said, in the prejudice that some Catholics in Western North Carolina display toward Hispanic immigrants. "People have been here a long time," he said, "but most were not Catholic. The Catholic population here is an immigrant population. People say, 'Who are these (Hispanic) people to come to our church?' It's their church. They have as much right to be here as we do."

A lack of acceptance shows a terrible disregard for the history of this country, said Father Kloster.

"If we look upon the Hispanic community as people who are living off of us, we're missing the point. The people who immigrate are always the hardest workers because they have a vision that they will have a better future for their children," he said. "I think this is very critical for us to realize, that the Hispanics here are a blessing for us theologically and ecumenically."

Catherine Stahl of St. Mary Church recalled the history of Western Pennsylvania, where people were more comfortable worshiping in churches where Polish or German was spoken. "The (Hispanic) children will learn English, just as those people's children did," Stahl said.

"Please keep in mind that this complex, but Jesus gave us a commandment to love one another; we forget that," said Larry Gore, D.V.M., of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville.

**"Understanding Hispanic-Latino Culture, Spirituality and People."**

Although Hispanics come from the 21 Latin American countries — and thus from 21 different cultures — they still hold common values.

"For us," Bernal said, "the concept of family is everybody, even distant relatives. We always try to keep everybody together. It's a way of security. If you lose your job, you can go to your aunt and get something to eat. In Latin America right now, the people who are getting education are those who have family in the United States."

Many ways of thinking, including celebrating the Catholic faith, are different in Latin America than in the United States, and those concepts come to America with the immigrants.

"In Latin America," Bernal said, "the priest is pastor, doctor, counselor. In this country, the church is very sacramental, with more rules and specific times for things, but in Latin America, where people see a priest only a couple of times a year, they don't get the explanation so they often don't why things are done a certain way."

One concern Bernal often hears is that Hispanics don't learn English. "If I'm indigent," he said, "and I know because of my experience that I can't get anything better, what am I going to put my time on, studying and getting an education or working to make things better for my family back home?"

Also, classes may not be held when Hispanics can attend, and they may not have transportation to the classes. A woman visiting from Florida said that her parish and several nearby send teams to the labor camps to teach English at times convenient for the laborers.

> "We don't come here to create any damage. We come here because we know we will have a better life, so we can offer something better to our families."
>
> — Eduardo Bernal, Hispanic ministry worker for the Asheville and Smoky Mountain vicariates

In the Smoky Mountain Vicariate, Bernal said, for every 100 Catholics, 29 are Hispanic; in the Asheville Vicariate, out of every 100 Catholics, 36 are Hispanic.

"We don't come here to create any damage," he said. "We come here because we know we will have a better life, so we can offer something better to our families. One of the best and most exciting things is that the Catholic Church is responding, thank God. But as a whole, in this diocese there's still a lot to do."

**"What Do the Bishops Say? How Are We Responding?"**

Father Boyd divided the attendees into seven groups and gave each group a problem to discuss, such as how to help a man who has just learned that his brother has been killed in an accident in Mexico. All incidents were taken from real events.

Responses were to offer him sympathy, ask what he needs and what support he has locally, and to hold a memorial service so that the parishioners at the North Carolina church can help him to mourn his loss.

Making the point that the Catholic Church is an immigrant church, Father Boyd quoted from "Welcoming the Stranger." What the bishops advocate, he said, "is not assimilation but incorporation, pluralism, multiculturalism — the essence of what it means to be Catholic; this is for all, not just Hispanics. ... Knowledge of cultures cannot just come from books, but must come from the concrete effort of individuals to get to know their neighbors, in their diversity."

"In Mexico," he said, "I learned the saying, 'Mi casa, su casa' (My house is your house). Won't it be wonderful when we can say that as church? Perhaps in welcoming the stranger, we are welcoming Christ."

# "Family" of mission societies hold historic gathering

SAN ANTONIO — The gathering was historic; the attendance, a record; the result, increased enthusiasm for proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ among two-thirds of the human family.

Some 170 priests, religious, deacons and laymen and women engaged in the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States — Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Holy Childhood Association, Society of St. Peter Apostle and Missionary Union of Priests and Religious — met in San Antonia, Texas, April 16-18 for their first-ever annual meeting as "one family in mission."

Msgr. Anthony Kovacic of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in the Diocese of Charlotte attended the gathering.

"For the first time, all four societies share one home, and are united to bring the Catholics of this nation — young and old — to a greater awareness of their responsibility from Baptism for the church's worldwide missionary work," said Father John E. Kozar, who became national director of the Propagation of the Faith, St. Peter Apostle and Missionary Union in January 2001, adding the Holy Childhood Association (HCA) to his responsibilities in the fall of that year.

In January 2002, Father Kozar directed the change in headquarters of the HCA from Washington, D.C. to New York, making history by having all four of the pope's missionary organizations in the United States operating out of one New York office and under the leadership of one national director.

In welcoming directors and coordinators to the historic meeting, Father Kozar read greetings from Archbishop Maclolm Ranjith, president of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Rome. Calling the gathering a "Moment of a new beginning," Archbishop Ranjith also noted the outstanding contributions made to the Church in the Missions by the church in the United States. The "bringing together" of all the Pontifical Mission Societies would enable the church in this country "to respond to the call of the mission churches, 'come help us,' with an even greater spirit of generosity," said Archbishop Ranjith, adding, "Unity is stronger in diversity."

In his presentation, Father Kozar told those gathered: "With what the church is experiencing here at home in these days, soe would say that these are the woprst times to animate people in terms of prayerful support, financial support, or the offering of themselves in service to the mission" ad gentes. However, I say these are the best of times ... because there is nothing that states our most basic vocation with more purity, with more clarity, than promoting the worldwide mission of the church. It is the best of times to promote the cause of world mission because it our first mandate from Christ and it is what we do best."

Bishop Gregory Aymond of Austin, Texas, chairman of the U.S. Bishops' World Mission Committee, in the opening liturgy April 16, challenged directors and coordinators of the Pontifical Mission Societies to be "prophets" and to speak out on behalf of the church's worldwide mission with "compassion and boldness."

"You have been chosen as leaders of mission for the United States and for our Catholic Church because of your enthusiasm about the church, and because of your interest and talents in mission," said Bishop Aymond. "You are important voices for the church."

During the three days of meetings, participants analyzed through various presentations by the national director and national office staff, as well as by directors and coordinators themselves, "Who We Are," "What We Do," How We Do It Best" and "How We Make a Difference" as the Pontifical Mission Societies. The meeting concluded with a group of 25 delegates traveling to the Texas-Mexico border for a brief mission experience, visiting missionaries and working with orphan children.

The Pontifical Mission Societies, active in 120 countries throughout the world, works to animate the faithful to a universal missionary spirit, and to gather support for the efforts of the church in some 1,100 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands and remote regions of Latin America. The HCA directs its efforts to elementary school children, while the Propagation of the Faith seeks prayer and support for pastoral and evangelizing programs of mission dioceses from high school and college students and adults.

The Society of St. Peter Apostle is concerned with gathering help for seminarians and religious novices in the missions. The Missionary union is a spiritual apostolate, working on formation in the missionary spirit among those called to animate the faithful in this essential work.




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# Parishioners offer concerns, remedies and prayers for crisis

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

Parishioners longed for answers and they longed to be heard. In the wake recent allegations, several parishes around the diocese have organized prayer services and dialogue sessions to allow the pain to show and the healing to begin.

St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro held a prayer service the week after pastor Father Jim O'Neill was removed due to an allegation April 13. Parishioners were encouraged to pray for Father O'Neill as well as his accuser.

"Many of the parishioners were very upset over what had transpired. Father Jim believed in the importance of liturgy and prayer — we thought it would be a fitting way to work through the ordeal," said Susanna Weatherholt, director of parish liturgy.

"It was a vehicle to give parishioners a way to show their support and prayers are with Father Jim," said David Kolosieke, director of parish business operations.

Sacred Heart Church in Brevard offered a two-part listening and healing session May 6. Over 60 participants gathered for prayer, group sessions and a discussion with a survivor of childhood sexual abuse.

Father Del Giudice, pastor and session moderator, said parishioners expressed similar concerns and similar recommendations over the crisis. "People have to be heard. The people feel broken and hurt, but they're going to heal through prayer, understanding and dialogue. After they talk, they can pray," he said.

Nearly 100 members of St. Aloysius Church gathered for an open forum May 9. Father Ed Sheridan, pastor, conducted the meeting that allowed parishioners to make comments, voice concerns and ask questions.

"We hope that our getting together tonight will give us an opportunity to express our personal feelings, frustrations, anger, disappointments and questions on the state of the church at this particular time in history," said Father Sheridan.



Photo by Kevin E. Murray

**A woman voices her concerns to Father Edward Sheridan at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory before a crowd of nearly 100 people gathered for an open forum on the recent "crisis in the church" May 9.**

One by one, parishioners approached a microphone at the front of the church. Many shared their disappointment on how the "hierarchy" has handled the recent crisis; others strongly recommended changes and safeguards to protect children.

"There is a need for the church to be aware of the effect of its decisions on the community of the faithful and on others as well," said Father Sheridan. "We will listen, discuss and will share any questions or recommendations to our diocesan structure — the chancery and bishop's office.

"This (crisis) has to be constantly addressed and appropriate actions — remedies and even changes — need to be discussed, prayed about and acted upon by those in positions who can do something about it," he added.

Father Sheridan was pleased with the outcome of the St. Aloysius forum. "I think people said what was on their minds and expressed their concerns," he said. "There's an anger there, but they really love the church.

"This was something we definitely needed — people having their opinions respected and Father Ed being open to listen to them," said St. Aloysius parishioner Joyce Corbett.

St. Michael Church in Gastonia organized a healing prayer service May 14. It was a night to pray for all victims of emotional, sexual and physical abuse, and for the support of faithful priests and women religious.

"Our reason for gathering this evening is a very sad one, but our purpose is very simple — to express our solidarity with those who have suffered this abuse, and especially those who have suffered at the hands of clergy," said pastor Father John Allen to the gathering of about 45 parishioners. "(We) pray earnestly to our Lord to bring justice and healing to every life that's been touched by these tragic events."

"It's heartbreaking for all the victims," said parishioner Jim Kennedy. "We wish it all to go away but only after it's remedied. We ask for God to heal it."

Father Allen said the recent allegations have touched the lives of every Roman Catholic. He called for more prayer and compassion and to trust in the Lord to continue guiding the church "that we all so love," he said.

St. Michael parishioners were encouraged to leave the service with a stone dipped in baptismal water — a symbol for the "weight" of sorrow in the church, and the hope that it can one day be washed clean.

"We (the church) are broken; we are fractured, but we're going to heal," said Father Del Giudice.

"I think the church is a beautiful institution. (But) we're an institution that is made up of human beings who sometimes fail," said Father Sheridan. "We have to work together to better things. We can make a better church because of this."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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**Book Review**

# Books detail the ventures of faith

REVIEWED BY SISTER MONA CASTELAZO, CSJ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Father Karl Rahner, the 20th-century theologian, believed that we are all moved by an absolute question, and that, if we enter into this movement, we really come to ourselves, to God and to our goal. The NavPress books' Trinity Forum Study Series written by Os Guinness is based on this belief. Books in the series are designed for home, church or college study groups, but are also suitable for individual readers.

"The Journey: Quest for Faith and Meaning" concerns adults searching for life's meaning in light of faith. And "Entrepreneurs of Life: Faith and the Venture of Purposeful Living" concerns how believers find their vocation or life's work. All the books in the series come with discussion questions and readers' guides. Pre-catechetical groups and young adults would benefit from the stimulating material presented.




Guinness says he wants to stimulate a "living conversation" that will lead readers toward wisdom and renewal. He believes that more thoughtful reflection and less "dumbed-down discourse" will lead to such a renewal in our society. He says that these books are "intended to help thoughtful people examine the foundational issues through which (Christian) faith acts upon the public good of modern society."

"The Journey" contains material ranging from Plato to Shirley MacLaine, including one-liners from many others. Excerpts dealing with evil, suffering and death come from authors of such divergent views as Camus, Nietzsche, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and C.S. Lewis. A passage from Pascal points out that people constantly seek distractions to avoid reflecting on life's deeper issues. A cartoon from the New Yorker illustrates the point: Surrounded by his doctor and grieving relatives, a man in bed is on the phone saying, "Look, I'm dying. Gotta go."

Guinness quotes Winston Churchill: "Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened." Christian faith, Guinness says, is not relativism, nor subjectivism, nor pragmatism: "The truth is true even if nobody believes it." Even those brought up in a faith environment must enter into the life of inner faith personally — it is not enough to inherit it. The search for meaning is not merely an intellectual pursuit, but leads to faith, to commitment, and to making a difference in the world: "The object of opening the mind, as of opening the mouth, is to shut it again on something solid" (Chesterton).

"Entrepreneurs of Life" is about a life's work and those "who assume responsibility for a creative task ... as a venture of faith." Passages from Eusebius to Hesse to Bonhoeffer show how persons of conviction are called to change the world. One section discusses William Wilberforce, whose efforts brought about the abolition of slavery in the British Empire. Another examines Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, who took up the pen as a sword in his one-man stand against communism. Among the women represented are Florence Nightingale, who left upper-class life in England to revolutionize nursing. Guinness quotes Marilyn Ferguson: "A vocation is not a job. It is an ongoing transformative relationship." Guinness suggests that we might retire from jobs, but not from callings, quoting Henri Nouwen: "He who thinks he has finished is finished."

*Sister Mona, a certified spiritual director, is a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet who has taught English and literature for many years in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, most recently at Mount St. Mary's College.*

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings:*
*May 19, 2002*
**Cycle A Readings:**
**May 19, Pentecost Sunday**
1) Acts 2:1-11
Psalm 104:1ab, 24ac, 29bc-30, 31, 34
2) 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
3) Gospel: John 20:19-23

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Tongues of fire, the sound of driving wind, miraculous foreign speech: For many, these dramatic and public images from the Acts of the Apostles are what come to mind at Pentecost. The Spirit empowers Jesus' disciples to proclaim the good news in a way that changes the hearts of their hearers.

A great deal of energy and anxiety is spent in the church today on how best to follow the path of those Pentecost Christians in proclaiming our Gospel effectively. We hire media consultants and rent billboards and launch elaborate programs to evangelize.

But the different angle John's Gospel gives us on Jesus' bestowal of the Spirit may point to a key element of evangelization we sometimes miss.

In John, no mighty wind blows, no tongues of fire appear, no one speaks foreign languages. The tone is more subdued and solemn. Jesus appears in the locked room, reassures his friends with blessings of peace and, in an act of great intimacy, breathes on them and so sends them his Spirit.

In both stories the Spirit is given to the community, but while in Acts it seems to empower effective proclamation, in John the notable result of the Spirit's bestowal is the power of forgiveness.

To become a community known for the breadth and depth of its compassion, to be individuals whose lives are marked by the freedom and joy of forgiveness is to be a beacon of light and hope in a dark and unforgiving world.

Being in possession of the Spirit, being inspired, opens us to forgiveness, extending it to others and receiving it ourselves. If that were the hallmark of our lives as parishes and individuals, then perhaps crowds would gather still outside our assembly, drawn by their own yearning for mercy and by the liberating witness of a community for whom forgiveness is second nature.

**QUESTION:**
Who is one person from whom I might need to ask forgiveness? When was the last time you received mercy from someone else?

**SCRIPTURE TO ILLUSTRATE:**
"Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive men's sins, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound" (John 20:22b-23).

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of May 19 - May 25**

Sunday (Pentecost Sunday), Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23; Monday (St. Bernardine of Siena), James 3:13-18, Mark 9:14-29; Tuesday, James 4:1-10, Mark 9:30-37; Wednesday, James 4:13-17, Mark 9:38-40; Thursday, James 5:1-6, Mark 9:41-50; Friday, James 5:9-12, Mark 10:1-12; Saturday (St. Bede), James 5:13-20, Mark 10:13-16

**Scripture for the week of May 26 - June 1**

Sunday (Most Holy Trinity), Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, John 3:16-18; Monday (St. Augustine of Canterbury), 1 Peter 1:3-9, Mark 10:17-27; Tuesday, 1 Peter 1:10-16, Mark 10:28-31; Wednesday, 1 Peter 1:18-25, Mark 10:32-45; Thursday, 1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12, Mark 10:46-52; Friday (The Visitation), Zephaniah 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-56; Saturday (St. Justin), Jude 17, 20-25, Mark 11:27-33

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# "Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones"

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Director George Lucas improves on his 1999 "Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace," but the new adventure, set 10 years later, "Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones" (20th Century Fox), ranges from occasionally dull to quite exciting.

A burgeoning separatist movement threatens the Republic, and its former queen (now senator), Padme Amidala (Natalie Portman), is the target of an assassination plot.

Jedi knight Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) and his impatient 19-year-old apprentice Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen) are assigned to protect her. But the plot mostly keeps them apart, with lovestruck Anakin by a wary Padme's side while Obi-Wan is on the trail of interplanetary secessionists led by former Jedi, Count Dooku (Christopher Lee).

The narrative jumps to life in the many airborne chase scenes, the first swooping among glittering skyscrapers after a sleeping Padme is nearly done in by venomous crawling reptiles. The many action scenes are impressive and lightning paced, but tend to go on beyond their peak impact, perhaps in acknowledgment that the movie's strength is in movement as the dialogue is dreary.

Where the movie lags is during the developing relationship between Anakin and a reluctant Padme, who knows romance is a no-no for the Jedi. Christensen's line readings as the pleading suitor are stiff and unconvincing, all the more so beside the more accomplished Portman. He seems to be trying for the brooding intensity of a James Dean but can't quite get there. Christensen is fine in the physical scenes of derring-do but, again, his acting and delivery are wooden upon finding his gravely wounded mother (Pernilla August).

McGregor is dashing throughout and Samuel L. Jackson brings decisive vitality to his role as Jedi Master Mace Windu. But the movie is stolen by the fully computer-generated Yoda, who has an amazing duel at the end sure to have audiences cheering.

Robots R2D2 and C-3PO are on hand as well, adding a smidgen of humor, although they are not as endearing as their first unforgettable appearance way back in 1977. Virtually wasted is Jimmy Smits as a senator in what amounts to little more than an extended cameo — and the hunky actor looks silly in velvet getups.

Using digital technology exclusively, the movie has tremendous dimensionality that puts one in mind of a 3-D Imax-format film. The locales used ranged from Australia to Italy, England, Spain and Tunisia, the scenes shot in Lake Como being especially beautiful.

The sets, costumes and vehicles are visual eye candy, not to mention new alien life forms and a trio of terrifying monsters bent on killing Obi-Wan, Padme and Anakin in a gladiatorial arena. That scene is frightening and the pace never lets up from then on to the climax, capped off by a romantic flourish and Yoda's dire words that war has begun.

In the battle of good vs. evil, this episode sows the seeds of showing how Jedi apprentice Skywalker feels reined in by Obi-Wan as his dark side gains ground, with disastrous consequences for the Republic — the subject of episode III, which will be the next and final "Star Wars" movie.

Because of stylized fantasy violence, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

*Pare is director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*



CNS PHOTO FROM LUCASFILM

**Jedi Master Yoda listens with interest in the office of Chancellor Palpatine in a scene from the movie "Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG —**

## Video Reviews

By Catholic News Service

*NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

### "Macbeth" (1972)

One of Shakespeare's most violent dramas has been visualized on the screen in an extremely realistic manner, turning the tragedy's verbal imagery of evil acts and brutal deeds into a real-life horror show that is neither convincing as human experience nor dramatically necessary. Yet director Roman Polanski's version of the play does have its virtues in being faithful to the text, in creating the primitive time period in Welsh and Northumberland locations and in a very capable supporting cast for the unfortunately miscast leads (Jon Finch in the title role and Francesca Annis as Lady Macbeth). A mixed bag with some graphic violence and brief nudity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Columbia TriStar)

### "Oceans Eleven" (2001)

Sleek caper in which a recently paroled convict (George Clooney) rounds up 10 other thieves (including Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Carl Reiner and Don Cheadle) to rob three major Las Vegas casinos owned by a ruthless entrepreneur (Andy Garcia) who's dating the convict's ex-wife (Julia Roberts). Though director Steven Soderbergh treats larceny lightheartedly, the breezy remake brings together a good-looking, all-star cast with a slick story that zips along jauntily, providing escapist entertainment. Fleeting sexual references, some profanity and a few instances of rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Warner Home Video)

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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Pope prays for East Timor as pilgrims wish pontiff 'Happy Birthday'

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's May 15 general audience featured an exchange of best wishes: for the pope, a few days before his 82nd birthday, and from the pope to the people of East Timor, a few days before their independence.

Vatican officials introducing the various groups present at the audience spoke on behalf of the 13,000 people in St. Peter's Square in offering prayers and best wishes to the pope in anticipation of his May 18 birthday.

Then sari-clad members of the Stop-Gaps Cultural Academy Choir of Mumbai, India, sang, "Happy Birthday, your holiness."

Pope John Paul responded to the birthday greetings by thanking everyone for their prayers.

"I rely also on your spiritual support in order to continue faithfully in the ministry the Lord has entrusted to me," he said.

Speaking in English to a group of East Timorese pilgrims, the pope said, "As your nation prepares to celebrate its independence next Monday (May 20), I pray that the many sacrifices of recent years will now inspire the building of a society of justice and solidarity."

The people of East Timor voted in 1999 to proclaim independence from Indonesia, whose 25-year rule was often brutal and marked by violent conflicts with pro-independence forces.

With the help of the United Nations, a transitional government has led the country for two-and-a-half years.

Pope John Paul prayed that God would bless the people of East Timor with "true freedom and lasting peace."

In his main audience talk, Pope John Paul spoke about the Canticle of Habakkuk and its description of the power with which God comes to judge and to save his people.

The Old Testament passage describes God approaching his creatures surrounded by great light, which "enlightens and warms" humanity.

"God is like that," the pope said, "far off and yet near, elusive and yet close to us, in fact, ready to be with us and in us."

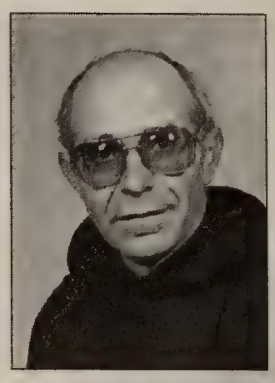
Pope John Paul said much of Christian art and architecture, especially the churches and icons of Eastern Christianity, communicates the same reality in which a mysterious light surrounds the believer, emphasizing both God's yearning for intimacy with his people, but also a reality, which is far beyond their understanding.

God's coming brings judgment and clemency, the pope said.

The certainty of God's strength and mercy allows the believer to say, along with Habakkuk, "God, my Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet swift as a deer's and enables me to climb the heights."

"When the Lord is near," the pope said, "one no longer fears nightmares and obstacles, but continues with a light step and with joy even on the steep paths of life."

# Guest Column



FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap
Guest Columnist

**Pentecost needed today more than ever**

We learn from the Acts of the Apostles the real life of the primitive church as well as the role of the Paraclete, who was and is to reveal the Word of the Lord at the proper time. History has taught us many things, among them, we may list the following:

1) The work of the Holy Spirit is always timely.

2) When the Church experienced crises in the past or like today's crisis of sexual abuse, the Holy Spirit breaks into our history to renew the earth.

3) If we are in tune with his will, his plan will be made clear to us.

4) Many disciples of the past were surprised that they reacted to events of their days with the right words for the time. People who were afraid to speak, did speak. Persons afraid of death looked death in the eye and went on and accomplished what God would have them do. God has no secret agenda with human kind, as we may have sometimes.

There was a man and a woman who had been married for more than 60 years. They had shared everything. They had talked about everything. They had kept no secrets from each other, except that the little old woman had a shoebox in the top of her closet that she had cautioned her husband never to open or ask her about. For all these years, he had never thought about the box, but one day, the little old woman got very sick and the doctor said she would not recover. In trying to sort out their affairs, the little old man took down the shoebox and brought it to his wife's bedside. She agreed that it was time that he should know what was in the box. When he opened it, he found two crocheted doilies and a stack of money totaling $25,000. He asked her about the contents.

"When we were married," she said, "my grandmother told me the secret of a happy marriage was to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doily."

The little old man was so moved, he had to fight back tears — only two precious doilies were in the box. She had only been angry with him two times in all those years of living and loving. He almost burst with happiness. "Honey," he said, "that explains the doilies, but what about all this money? Where did it come from?"

"Oh," she said, "that's the money I made from selling all the doilies."

Christ reminds us that the message is wrapped in eternity. The best is yet to come, in spite of the shameful situation of today's crisis. There is more to the events than meets the eye. Christ has directed the past and present and will be the leader of the future. Let's not forget that we are only a tiny part of a larger picture called reality.

How do we look at reality today? With hope or discouragement? The newspaper reporter John Toland tells us that Adolf Hitler's father was born illegitimately and bore the name of his mother, who was a Schickgruber. When the boy was teenager, his father appeared one day and adopted him and changed his name to Hitler. Toland indicated that the whole of World War II would have been changed if Germans would have had to say "Heil Schickgruber" — one little event changed the course of world's history.

Sometimes, we are not able to see the forest because of the trees. Pentecost is needed today more than ever.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

**The scandals: Where do we go from here?**

Some commentators, looking at these sins involving Catholic clergy, have suggested that celibacy is the culprit. They suggest that its elimination would end the crisis. But the evidence of social science doesn't seem to support them. In fact, there is no proof that celibate priests are any more inclined towards acts of pedophilia than other males. The abuse of children, sadly, takes place among people of all religions and of no religious faith at all. It happens among those who are married, single and celibate. There may be room to discuss the future of priestly celibacy in light of declining vocations to the priesthood, but pedophilia is not the reason to eliminate the celibate priesthood.

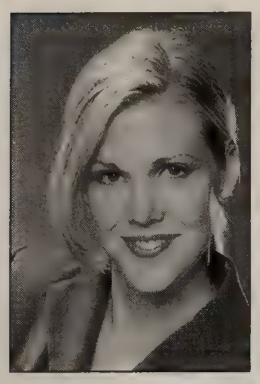
Most people are wise enough to know that while the Church is all about people, individuals in the Church should not make or break our faith. As a priest you run into lots of people who tell you that they don't go to church anymore. You ask them why, and they recount a "bad experience" with a priest or nun. Truth is, every one of us could come up with some story of a person in religious life who hasn't been all they should be. But can't we allow them to be human? To make mistakes? In the end, isn't it all about our relationship with God, not just the people who work for God? Most people, thank heaven, can separate the chaff from the wheat. They know that their faith is bigger than the individual sins of any priest.

As painful as it is, the current scandal can also be a source of instruction and growth. For example, I think we now know more than ever that our children are a precious resource. Their well-being is a priority we cannot take for granted. It's our job as a society to protect them, and to question who is with them when we're not, and to know the character of the caretaker. We shouldn't be paranoid about our kids, just healthfully aware of where they are and who they're with.

Another blessing that may come from these scandals is a new and positive look at our attitudes about human sexuality. For decades, Pope John Paul II has been teaching a celebration of the "theology of the body," but most of us still view such topics in an uncomfortable way. We too often see sex as something dirty, sinful or wrong — something good people may do, but certainly don't talk about. And yet it's only by talking about this topic, especially with our children, that we can create in them a healthy ability to love themselves and their sexuality. Young people should see sexuality as God's gift to them, a gift to be treasured and cared for lovingly. Open discussion can do that. It can help our young people to know the right and wrong ways to live as sexual persons. But the signal of silence complicates it for them. It suggests that "good people" don't talk about things sexual. So when someone comes along and tries to exploit them and their sexuality, they think it has to remain a secret. And that's when it gets really bad for our kids. It would be so good if these recent scandals could free us to sit down with our children, swallow our personal embarrassment about the topic, and talk openly about this grace-filled gift that is theirs.

Recently, I overcame some serious personal reservations to meet with a priest who admits he did exploit a minor. This broken person hates himself far more fully than you could imagine. He is despondent and without hope, because he knows what he did was terrible. He is a deeply flawed person, but not a monster — worthy perhaps not of our sympathy, but certainly of our prayers.

The scandal of child abuse is a wound that aches. But even out of this terrible darkness, light can shine, people can heal, steps can be taken to see that other children are not left unprotected. From every experience of pain and sorrow, new life can happen. Good Friday and its sorrow leads, thank God, to the power of Resurrection. May it be thus with our children.



# Our Turn

THERESE BORCHARD
CNS Columnist

### "I do" take it seriously

Rumor has it that young adults don't take marriage seriously. They utter the two covenantal words "I do" with as much forethought as their "Yes, please" response to the guy at McDonald's who asks whether they want fries with their Quarter Pounder.

In her book "The Starter Marriage and the Future of Matrimony," author Pamela Paul cites Census Bureau statistics to support her argument that the "starter marriage" — first-time marriages that last five years or less and do not yield children — is a growing trend among young adults. Divorce is up from 253,000 among 25- to 29-year-olds in 1962 to more than 3 million among 18- to 29-year-olds in 1998.

Unfortunately I see these statistics all around me. Only six years ago my husband and I sat at our wedding reception's table of honor with the best man and his wife and the maid of honor and her fiance. Both couples now are divorced. One marriage lasted three years; the other six months.

But it is unfair to say all young adults are incapable of walking down the aisle with a firm resolve to make things work — in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, until death.

The divorce rate has leveled off at 43 percent today, which means the cup is more than half full.

Success stories abound. I learned about them while compiling a book with Michael Leach called "I Like Being Married."

As part of my research, I talked to young couples who intend to make good on the promise of forever that they made as brides and grooms, a commitment symbolized by the gold, silver or platinum wedding bands they wear. The vows they recited as part of their wedding ceremonies are more than lip service or a sappy Kleenex moment inserted into a theatrical performance at the altar.

Some young adults have wonderful role models in their parents. Others, like my husband and I, have emerged from broken homes with a fierce determination to build upon a strong foundation. My other half and I are figuring things out as we go along, but divorce is not an option. For us, marriage isn't a work contract where you can give your two-week notice upon realizing that your boss doesn't know what he's talking about.

Marriage is a sacrament — a holy and permanent uniting of two persons.

What's scary is that there's no guarantee that your husband will always be able to control his impulsive shopping sprees or your wife won't turn into a complete slob. It's definitely a risk. As Mike Mason wrote in "The Mystery of Marriage, "Marriage is a decision to put all the eggs in one basket, to go for broke, to bet all the marbles."

It's worth the gamble.

Like most young adults, I like being married because it means I don't have to date anymore. There are other benefits, of course: like waking up to my best friend every morning, having someone with whom to share a pizza and rent a movie, a bouquet of red roses on Valentine's Day, free advice whether I ask for it or not and recognizing my son's impish dimples as those belonging to the man to whom I said "I do" and meant it.

# Guest Column

FATHER MANUEL
A. SUNDARAM
St. Ann Church, Charlotte

### The living water

This week we celebrate the Pentecostal Sunday, a day when the church was born in the Holy Spirit. For us Christians, he is the living water who proceeds from the wells (Isaiah 12:3). The "wells" here refer to the Father and Son from whom the Spirit proceeds (John 15:26). In John 7:38, Jesus invites us as his followers to drink from this "living water." We also hear Jesus telling the Samaritan woman, "If you know the gift of God and the one who is saying to you, 'give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water" (John 4:5). It is to the Spirit that Jesus refers as living water. The Samaritan woman thought she needed ordinary water, but Jesus gave her the living water, the Holy Spirit. After receiving him from the Lord, she became a source for all the people of the town to receive him.

The living water reveals how the love of the Lord is an unconditional abundant grace, reaching out to give us the gift of God more than what we really need. Jesus invites us to drink waters from this source of life so that we will be able to remove what is week in us (Isaiah 58:11) and bear witness to God (Like 24:48). Our human nature is consisted of being good and doing good to others (Romans 16:19). Therefore, we as the lovers of the Holy Spirit need to find and eradicate what weakens us and prevents us from being good to others. This is the reason, I think, that the Holy Spirit is poured upon us.

Have we ever realized that our hearts are to be the finest temple of the Lord and a glorious abode of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16)? Very many times we forget this. We need to build up our hearts as the temple of God and be filled in the Holy Spirit so that we will be able to be good and to do good to others. Ezekiel 47:1-12 reveals the nature of the living waters as beneficial to others. And Proverbs 25:25 says very beautifully, "Be a cold water to a thirsty soul." "The one who waters other will be himself watered" (Proverbs 11:25). Isn't it a wonderful expression of the Lord that thrills our whole being? It means that the one who does good deeds to others will surely be blessed in the Holy Spirit. And "being blessed" by its very nature invites us to be a blessing for others (Genesis 12:3) and allows the Spirit of the Lord, the living water, to flow out from within oneself (Zecharia 14:18).

It reveals the two-fold mission of a Christian: (1) We need to be drenched in the living water, and (2) we need to let this living water flow out from within oneself so that we can always be nourishing to others like the water of a river (Psalms 1:2).

The living water becomes beneficial to all the trees on both the banks, watering them all the days of the year and making them yield good fruits in due season (Ezekiel 47:12). For us Christians, it need not be hard to be filled in the Holy Spirit and be good to others. Let us focus our attention on the pearl, which when it breaks free of the shell becomes beneficial to others. What we may need to do this is to come out from those shells that make us become so individualistic and selfish, and prevents us from being good to others. It is a challenge — a cross! Jesus took up the cross, the challenge of his life and thus obeyed the Father. Our beloved Mary plus many good women and men took up their crosses and followed Jesus. Now it is our turn to take the challenges of our life and follow him.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

### Spouses whose cultural expectations of marriage are contradictory

*Q. My daughter married a Muslim man in the Catholic Church. Their two daughters were baptized and received first Communion. Their father went to Europe seven years later and married a Muslim girl while he was still married. My daughter then obtained a civil divorce. The irony is that my grandchildren and the children of his second wife, who now live in the United States, have met and are good friends. My question is, Should they be told about their father's marriage in the church to my daughter? Or should we keep it secret because they are now friends? What will the revelation of this secret do to the two families? I'm only the grandmother. (Texas)*

A. First, I'm sorry for all the hurt being suffered by your family. The situation is tragic, but to be honest it is not all that unusual when people marry who come from two radically different cultures and religions, with such contradictory marriage traditions and expectations that a compatible and healthy marriage is nearly impossible.

I doubt that much of the story is secret anymore to anyone, including your granddaughters. In any case, your best contribution will be to support and love your daughter and her children every way possible. Otherwise, stay out of it. Your daughter must handle it as she thinks best.

No good marriage is easy. Every husband and wife face challenges that test all their ingenuity and patience. Maybe your story will, however, give a little pause to other men and women who are considering marriage with someone whose national and cultural background is entirely different.

Marriage cannot be, and no one can expect it to be, a hospital or clinic for dysfunctional families. In my years of pastoral experience, however, that's what easily happens when two people, even with all the good will in the world, are simply incapable of understanding, let alone fulfilling, the hopes, desires and needs of their partner.

As your daughter has learned, it can be a recipe for heartbreaking disappointment.

### Needing children for valid marriages

*Q. Many couples are married in the church when they are past child-bearing age. Other couples enter valid marriages when one or both partners is sterile for other reasons. Yet, we are told that according to Catholic belief marriages must be open to children to be valid. How do we explain that? (New York)*

A. It is true that a condition of sterility does not itself invalidate a marriage. In consenting to the marriage, the spouses give each other the right to sexual intercourse that is open to having children. Obviously, this does not bestow the right actually to have children.

For many reasons, as you say, the couple may not be able to become parents because one or both of them is sterile. Although the procreation and raising of children is one purpose of marriage, there are other purposes as well, which has led the church to defend the right of sterile couples to marry.

The bishops at Vatican Council II addressed this point directly. Conjugal love and the whole meaning of family, they said, require that the couple be ready "with stout hearts" to cooperate with the Creator to enlarge and enrich his human family.

Marriage is, however, not solely for procreation. Other purposes are not of "less account." The mutual love of the spouses, and their support for each other, is another purpose, which must grow and ripen in a right and orderly way.

This married love persists as a whole "communion of life, and maintains its value and indissolubility, even when offspring are lacking — despite, rather often, the very intense desire of the couple" (Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, 50).

This is why even marriages of sterile couples can be valid.

# Belmont Abbey College confers diplomas and awards

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College celebrated its 124th Commencement Ceremonies with the class of 2002 May 11. The college presented 187 graduates with bachelor of arts degrees and 36 with bachelor of science degrees, making the graduating class one of the largest in the college's history.

The college recognized faculty achievements, including Melinda Ratchford as this year's recipient of The Adrian Award, and Father Kenneth Geyer as professor emeritus.

Belmont Abbey College also honored three exceptional community leaders with doctorates in humane letters: Bishop Roger Gries, Sister Dennis Eileen Gamber and Johnnie Lowery.

Bishop Roger, titular bishop of Presidio and auxiliary bishop of Cleveland, received the episcopal ordination in June and is actively engaged in the apostolic work of St. Andrew Abbey in the Diocese of Cleveland.

Sister Dennis Eileen's volunteer work caring for Catholic patients at Wake Forest University Medical Center in Winston-Salem inspired her to take the duty of chaplain at the medical center full-time in 1980. She has received numerous honors and recognition for her continuous service and dedication to her community.

Johnnie Lowry, a Gaston County native and Belmont Abbey College graduate, began a successful 35-year career in banking earning the prestige of being one of the first female bank officers in North Carolina. She currently serves on the board of Belmont Chamber of Commerce and as a board member of Downtown Belmont, Inc.

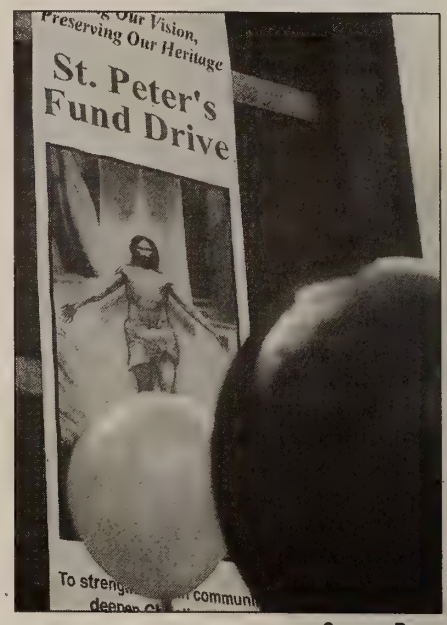

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# Parish hopes to strengthen church and community

CHARLOTTE — With balloons flying aloft, church bells ringing and a campaign banner decorated with an image from the church's fallen fresco, St. Peter Church kicked off its capital campaign April 14. The two- to three-year project for the renovation and building of facilities to enhance ministries and the church's campus environment is valued at about $5 million.




COURTESY PHOTO

Jesuit Father Joe Sobierajski, pastor of the 151-year-old parish, led the congregation in a special prayer of success outside the 109-year-old church.

"Our capital campaign, 'Living Our Vision, Preserving Our Heritage,' challenges us to look toward the future, inspired by the courage and foresight of those who came before us," said Father Sobierajski. "This campaign will enable us to do wonderful things both for our parish and the greater community beyond."

During the following weeks, parishioners were solicited for three-year pledges to handle the costs during the effort that will: increase educational and meeting space, improve administrative and fellowship facilities, provide parking for 60-350 vehicles, take use of the new Wachovia complex's basement level on former church property for faith formation needs of children, and provide exterior renovation to its old buildings and overall campus beautification in complementing the adjacent Wachovia park environment.

"Our parish vision has provided us with a mission statement that calls us to grow in faith and love, help the poor and be a place of welcome for all peoples," said Father Sobierajski.

The financial gifts realized from this appeal will not be used toward the restoration of the popular fresco that fell to the sanctuary floor Feb. 20.

"We are hopeful about eventually replacing a work that has become so beloved by our members, and had a deep affect on all who visited our church," said Father Sobierajski.

Non-members who wish to contribute to this appeal can respond to St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28202, or call (704) 332-2901.

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## Halley's comet, from page 1

"You can do the same mission several times, but if you're on a different team, it's a different experience," said Mattingly.

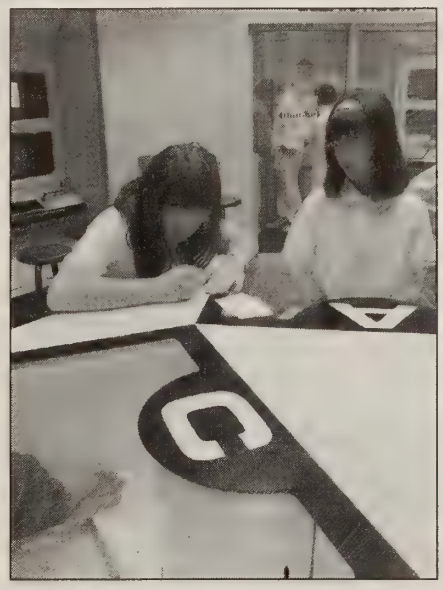
By combining the importance of teamwork with technology, the space mission helps to develop listening, communication and comprehension skills among sixth-graders.

"(The mission) teaches responsibility. If one team doesn't do its part, then the whole mission fails," said Mattingly.

The Horizon crew received constant support from the Mission Control group. "They sit at desks with computer screens," said Jean Beauchesne, a parent volunteer. "When messages come in, they have to refer to their manuals for answers."

Our Lady of Mercy School's mission was interrupted by alarms, forcing the young Horizon crew to abandon ship. This "emergency" allowed them to switch places with the students in the Mission Control group.

T.J. McClurg, a member of the seventh-grade young astronauts club, thought the emergency was the best part of the mission. Sixth-grader Taylor Beauchesne agreed. "I thought it was great," she said.



"It was all a lot of fun," said sixth-grader Shelby Haller. "We got to work with the other teams, and we're all good friends." Haller was quick to recommend the mission to other students.

"This was neat," said Jean Beauchesne, Taylor's mother. "I want to do it."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*



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# St. Patrick students perform like pros in Tom Sawyer musical

CHARLOTTE — They sang, they danced and they acted — but not like fifth-graders.

A group of 11- and 12-year-olds performed like well-trained drama students in the St. Patrick School rendition of "Tom Sawyer's Hannibal" during three performances held April 29-30.

The 50-minute performance was the story of the delinquent Tom Sawyer and how he saved his hometown of Hannibal from bank robbers. This musical production included nine tunes that audience members were humming after the show ended.

"No one could have been more proud of these kids than me," said Patti Dickson, fourth-grade teacher at St. Patrick School and director of the play.

The roles for the play were cast in December and rehearsals began after Christmas vacation. The students put in over 100 hours of rehearsals and stayed after school three days a week.

"Participation in the play helped the students develop the value of teamwork and respect for each other. It was a huge confidence booster, which is so important as they move on to the middle school," said Dickson.

The first of the three performances was for the students of St. Patrick School; the second was for all fifth-grade students throughout the MACS system; the last show was held specifically for the public.

The "Hannibal" cast included: Mallie Salerno, Andrew Cole, T.J. Rider, Cara Smith, Erin Moore, Madelyn Newman, Anissa Wackerman, Kelly Cornett, Dylan Green, Christine Augliera, Lindsay Casper, Chase Haislip, Lizzy Bracken, Sarah Rider, Caroline Keating, Michael McLendon, Clare Rizer, Christie Gamble, Emma Campbell, Chris Kilgannon, Rebecca Muscara, Nicle Duquette, Hilary Demmitt, Hannah Yon, Daniel Gaspari and Alex Posthauer.

Dickson wrote a grant to MACS last year after the death of her mother-in-law, who conducted the German Children's Choir of Chicago. "It was her love for music that served as my inspiration. The children of the fifth-grade prayed daily for her during her illness, and their cards warmed her heart during the last months of her life," said Dickson. "This was also a thank you to them for their love and compassion."

One of the goals of the grant was to enlist the help of older students within the MACS system as well as parents at St. Patrick School. As a result, the dance numbers were choreographed and instructed by two CCHS students, Caitlin Keating and Kristen Golder. The two backstage managers were Holy Trinity students, Brian Dickson and Nicholas Muscara, and St. Patrick School fifth-grader Myles Gelbach was in charge of lighting. The set design was courtesy of Gelbach's parents, Ken and Tonya Gelbach of Gelbach Designs.

Laura Dickson, a CCHS student, designed the program for the play, and hair and Neil Cole of Salon on Selwyn and his wife Jane — both St. Patrick School parents — provided makeup for the entire cast.

"While other schools across the country lose funding for programs in art and music, I am happy that the MACS system still sees the importance of this type of educational experience," said Dickson.

*Submitted by Lynn Grayson, a parent of a first- and fourth-grader St. Patrick School.*





COURTESY PHOTO

**Above left, St. Patrick School fifth-grader T.J. Rider performs as Tom Sawyer and fifth-grader Anissa Wackerman, above right, performs as Mary in the school's "Tom Sawyer's Hannibal" play April 29-30.**

# Woman religious continues family legacy in Franciscan community

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Franciscan Sister Mona Wingert seems to have been destined to become a Sister of St. Francis. Her mother had a great love of the Franciscan community in and around their hometown of Raymond, Iowa. She would invite many of them to their farm for frequent Sunday afternoon picnics. Sister Mona said that this exposure to them helped her later on in her own ministry.

"When we would go to Mass, we would say, 'let's get out of here before Mother sees the nuns,'" remembered Sister Mona with a grin. "They were the only sisters I knew well. I saw them in a relaxed way, and they were not strange to me."

She had a couple of cousins who were Franciscan nuns, and the year before Sister Mona entered, her older sister, Jolene, entered the convent. Even with all of these examples before her, Sister Mona was not convinced of the validity of her calling until much later in life.

Years before she entered the convent, Wingert, the youngest of four girls in a family of seven, was born and baptized the same day. Her father wrapped up his baby girl and brought her from home to the church for a baptism on Easter Sunday. "The priest was going out of town after Mass," she said.

Her father was a storeowner and farmer, and the family would help at work and at home. Wingert placed items on the shelf at the store but had other ideas at home. "I would entertain my brothers or throw down the hay in the barn to get out of dishes and other chores," she said.

Faith framed the lives of the Wingert family as they faithfully attended Mass and Forty Hours devotions. Wingert would look around at the adults in puzzlement and amazement about the way they prayed. "I would envision myself sitting on Jesus' lap as a child, talking to him," she said.

Wingert and her siblings attended Catholic school staffed by the Franciscans after attending the first six grades at the town school. "We drove 10 miles to school because my mother thought the Franciscans were the best teachers," said Sister Mona, who graduated during World War II in 1944.



She had heard her calling during her high school years but did not think that the religious life was for her. "I had a desire to join the community, but I didn't want to. I would go by the convent and wonder what they did. They couldn't go to dances or movies, and I thought 'what a boring life they must have.'"

She fulfilled her lifelong desire to be a teacher by completing training immediately after graduation and teaching at the same town school that she attended as a child. After a year of teaching, she decided to enter the convent but only for a month to "prove that she did not belong there."

"I had no intention of staying if I didn't like it," she said. "Then one month became two. I felt an inner pull; I felt like I belonged."

After six years, she professed her final vows in 1951 and had already begun teaching kindergarten and attending summer school working toward her education degree at Briarcliff College in Sioux City, Iowa. She earned her bachelor's in 1956 and her master of arts in administration in 1964.

She was sent to Dubuque, Iowa, where she taught kindergarten and fourth grade for seven years. She loved teaching and enjoyed watching the children learn. "We had a lot of help in our community, and we had principals that were very good teachers," she said. "I met the challenges as I went along and moved up in the grades."

During this time, even though she was where she wanted to be, she finally "settled in" as a woman religious. "I went along because it was simple to go along. I was 30 when it dawned on me that this was a life choice I had wanted to make. I finally made that formal commitment," she said.

Chicago was her next stop, and she continued to teach kindergarten for many years. She loved the city and tried to soak up as much culture as she could, going to plays and touring the city. She also taught practicum in elementary education for principals at Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa, for seven summers and became assistant principal, and later, principal.

She was elected as the regional coordinator for her community and handled assignments for the sisters and other personnel matters. She became so involved with the new position that she began taking the stresses of the job home with her, and her memories of education began to fade. She missed being in a scholastic atmosphere, so she was sent to Waterloo, Iowa, as a principal. After four years, the Archdiocese of Dubuque hired her as an associate superintendent. She was responsible for 20 schools but was thrilled at the challenge.

"I traveled every day and got to know the teachers and principals. I liked going to the schools," she said.

In 1986, she heard about an opening for assistant superintendent in the Diocese of Charlotte from her brother who was living in Charlotte. She had visited her brother during summers and liked the city. She felt that it was the right time for her to come south. She was accepted for the position and began working with certification of teachers, testing, workshops and curriculum and planning with the principals.

She spoke about the importance of Catholic education, working with the diocesan teachers and principals and her role as an educator and administrator. "Catholic schools really work on trying to bring values and virtues across the whole school, and the whole day is permeated with Catholic values. All teachers are teachers of religion," she said. "We have good principals in the diocese, and they really are interested in their kids. The teachers help them make their schools loving environments."

Sister Mona is packing for her final couple of months in the Diocese of Charlotte before officially retiring to the newly air-conditioned motherhouse in Dubuque. She is looking forward to her retirement after her "semi-retirement" last year. "Through the years, I have grown and matured a lot. Seventy-five sounds old to me, but I don't feel that old," she said. "I've had really good opportunities and a lot of freedom to make decisions. I've had a lot of varied experiences that a little girl from Iowa would not have had the opportunity to have."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*


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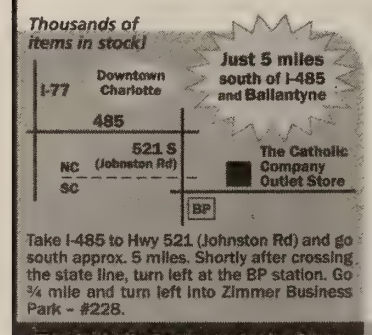
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May 24, 2002
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Brothers and sisters, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.
— 2 Corinthians 13:11

# House of Mercy is haven of hope

BY MARY MARSHALL
CORRESPONDENT

BELMONT — House of Mercy is a residential care facility that provides compassionate medical care to individuals living with AIDS. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1991, the cozy 4,300-square foot home is nestled among woods and flowers on the Sisters of Mercy campus.

Designed to serve six residents at a time, the home consists of six private bedrooms, a living room, sunroom, recreation room, dining room, meditation room, kitchen and several rooms used as offices. Since its opening, the facility has been home to over 177 AIDS clients in North Carolina — many from Mecklenburg and Gaston counties.

According to Stan Patterson, president and CEO of House of Mercy, clients come from difficult family situations, hospitals or homeless settings. Those who are in the worst living conditions are considered first when there is availability. There are currently 20 people on a waiting list at House of Mercy.

"Many view House of Mercy as a somber, sad place," said Patterson. "Yes, there is death here, but there is also good fellowship, laughter and joy between the residents and the staff. The clients are so happy to be in a homey situation. Here, they receive excellent care with all services monitored. They also receive medications previously unavailable to them."

Family relationships are also addressed, he said; families are encouraged to visit and play a vital part in the clients' lives. Some families continue to visit after the passing of their loved one.

"In some cases, clients come from dysfunctional relationships," said Patterson. "Here, there is an opportunity for families to reconcile."

Shirley Stowe, director of nursing and case manager, oversees the day-to-day operation of House of Mercy, staffing and referrals, and coordinates medical care with doctors, staff and community agencies. Stowe specializes in caring for persons in the advanced stages of AIDS.

"We work hard to keep clients who are facing their end-of-life journey out of the hospital," said Stowe. "They have no immune system and are at risk of picking up something at the hospital. Here, we give them intense one-on-one care. Although this is the mission of the sisters, it is also my own mission. It's a special privilege to take that last journey with these people."

There have been new treatment op-

SEE HOUSE OF MERCY, PAGE 9

# Pentecost feast offers unity in diversity



PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**Parishioners feast together during Holy Infant Church's outdoor celebration of Pentecost May 19.**

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

REIDSVILLE — It was a day filled with sunshine on which the two largest communities — Anglo and Hispanic — of Holy Infant Church came together for an outdoor Mass on the feast of the Pentecost May 19. The gathering celebrated the Eucharist as well as the sacraments of first Communion and confirmation.

"This is a beautiful day of celebration," said parishioner Silvia Rodriguez. "It is a wonderful experience to have everyone eating, talking and enjoying everything as one, giant family."

Pentecost, the seventh Sunday after Easter, is a feast commemorating the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, which marked the start of the church's mission on earth.

The first Pentecost is also a reversal of the Tower of Babel, where God had halted a tower to heaven by giving the people a variety of languages and scattering them throughout the world. On the first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit allowed the apostles to speak to the nations in one tongue that was understood by all in their native languages.

During the celebration at Holy Infant, the congregation sang in both English and Spanish, assisted by musicians and a chorus of all nationalities. At times, both languages were sung together in harmony as a sign of unity in diversity.

The readings and the responsorial psalm were also spoken in both languages. The Gospel was also proclaimed in the many of the parishioners' native languages, including English, Spanish, German, Italian and Portuguese.

During the homily, Father Christopher Davis, pastor, expressed his pleasure in the overwhelming participation of Holy Infant's first annual event. Then parishioners John and Samantha Young received the sacrament of confirmation, followed by Agustin Arroyo, Salome Carmona, Francisco Orozco and

SEE PENTECOST, PAGE 9

### Korean church expresses concerns over plans for five-day workweek

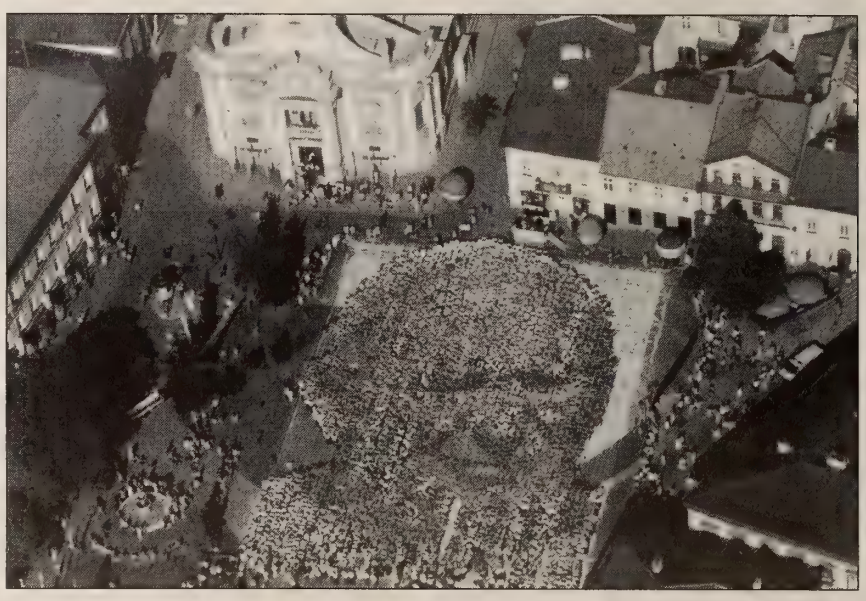
SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — Korean church leaders have discussed pastoral approaches to address concerns that the five-day workweek in South Korea would negatively affect the life of the church. On May 13, labor, management and government representatives resumed their talks on the introduction of a five-day workweek, reducing the legal working hours to 40 hours per week from the present 44 hours. For many, this would end a half-day of work on Saturdays, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. In March, the Korean bishops' conference expressed fears that a two-day weekend might encourage Catholics to travel more, reducing the number of people who attend Sunday Mass. It called on Catholics to come up with measures to address the "urgent" issue. Responding to the call, on April 10 the priests of the Diocese of Wonju, an area known for its tourist resorts, drafted a plan to renovate 11 mission stations near the resorts and build new ones.

### World Youth Day registration, payment due June 15

WASHINGTON (CNS) — June 15 is the deadline to register and pay all fees for participation in World Youth Day, which is taking place in Toronto July 22-28. Registration can be completed online at www.wyd2002.org. All U.S. groups, once they have registered and determined their total fee, are asked to send payment to the World Youth Day Office at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington. Information about fees and payment is available when a U.S. group enters "billing code 100" in the online registration process. Though not required by law, passports are strongly recommended for U.S. citizens traveling to World Youth Day, according to consular officials in Toronto. Passports will ensure a smoother entry and exit process in Canada, particularly when people are traveling in a group.

### Latin patriarch calls for Palestinian state, end to occupation

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem called for the establishment of a Palestinian state and an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. Patriarch Sabbah also called on Palestinians and Israelis to "reject violence" and "collective retaliatory actions." The patriarch said in his Pentecost message May 19, "We have shared a tragic past until this very moment. We call on all peoples today, both in this still Holy Land, and throughout the world, to build with us a shared future with absolute and unconditional respect for the sanctity of every life." Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, sent prayers for peace to Patriarch Sabbah. "We lament the intense suffering of our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, especially those who have endured the long siege in Bethlehem. With them, we long for peace, an end to occupation and the realization of their legitimate national aspirations," Bishop Gregory said in a May 20 letter.



CNS PHOTO FROM AFP

**Wadowice residents form living portrait of pope**

**Some 7,000 residents of Wadowice in Poland, the birthplace of Pope John Paul II, form a living portrait of the pontiff May 19, the day after he marked his 82nd birthday. The pope plans to visit Poland in August.**

### Pope says mission means to proclaim God's love, mercy, forgiveness

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To evangelize means to proclaim the love, mercy and forgiveness of God, Pope John Paul II said in his message for World Mission Sunday 2002. The missionary task, he said, is to let people know that "God loves us and wants all people united in his loving mercy and asks us to forgive others even for the greatest offenses." World Mission Sunday will be celebrated Oct. 20 in most dioceses. The papal message was released May 18 at the Vatican. The theme of the 2002 celebration is "Mission Is the Proclamation of Forgiveness." Pope John Paul said preaching God's love and forgiveness is the most effective way to respond to the thirst of the poor for consolation and hope and to respond to the world's yearning for peace. "Only God's love, able to make brothers and sisters of people of all races and cultures, can heal the painful divisions, ideological conflict, economic unbalance and violence which still oppresses humanity," the pope wrote.

### Private schools have much to offer, say authors of voucher study

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Voucher participation has climbed in the past 10 years, and those who benefit the most are African-American students who attend Catholic schools, according to a recent study. The study, "The Education Gap: Vouchers and Urban Schools," published by the Brookings Institution, noted that most students who use vouchers have chosen to attend religious schools. It also showed that test scores for African-Americans who use vouchers jumped 3 percent in first grade and doubled that gain the following year. The study also showed that, although Catholic schools account for half of private schools, they make up more than that proportion of schools selected by voucher students. More than two-thirds of New York City students using vouchers choose Catholic schools. In Dayton, Ohio, more than half the students choose Catholic schools, and in Washington nearly half do.

### Belgian bishops condemn country's legalization of euthanasia

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Belgium's bishops condemned a parliamentary vote to legalize euthanasia in the predominantly Catholic country. Cardinal Godfried Danneels of Mechelen-Brussels said the law sets a dangerous precedent by putting the "extremely subjective" concept of "quality of life" ahead of existence. "This is a black day for the Belgian parliament, certainly a day marked with a black cross," he told Vatican Radio May 17. The bill, approved May 16, allows doctors to help end the lives of patients who have reached the legal adult age of 18 and who have made a specific, voluntary and repeated request. The measure requires that the patient be in a hopeless medical situation and constantly be suffering physically or psychologically. If the bill is signed into law, Belgium will become the second country to decriminalize assisted suicide in certain circumstances. The Netherlands, where a euthanasia law took effect April 1, was the first.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**May 30 — 7 p.m.** baccalaureate Mass
Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School
Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro
**June 1 — 11 a.m.** ordination to priesthood
St. Patrick, Charlotte
**June 2 — 10 a.m.** dedication and blessing
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte
**3 p.m.** Feast of Corpus Christi Mass
Maryfield, High Point
**June 3 — 7 p.m.** confirmation
Holy Trinity, Taylorsville
**June 4 — 7 p.m.** confirmation
St. James, Concord
**June 5 — 7 p.m.** baccalaureate Mass
Charlotte Catholic High School
St. Matthew, Charlotte
**June 8 — 4:30 p.m.** confirmation
St. Andrew the Apostle, Mars Hill
**June 9 — 3 p.m.** confirmation for Hispanics
St. Michael, Gastonia
**June 10 — 7 p.m.** confirmation
St. Joseph, Asheboro

## Diocesan planner

**June**

**1** GREENSBORO — Knights of Columbus councils #939 and #11101 will be hosting a Right to Life yard sale at St. Pius X Church, 2210 North Elm St., today from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Several Right to Life organizations will be supported from the yard sale. For more details on donating items or other information, call the church office at (336) 272-4681.

**1** HICKORY — Glenmary Father Robert Healy will be sharing information about the Glenmary Home Missioners' ministry in Appalachia, the rural South and the Southwest at all Masses at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, today and June 2. For more information and Mass times, call the church office at (828) 327-2341.

**2** CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will be gathering today at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information please call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 545-8133.

**2** FOREST CITY — Immaculate Conception Church, 1024 West Main St., will be holding an American Red Cross-sponsored blood drive today from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For further information and appointments, call Claire Feldmeth at (828) 245-6053.

**2** HIGH POINT — Bishop William G. Curlin will be the celebrant and homilist at a Mass in honor of the Feast of Corpus Christi this afternoon at 3 p.m. at Maryfield Chapel, 1315 Greensboro Rd. There will be a procession of the Blessed Sacrament and blessing of the sick after Mass. For further information, call Maryfield at (336) 886-2444.

**2** SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Memorial Day is May 27**

**An honor guard from the 1st Special Forces Group carries the flag-draped casket of Sgt. 1st Class Nathan R. Chapman at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in this photo from Jan. 9. Chapman is one of 36 U.S. military men and women killed in Operation Enduring Freedom since the mission began in Afghanistan last October. Memorial Day, May 27 this year, recalls all armed forces members killed in war.**

### Polish bishops warn reckless drivers to 'stop sinning,' mend ways

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — The Polish bishops' conference has warned reckless drivers to "stop sinning" as part of a joint campaign with police to improve road safety. In their appeal, the bishops urged drivers to "redouble efforts to ensure safety and manners," adding that greater security and comfort would be achieved "only through observing driver ethics and thinking of other road users." The appeal was issued as new data confirmed Poland's place as the country with the highest fatal accident rate in Europe, with more than 19,000 killed or injured in the first four months of 2002.

### House welfare bill criticized for harsher provisions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The heads of Catholic Charities USA and the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Policy criticized the welfare reauthorization bill passed by the House May 16 for several provisions they said would require states to abandon needy people. The House passed the Republican party's version of welfare reauthorization — H.R. 4700 — on a party-line vote of 229-197. The Senate has yet to vote on legislation to renew the program, known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF. Provisions of the House bill that would increase the required number of work hours and mandate higher rates of participation were criticized as imposing a "one size fits all" approach, said a letter to House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., from Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Policy, and Father J. Bryan Hehir, president of Catholic Charities USA. "While we believe that certain provisions of (the bill) contain promising ideas for TANF reauthorization, we cannot support the bill because of our deep concerns about aspects of H.R. 4700," said the letter, dated May 14 and posted on the Web site of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops May 16.

### Students at Bethlehem University resume classes after five-week break

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Students at Catholic-run Bethlehem University returned to their studies May 13 after a five-week hiatus caused by the incursion of Israeli forces into their city. The students said they no longer felt certain of their scholastic future, because they did not know when and if the Israelis again would enter Bethlehem or impose a curfew. "I feel like I have lost this semester," said 20-year-old English major Basima Takrori, who lives just outside Ramallah, West Bank. "I've come to the university today, but I don't know if I will be able to come tomorrow or if I will be able to study. I have lost the ability to plan."

### Religious rights commission needs sharper role, critics say

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The commission charged with monitoring religious freedom abroad and recommending U.S. policy should be more activist in the role, modeling itself after the early U.S. Civil Rights Commission, said critics at a Washington forum. The 3-year-old U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, or CIRF, on May 1 released its annual report on restrictions of religious rights in various countries and recommendations for actions by the U.S. government to encourage change in those nations. Two weeks later, Michael Horowitz, director of the Project for International Religious Liberty at the Hudson Institute, said the commission needs to do more than write reports and make recommendations. It also ought to be stirring the American public and international allies to speak out about religious freedom, as the U.S. Civil Rights Commission did when it helped rally the country in support of civil rights.

### Museum in small Texas diocese hosts frescoes from Vatican collection

LUBBOCK, Texas (CNS) — A never-before-seen exhibition of 31 medieval frescoes from the Vatican Museums opens June 2 at the Museum of Texas Tech University in Lubbock. The exhibition, "Traditions and Renewal: Medieval Frescoes from the Vatican Museums Collection," runs through Sept. 15, after which the frescoes will return to storage at the Vatican.


# ORDINATION

*The Most Reverend William G. Curlin cordially invites you to the Liturgy of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood on Saturday, the first of June, Two Thousand Two at eleven o'clock at Saint Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte, North Carolina.*


teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**3** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight and every first Monday at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on June 4 and every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**3** CHARLOTTE — The bereavement support group will meet tonight from 6-7:30 p.m. and every first Monday in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. This support group is for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. For details, call Ruth Posey, CSS counselor, at (704) 370-3238.

**3** CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on July 1. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

**5** CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will be having a meeting with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**8** CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo community will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight and every second Saturday of the month for a school of leaders at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For further information, call Ky Do at (704) 532-9094.

**9** CHARLOTTE — The 35th anniversary celebration of charismatic renewal will be commemorated with a Mass to be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. Several diocesan priests will be concelebrating the Mass. All are asked to bring banners with poles and stands. For further information, contact Joyce Brown at (704) 547-1836.

**12** CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program featuring the Dallas Dolls and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Bobbe Conlin at (704) 643-1376 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

**12** GASTONIA — A series of presentations; sponsored by CSS Elder Ministry and facilitated by Richard Von Stamwitz, a national certified gerontological counselor; will continue throughout the diocese. Today's presentation will be given at St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with lunch served at 12:15 p.m. The topic, "Creative Aging/ Making a Difference in Later Life," will be presented in two sessions and will focus on "The Dignity of Older People and Their Mission in the Church and the World" and "Blessings of Age: A Pontifical Message on Growing Older Within the Faith Community." For pre-registration and other information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Marlo Wallace at (704) 370-3228.

**13** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be hosting ultreyas and school of leaders on the following dates and times: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. tonight for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1:15-2 p.m. on June 23 with a School of Leaders at 1 p.m. and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3 p.m. on June 23 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665.

# Musical bares Jesus' life and power on the stage

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — One day in Jesus' life: Who did he talk to? What did he do?

Rita Pisano's two-act musical, "Sermon on the Plain," based on Luke's Gospel, Chapter 6, shows a man fired with God's love and a full sense of his mission and the people who come to him to satisfy their deepest longings.

"Years ago, I had the idea of what it would be like to spend one day with Jesus, of how many lives he must have touched," Pisano said. "I thought I could write a musical. One day I was reading Luke, Chapter 6, which is one of my favorites, and I said, 'That's it; that's the day.'"

A 60-person cast performed the musical May 10 and 11 at St. Eugene Church, where Pisano is director of children's and youth music and drama. The cast had already presented "Sermon" Nov. 17 and 18 at Asheville-Buncombe Technical College and at St. Elizabeth Church in Boone Feb. 9.

Most of the cast, who range in age from 7 to 70, are parishioners at St. Eugene Church, but some come from other Catholic churches in the Asheville area, and a few, Pisano said, are "non-Catholics who just couldn't stay away."

"I think the quality of the show is worth performing," said Doug Hauschild, who portrays Jesus. "When we performed at A-B Tech, a lot of people who saw it the first night came back the second."

The musical opens with a man (played by John Nickel) whose withered hand Jesus healed on the Sabbath. The man is fascinated with his rejuvenated hand, to the exclusion of everything else, but wonders, "Why was it given to me?"

Later, in a humorous scene, the audience meets the apostles, who also don't know "why." "We don't know what we're chosen for, but we know we are chosen," they sing. They're sure that even though, "We're part of a plan we don't understand," they'll have easy, privileged lives, with pensions when they retire.

The healed man and the apostles are found in Chapter 6, but also present are Joseph of Arimethea (Andy Beard), who in Luke 23:50-56, takes Jesus' body down from the cross and buries it, and the widow of Nain (Letha Hinman), whose son Jesus raises in Chapter 7.

Other characters are also there, people who might have been present for the sermon, even though they aren't named in Scripture. Joseph has a pregnant young wife (Theresa Saunders) who worries that he will be in trouble if he doesn't fulfill his mission from the temple officials to collect evidence against Jesus. Joseph's own mission is to hear more from the teacher who has impressed him.

Joseph tells Jesus that Jesus' preaching has touched him. Jesus replies, "And, you, Joseph of Arimethea, will one day touch me in a way you can't even begin to imagine."

Then there is Susanna, a crippled woman who earns her living making sandals. In her poignant song, "If Only," she tells of her desire to walk, to join in the children's games and help the other villagers with their chores.





Photos by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**Above left, John Nickel portrays a man with a withered hand restored by Jesus in "Sermon on the Plain," a two-act musical based on Luke's Gospel and performed at St. Eugene Church May 10 and 11. Above right, Jesus (played by Doug Hauschild) holds one of the village children (Abbie Sigmon) as he tells the crowd they must practice love and forgiveness.**

"The first time I heard this song I just fell in love with it," said Margaret Evans, who portrays the woman. "You know, she doesn't get healed in the end. Jesus talks to her about being beautiful and how she participates in life in other ways. It means everything to me. If your spirit is whole, it doesn't matter about the rest."

Jesus does not appear until the second act, when the villagers have gathered on the plain to see "The power of our God in the person of this man."

"Although he never works a miracle," Pisano said, "the needs of each character are addressed and their problems solved, not because Jesus solves them, but because he challenges every person in the crowd to reach out and unburden each other."

"If each and every person gave a good and generous share of everything they had, then everyone would have everything," Jesus replies. He tells the crippled woman that she walks — by making shoes for others: "Each time a customer laces your sandals, you walk by his side."

"It was flattering to be asked (to play Jesus)," Hauschild said. "It's an awesome responsibility. You just don't want to do the role an injustice. I try very hard not to make Jesus a humdrum preacher, and I don't think he was."

Jesus laughs and sings with the crowd, but he also sternly tells them that "woe" will befall them if they are unloving and unforgiving.

These characters, plus singers, dancers and other village folk, and the three-piece musical accompaniment, comprise the cast, all of whom are overwhelmingly enthusiastic about the musical.

"It's been great fun, it really has," said Dennis King, who plays an apostle. "The music is beautiful. It's magnificent. It really reminds me of Andrew Lloyd Webber's music." (Webber composed the music for "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,"

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# Pilgrim Mary brings prayer and fellowship to families

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — The power of prayer is the magnet that draws people to Pilgrim Mary, a traveling Our Lady of Fatima statue. Host families look forward to its visit, planning special gatherings as they recite the rosary and other prayers in honor of Mary.

Ann Cancello, a member of St. John Neumann Church, has always believed that more people should pray the rosary. During a visit to her sister's home in New York several years ago, she witnessed the wonderful spiritual healing that her family experienced with the presence of a Pilgrim Mary statue. Returning to Charlotte, she purchased a statue of Our Lady of Fatima and began opening her home on Sunday evenings to pray the rosary.

After Sept. 11, Cancello received the message to expand her program. She purchased and donated an Our Lady of Fatima statue to St. John Neumann. Parishioners sign up for the weekly visit of the Pilgrim Mary statue to their home, just like people anticipated the journey of the original International Pilgrim Virgin Statue as it traveled across Portugal in 1946.

Cancello, who is assisted by Sandy Majors, transfers the statue from one home to another. Pilgrim Mary arrives on a Sunday evening and is welcomed through Scripture and prayer as described in the home visitation program. All the angels and saints are asked to stay with this family and their guests throughout the week.



Photo by Mary Marshall

**St. John Neumann Church parishioners gather around a Pilgrim Mary statue, which spends a week in parishioners' homes encouraging prayer and togetherness. Clockwise from upper left: Ann Cancello, Manon Reiher, JC Reiher, Rebecca Reiher, Cassandra Reiher and Melissa Cancello.**

During the next seven days, the host family invites friends, family and fellow parishioners to their home to recite the rosary, pray for parish petitions and sing songs to Mary. It is a week of peace, as family members set aside a special time to pray. A farewell ceremony concludes the week. At this time, a litany of Mary is recited.

Cancello noted that the more homes Pilgrim Mary visits, the more experiences are shared. Majors said, "Pilgrim Mary brought a peace to our home that we'd never experienced before. An overwhelming calm sensation presided."

JC and Manon Reiher welcomed Pilgrim Mary to their home in May for the second time. They especially wanted it this week as JC's mother, whose name is Mary, was coming to visit for the confirmation of the Reihers' daughter, Rebecca.

"Mary has interceded for us in many ways," said JC. "This is a good way for us to take time and pray together. It is another way to share our faith in addition to Sunday Mass."

During the first week that Pilgrim Mary had visited the Reiher home, JC had just experienced two job layoffs and was unhappily working a temp job. "We prayed the rosary for the entire week," he said. A week later, he received a call from a job application. He interviewed on the feast of St. Joseph, patron of workers, and was offered the job the next day.

The Reiher children enjoy the family time instigated by the Pilgrim Mary. "We're always on the go," said Rebecca, 13. "The rosary brings us together to pray and talk. As I become an adult through confirmation, I know I should pray more."

When Pilgrim Mary visited the home of Don and Suzi Nicholas and their four children, who are all under 11, they gained peacefulness and meaning in their lives by gathering around Mary and praying instead of turning on the TV.

"As a family, we don't pray like we should," said Suzi. "When Pilgrim Mary visited, we took time as a family to pray, which brought us closer together and made us reconnect with our priorities."

Pilgrim Mary dates back to 1946, after the youth of Portugal attended a congress in Fatima. They took the statue from display in the Cova on pilgrimage to Lisbon. As they walked the route, they stopped in towns and people gathered to pray. In Lisbon, where they entered the cathedral, the miracle of doves occurred, according to the Pilgrim Virgin Committee's Web site. Many other phenomena also occurred inspiring devotion and fervor among the people.

From this experience came the tradition of a traveling Pilgrim Mary along with the mandate of the bishop of Fatima to travel, teach and inspire. Pilgrim Mary continues to bestow "miracles" — spiritual cures and gifts to those who pray before her.

"I believe God gives signs when he feels you need one," said Suzi. "Our biggest miracle wasn't a sign but a focusing on Mary and praying together each night."


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*Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte*

*To receive a free booklet "Better Estate Planning" contact Gina Rhodes, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203, gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org*

# Retiring archivist to file her last paper

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — A love of books, reading and research led Johanna "Jo" Mims to becoming the diocesan archivist, a position from which she is retiring this summer. The job, originally scheduled to be a two-year project, transformed into a 15-year position. Mims says that she has enjoyed her time as a diocesan employee and will miss everyone at the Pastoral Center.



Johanna "Jo" Mims

"I am very pleased with the fact that we have brought good order to all of these records, placed them in a safe environment and made them available for research," said Mims, who holds a master's in librarianship.

The diocesan archives include all records that flow into the chancery office including historical and business documents and correspondences sent to and from clergy and religious. "We are a form of records management; we are responsible for any records that the chancery generates including correspondence with any parishes, schools, at one time, hospitals and health agencies, and some legal documents," said Mims.

She is a little lady with big ideas. Mims helped to bring order to the brand-new diocese by sorting two vaults of documents in the early 1970s, and she has used her library science training to ensure that documents have been properly stored and filed. Because of her work, all parish sacramental registers and copies of The Catholic News & Herald and the NC Catholic are stored on microfilm.

"It is a lot work but is rewarding to see order and to be able to assist people when they call or come to the center," she said. "There's a process; there is inventory, and what we do is break it down. You have to be able to figure out where to store everything and keep everything in proper order."

She discovered her love of archiving when she decided to attend college after her children were grown and out of the house. She had always had a desire for an education, but after graduating high school in 1939 at the end of the Depression, it was not feasible for her to obtain further education. Being the oldest in a family of six children, a job was her first priority.

She was working in several defense plants when she met and married her first husband, Glenn Hurley. They settled in Metuchen, N.J., where they raised their four children.

Her husband died in 1967, but she was able to find love twice in a lifetime. She and Tom Mims married several years later and combined their families into one. The Mims moved to Charlotte because of a job transfer, and they settled in the growing city in 1970. "It was wonderful because you could go downtown and shop and drive around without getting stuck in traffic," she wistfully remembered.

After her youngest son left home, she picked up where she left off after high school and earned a bachelor's degree in English in 1976 from Belmont Abbey College. She fulfilled her lifelong dream of becoming a librarian when she attended library school at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. While taking core curriculum classes, she developed an affinity for her archives class.

After receiving her degree in 1977, she began working for the Lutheran Synod as the archivist in 1978 and worked with records that dated back to the Revolutionary War. She officially retired from the Synod in 1987, and in January 1988, she was asked to "help sort documents for the diocese." That is how the relationship between archivist and the diocese began, and she has been working nonstop ever since. She says that it is time for retirement but will miss her work.

"I am grateful to Jo for her many years of dedicated service. Her interest and love for her work is, indeed, reflected in the wonderful system she developed for us," said Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor. "We will miss her here but wish her much happiness in her new home."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

### Priest says Mother Teresa could be beatified within a year

ROME (CNS) — After an Italian newspaper reported that Mother Teresa of Calcutta could be beatified within a year, the promoter of her cause said technically it would be possible.

"If everything goes favorably, the beatification could be sooner rather than later," said Missionaries of Charity Father Brian Kolodiejchuk May 21 when asked if Mother Teresa could be beatified within a year.

He said that in late April he gave the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes a four-volume, 5,000-page biography of Mother Teresa recounting her "life, virtue and reputation for holiness."

The report, known as a "positio," must be studied by nine theologians.

If, in their judgment, the report proves Mother Teresa lived a life of "heroic virtue," the report is passed on to 12 cardinals and bishops who are members of the congregation.

If they agree with the theologians, a decree of recognition is published in the presence of the pope.

In the meantime, Father Kolodiejchuk and his collaborators are working on another report, detailing the unexplained healing of a non-Christian woman in India who had a huge abdominal tumor.

Members of the Missionaries of Charity, the religious order founded by Mother Teresa, prayed for their founder's intervention in healing the woman. She woke up and the tumor was gone.

If the congregation's board of physicians finds there is no natural explanation for the healing and if theologians studying the case for the Vatican recognize a connection between the nuns' prayers and the healing, it may be the miracle needed for Mother Teresa's beatification.

Mother Teresa died in Calcutta in September 1997. In early 1999, Pope John Paul waived the rule requiring a five-year wait before a beatification process can begin.

But the waiver was the only exception made in the cause; the rest of the detailed process is being followed step by step, study by study.

### New Yorker assumes presidency of deacon directors' association

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — Deacon Anthony Cassaneto, director of the diaconate for the Archdiocese of New York, assumed the presidency of the National Association of Diaconate Directors, or NADD, during the organization's recent annual meeting in Orlando. He succeeded Deacon Richard Santello, diaconate director in the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn., in the one-year term as president. Deacon William Ditewig, director of pastoral services in the Diocese of Belleville, Ill., was chosen as president-elect. Deacon Mathias Prom of the Diocese of Fargo, N.D., was elected treasurer of the NADD board for a two-year term. Nearly 275 deacon directors, spouses and other diaconate staff attended the Orlando meeting.

### Trappist well-known for centering prayer steps down as Georgia abbot

CONYERS, Ga. (CNS) — Trappist Abbot M. Basil Pennington, the monk known worldwide for his books and ministry on centering prayer, has resigned as head of Our Lady of Holy Spirit Abbey in Conyers. He was elected to the position in August 2000, becoming an abbot for the first time in his more than 40 years of religious life. Abbot Pennington, 70, who was chosen from outside the Conyers community, said in a statement that he has helped the abbey during a transitional period and believes that it is time for the monks to choose an abbot from within their community. The resignation was effective May 12. His successor will be elected by the Conyers community in the next three months or a superior can be appointed. Father Anthony DeLisi, the prior, is acting as the temporary superior.

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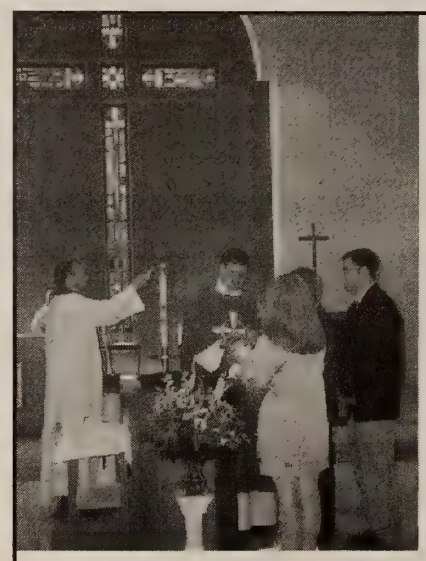
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# Columbariums: Sacred solutions for eternity

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Many parishioners develop closeness with their church. Now many churches have introduced a way to allow that closeness to continue perpetually.

St. Gabriel Church dedicated a new columbarium and memorial garden May 6. The Charlotte parish is among several in the diocese to incorporate similar sacred places on their grounds.

"May it be a place where we come to terms with life and with everlasting life," said Father Richard Bellow during the dedication ceremony.

A columbarium, from the Latin word "columba" meaning "dove" — the symbol of the Holy Spirit and the Christian symbol of peace — is a place on church property to provide the permanent preservation of the cremated remains of church members and their families.

The idea of a columbarium was very popular during early parish meetings at St. Gabriel, recalled Father Bellow. After positive feedback from a parish survey, the church established a columbarium committee to ensure the completed project would be beautiful, hospitable and clearly inviting.

"We wanted it to be a columbarium and memorial garden to reflect both life and death" said Father Bellow. He noted that visitors are able to touch the cascading water from a black granite table, to remind them of their baptismal water and its close alliance with death and rebirth.





Photos by Kevin E. Murray

**Above left, Father Richard Bellow blesses St. Gabriel Church's new columbarium and memorial garden during a dedication ceremony May 6. Above right, visitors to the memorial garden study memorial plaques along the wall.**

The garden itself is enclosed with high walls that contain the interred remains of the deceased in "niches." There are also memorial plaques honoring parishioners who are buried elsewhere. According to the church's Web site, the site is "a place for those who love St. Gabriel Catholic Church and have a sense of closeness to it, which they would like to preserve even after death."

"Being close to the parish really touched a chord with many people," said Father Bellow. "The idea of having their remains there is a connection to the parish that they love and was very important to them."

Already, over 130 of the 280 niches — each capable of holding two urns — have been sold.

Other parishes have recently incorporated columbariums on their properties. Sacred Heart Church in Brevard was one of the first to do so.

"It (the columbarium) is a very beautiful thing. It's very peaceful and quiet," said Harriet St. John, administrative assistant to pastor Father Carl Del Giudice. "Several people sit out there for a while each week before and after Mass."

St. John suggested the idea of a columbarium to Father Del Giudice several years ago, and a parish survey indicated a strong interest. Sacred Heart now has a columbarium of 108 niches, 30 of which are already sold.

Sacred Heart's columbarium was one of many researched by St. Margaret Church. A pre-assembled 96-niche columbarium will be delivered to the Maggie Valley parish shortly after Memorial Day, according to Rev. Mr. Jerry LaPointe.

After Rev. Mr. LaPointe lost his wife to cancer over a year ago, he gave the donations to St. Margaret for the columbarium. Her remains will be placed into a niche in the circular columbarium made with Lac Du Bonnet granite.

"We don't have a cemetery in Maggie Valley," said Rev. Mr. LaPointe. "A lot of people wanted to be close to the church (when they die). They seemed very interested (in a columbarium)."

"It seems to be the way of the future since the Catholic church changed its rules on cremation," said Lloyd Reed, chairman of the columbarium committee at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte.

St. Thomas Aquinas unveiled its 100-niche columbarium in the fall of 2000. Reed said his wife and he originally pushed for the columbarium and found strong support from the parish. While noting that many people want to be close to the church when they die, Reed said that internment in a columbarium is far less expensive than the average funeral.

St. John agreed. "Crematoriums take care of everything with no involvement from the funeral home," she said.

"More and more, people are opting for cremation for financial reasons," noted Father Bellow. He said while burial is the preferred method in the church, columbariums offer the option of having one's remains placed in a sacred place.

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*


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# Diocese says farewell to superintendant

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Educators, friends and family joined Bishop William G. Curlin in bidding farewell to Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of diocesan schools on May 16.

Skube, superintendent for the Diocese of Charlotte's 17 schools for the past 13 years will depart the diocese at the end of this school year. He becomes the superintendent for the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio effective June 17.

Vicar of Education Father James Hawker served as master of ceremonies for the two-hour tribute to the superintendent. With sincere gratitude, a litany of individuals spoke on the accomplishments of the soon-to-be-former superintendent. Some, however, poked tongue-in-cheek fun at the educator who led the diocesan Catholic schools into a system recognized nationally for its excellence.

"So," said Father Hawker, "these folks will say a word or two about their insights into Michael, and then we will find out if they were right or wrong." By the end of the evening, no question they were right.

Bishop Curlin recalled Skube as one of the first to greet him when the bishop became the chief shepherd of the diocese. "He gave me a big handshake, and said 'welcome, you can count on me.' And over the years, he has proven to be a good example, and truly a Christian gentleman," said Bishop Curlin. "The work you have done in the diocese has been marvelous and outstanding, and I thank you."

Everett Walker, president of the diocesan school board said, "We can thank Michael for his leadership in leaving this school system equipped and, in my opinion, for creating what is probably one of the premiere school systems in the country." All told, Walker spent eight years working with Skube on a variety of committees and boards.

"School boards come and go, view points and agendas change, but Dr. Skube has been there throughout the years of the school system and has always been presented with constant changes," said Victor Adams, Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) board president. "The MACS system, not to mention the other diocesan schools, has grown enormously during the time Dr. Skube has been superintendent. The MACS system itself is three times the size of the next largest private school system in Charlotte. And, if you add the rest of the schools in the diocese to it, it doubles again. Dr. Skube has been instrumental in promoting and shepherding the growth of the system. He is a tireless worker."

Representing principals and educators in the diocese, All Saints School Principal Betsy DesNoyer said, "We are a team of principals and schools. I would say we are all committed to Catholic education and that is because of the leadership of our superintendent. Dr. Skube has provided the leadership that values Catholic education and he has always shown that model that has really led the way for all of us."

Skube holds a doctorate in educational administration from Illinois State University; master's degrees in counseling and guidance and in educational administration, both from Illinois State University; and a bachelor's in political science and history from St. Joseph College, Rensselaer, Ind.

Nationally, Skube's vitae include service on various committees for the Chief Administrators of Catholic Education and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He has been a site visitor and panelist for the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon of Excellence Program.

Skube and his wife, Mary, are the parents of a daughter, Tisha, of Charlotte, N.C.



Photo by Joann S. Keane

**Dr. Michael Skube accepts a plaque given in appreciation for 13 years of service as superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools.**

# Abuse issue called an 'added burden' to church in public policy arena

By TRACY EARLY
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Church officials seeking to influence public policy now have to carry an "added burden" because of the sex abuse scandal, Father J. Bryan Hehir, president of Catholic Charities USA, said in a New York address.

While people to some degree may "set aside" the fact that some priests become predators, they are less willing to set aside their outrage over the church's administrative handling of these priests, he said.

If society loses its trust in the church, he said, it would make it more difficult for the church to project its vision and influence the development of social policy.

In comments after the address, Father Hehir said the bishops should continue speaking about questions of social policy because of the importance of the issues facing American society.

He also said it was not inevitable that the bishops would now be heard with less respect, or that their influence necessarily would be diminished.

But he said it would be foolish to ignore the "added challenge" created by the sex abuse scandal and "the enormous burden this imposes" when the bishops move into the public arena.

Father Hehir commented on the sex abuse issue May 19 as part of his keynote address for the annual weeklong Catholic Health Care Administrative Personnel Program.

The program is held at St. John's University in Queens, with co-sponsorship by St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers, and draws participants from Catholic health care institutions across the United States and abroad.

Father Hehir, who formerly worked in the development of social policy for the bishops' conference and later taught at the Harvard Divinity School, spoke about the place of the Catholic Church in the pluralistic context of contemporary American society.

Because of its size and its extensive network of institutions, the Catholic Church has an advantage in addressing policy questions because "we are up to our elbows in the basic questions of society every day of the week," he said.

Referring to the current debate over the Bush administration's proposals for faith-based organizations, Father Hehir said the need for policy development had suffered a relative neglect.

He expressed some doubt that Congress would pass a faith-based initiative bill as proposed by President Bush this year.

The House bill reflected the implicit view that government had been too harsh and restrictive toward religious groups, he said.

But he said it went further than the Senate would accept. And a Senate measure under consideration would provide "real money" at a level the Republican leadership of the House might not approve, he said.

Father Hehir concluded his address by assessing the added difficulty the church will have in making its contribution to the debate over faith-based initiatives because of the public attention now directed to sex abuse stories. He said the moral dimensions were especially serious because the offenses were against children and because they were committed by Catholics who by ordination were presumed to be trustworthy.

But beyond dealing with the moral evil through established patterns of speaking about sin and grace, the Catholic Church must rebuild confidence by recognizing that sex abuse of children is a crime as well as a sin, and its handling must satisfy the needs of civil society, he said.

And he said outrage over the response at the administrative level to priests involved in sex abuse must be met by creating structures that have "transparency."

Although there has been a "healthy respect" for the principle of resisting government intrusion into religious affairs, the presumption that government should always err on the side of respecting the privacy of religious groups has been lost, he said.

"We live on trust," Father Hehir said of the church. And though Catholics generally are not leaving the church, despite their anger, church leaders now can "take nothing for granted."

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Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

## Pentecost, from page 1

Yesenia Sanchez who received the sacrament of first Communion.

At the close of Mass, Father Davis surprised the parishioners by releasing 12 white doves into the air as a symbol of the Holy Spirit and the 12 apostles, who received the Holy Spirit on that first Pentecost Sunday.

The celebration continued after Mass into the evening hours with games, music, dancing and a covered dish lunch consisting of ethnic foods cooked by members of the parish and Father Davis.

J. Mark Pegram, a recent convert to Catholicism, commented, "This is a great event, especially in view of the fact that I come from a church of one nationality, and now, I am able to participate with these many different cultures. It shows how all the peoples of the world can be one if they allow the Holy Spirit to guide them. This is exactly what God is all about."

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

## House of Mercy, from page 1

tions for AIDS within the last three to five years, said Stowe. "If residents wish to receive aggressive treatment and doctors deem it appropriate, clients can actually stabilize to a point where they no longer need our care and move on to other living arrangements," she said.

Linda is one client who opted for aggressive treatment and is responding positively. "I like living here," said Linda. "It's home away from home. The people are nice, and I receive my medications regularly."

For James, living at House of Mercy means a pleasant surrounding with a caring staff. "I'm happy to be able to be here," he said.

House of Mercy works closely with other agencies that provide counseling and physical, occupational and speech therapies. The holistic approach to care at House of Mercy also includes pastoral care from all denominations.

Recreational activities make life as normal as possible. Residents attend regular outings to movies, dinners and basketball games. AmeriCorps volunteers visit four days a week proving



PHOTO BY MARY MARSHALL

**Shirley Stowe, director of nursing and case manager at House of Mercy in Belmont, sits with James, a client. House of Mercy is a residential care facility providing compassionate medical care to individuals living with AIDS.**

residential recreation and volunteer coordination.

"We keep residents involved based on their physical ability," said Patterson. "We recently purchased a van to transport wheelchair residents to outings. Through the help of foundations, we purchased a wheelchair-accessible whirlpool tub."

Patterson finds his work very rewarding. "I feel confident and blessed to participate in this ministry because the impact is so clear. It's easy to tell our message; people understand it. We're not here to make a judgment on how the disease was contracted but to work with clients once they have the disease."

Cynthia Cox is the director of development and helps with special events, grant writing and communications. Relatively new to the team, Cox was pleasantly surprised on the amount of support that House of Mercy receives from the community.

"People support House of Mercy without judgment," Cox said. "It's wonderful to see all faiths come together as they volunteer for our fund raisers. We receive a strong support from the religious community and feel the positive impact of the local community and businesses, who readily help by sponsoring our events."

House of Mercy also budgets money annually to help those who are not quite sick enough to require their care but need living assistance. The house collaborates with The Regional HIV/AIDS Consortium and the Affordable Housing Group to assist clients with low incomes.

Patterson said, "It is our goal to reach out to more people with AIDS by building another facility next to our present house. We would then be able to serve an additional six people. To meet this challenge, we need to raise $600,000."

*For more information on House of Mercy, visit: www.thehouseofmercy.org*




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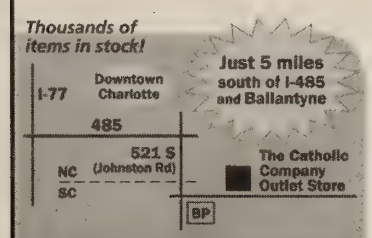
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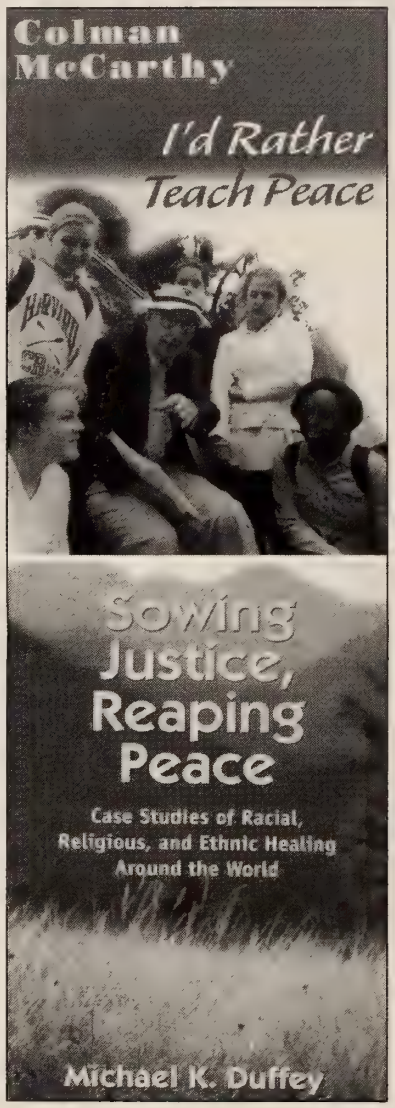
**Book Review**

# Books reveal origins of peace

REVIEWED BY FRIDA BERRIGAN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In her celebrated novel "Ceremony," one of Leslie Marmon Silko's characters says, "I will tell you something about stories, they aren't just for entertainment. Don't be fooled. They are all we have, you see, all we have to fight off illness and death. You don't have anything if you don't have the stories. Their evil is mighty but it can't stand up to our stories."

Colman McCarthy and Michael K. Duffy are both storytellers. They give readers stories to stand up to the mighty evil of today. Drawn from careful readings of history and rooted in their lives as teachers — and aren't the best teachers the one who tell stories instead of toss facts? — the stories that are the backbones of both these books are meant to make us think, help us share, and inspire us to act. And they could not have come at a better time.




McCarthy's "I'd Rather Teach Peace" reveals how teaching young people is the most enjoyable and important work around. The book chronicles a single semester of teaching in very different settings — an experimental Washington high school, a youth detention center, Georgetown University law students, and privileged high school students.

McCarthy quotes Walker Percy, who said, "You can get all As and go out and flunk life." He gives quizzes, offering $100 prizes for the person who can correctly identify six people.

Robert E. Lee? Ulysses S. Grant? Norman Schwartzkopf? The whole class can identify the first three and is already spending the 100 bucks.

The next three are Jeanette Rankin, Dorothy Day and Jody Williams. No one knows who they are, and McCarthy admits that no one has correctly identified all six. Not teachers, not students, not anyone. "They know the peacebreakers but not the peacemakers. They know the men who want to solve conflicts by killing but not the women who believe in loving." McCarthy has his work cut out for him and he knows it.

Duffy is also a teacher and a storyteller — but of a different sort. His book is a tool. It is meant to be used. "Sowing Justice, Reaping Peace" is organized by region and social conflict. Duffy focuses on the legacy of colonialism in Central America, Northern Ireland and South Africa, then turns his attention to the nonviolent movements for democracy in Eastern Europe and the Philippines. He also looks at the timely and important obstacles to and prospects for peace in the Balkans and Middle East, and finally examines the struggle for racial equality in the United States. The final chapter deals with women's struggles for justice and peace.

But Duffy is not just a storyteller. He challenges teachers and students alike to enter the stories he tells and use them as a "basis for hope." He calls on readers to allow these people and stories to be "our witnesses of hope on the journey, to make their stories our stories." To aid in this process the book includes an appendix of discussion questions and additional resources for each chapter.

At a moment when almost 40 wars rage around the world, when new blood is shed in the Middle East and Afghanistan every day and when countless new wars against terrorism are on the horizon, McCarthy and Duffy provide readers with a timely and timeless gift — the hope that peace is possible and a profound and empowering challenge: that it must begin with us.

*Berrigan works for World Policy Institute in New York. She was raised at Jonah House, a pacifist community in Baltimore by her parents, activists Elizabeth McAlister and Philip Berrigan.*

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# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings:*
*May 26, 2002*

**Cycle A Readings:**
May 26, Holy Trinity Sunday
1) Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9
Psalm: Daniel 3:52-56
2) 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
3) Gospel: John 3:16-18

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Throughout the world this weekend, homilists will attempt to discuss with their communities some facet of what we have come to call the Holy Trinity. Some will plunge into an esoteric and highly theological sermon that will leave their listeners in a state of bewilderment. Others will admit the challenge of teaching about the Trinity without sounding as if Christians worship three Gods. Long ago St. Patrick used the familiar shamrock to explain to his listeners the mystery of the Trinity.

Like Patrick, theologians and philosophers have tried for centuries to explain, prove, disprove or understand God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit by using a variety of analogies to help their listeners comprehend the paradox of the One who created the universe, yet wishes to be in relationship with us.

Our readings this week illustrate a progression through salvation history in our understanding of God and our relationship with God. The story in the Exodus reading occurs when God invites Moses to bring the second set of stone tablets up the mountain. We hear God reveal his name to Moses three times. Moses bows down in worship, but also has the courage to approach God and ask God to accompany the people in their journey and to "pardon our wickedness and sins, and receive us as your own."

In John's Gospel, Jesus explains to Nicodemus God's plan of salvation that includes Jesus' own suffering and death. God's inexplicable love for human beings lives in the simple yet paradoxical words of Jesus in John 3:16 that assure us we can experience the mystery of God's love for us through Jesus.

Looking through the prism of Easter faith, St. Paul blesses the Corinthians in the last lines of his second letter, extending the grace, love and fellowship of the Son, the Father and the Holy Spirit. These concluding words of St. Paul's letter present a relatively new way of characterizing God for the Corinthians. For us, however, the words have become part of the fabric of our faith. We may not be able to explain the mystery of the Trinity in academic terms, but each time we make the sign of the cross prayerfully and intentionally we affirm our faith and celebrate that God is with us Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**QUESTIONS:**
Can you explain how electrons and data and voice transmissions flow through copper wire or glass fiber? Mysteries in the created world can often be described, but not truly understood, so why should we expect the Creator to be easily comprehended?

**SCRIPTURE TO ILLUSTRATE:**
"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!" (2 Corinthians 13:13)

# Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of May 26 - June 1**

**Sunday (Most Holy Trinity),** Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, John 3:16-18; **Monday (St. Augustine of Canterbury),** 1 Peter 1:3-9, Mark 10:17-27; **Tuesday,** 1 Peter 1:10-16, Mark 10:28-31; **Wednesday,** 1 Peter 1:18-25, Mark 10:32-45; **Thursday,** 1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12, Mark 10:46-52; **Friday (The Visitation),** Zephaniah 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-56; **Saturday (St. Justin),** Jude 17, 20-25, Mark 11:27-33

**Scripture for the week of June 2 - June 8**

**Sunday (Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ),** Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, John 6:51-58; **Monday (St. Charles Lwanga and Companions),** 2 Peter 1:2-7, Mark 12:1-12; **Tuesday,** 2 Peter 3:12-15, 17-18, Mark 12:13-17; **Wednesday (St. Boniface),** 2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12, Mark 12:18-27; **Thursday,** 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Mark 12:28-34; **Friday (Sacred Heart of Jesus),** Deuteronomy 7:6-11, 1 John 4:7-16, Matthew 11:25-30; **Saturday (Immaculate Heart of Mary),** 2 Timothy 4:1-8, Luke 2:41-51

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

# "Enough," but barely

By Anne Navarro
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Jennifer Lopez's domestic drama, "Enough" (Columbia), may just be every abused wife's secret revenge fantasy. But the mediocre film doesn't have the emotional resonance needed to make a powerful impact on the audience as Lopez transforms from mousy housewife to martial-arts expert ready to get back at a possessive, abusive husband.

Director Michael Apted tempers the film's vengeful drive by having Lopez's character, Slim, find her moral compass at the last moment. Apted does a commendable job navigating the film through the script's narrative plot holes and caricatured characters, especially that of husband Mitch (Billy Campbell). But there's not much freshness to a film that so closely resembles Julia Roberts' similarly themed 1991 thriller "Sleeping With the Enemy" and one that has a high predictability factor.

The film swiftly sets up the premise in order to move on to bulk of the story. The thriller is divided into several titled sections, beginning with "Hey," which introduces waitress Slim (Lopez) and her best friend, Ginny (Juliette Lewis), working at a low-end Los Angeles diner. The next part, "How They Met," shows Slim's first encounter with husband-to-be Mitch, whose gallant demeanor saves her from the unsavory advances of customer Robbie (Noah Wyle). The film then zips forward to show Mitch and Slim dancing at their wedding as Mitch whispers the portentous words, "You're safe with me, Slim."

It's the next section where the caricaturing begins. It's been a few years since the wedding day, and Slim is living a near-perfect life in a huge, beautiful home with Mitch and their young daughter, Gracie (Tessa Allen). But almost without warning, the chips begin to show. Slim discovers Mitch's wandering ways. At first, he falls on his sword, admitting to the cheating. But in an audacious speech that is too bold to be believed, Mitch informs Slim that this is the way it's going to be. He'll have his amorous peccadilloes and she'll continue to play the happy housewife. And if she doesn't, he'll kill her.

Slim manages to get away, and a good portion of the rest of the film consists of her cross-country trek — with Gracie in tow — as she tries to escape Mitch's evil grasp. Using the help of best friend Ginny, an old beau, Joe (Dan Futterman), and her estranged father, Jupiter (Fred Ward) — another stretch in the plot — she manages for a while to elude Mitch and the goons he sends after her.

Apted does provide some suspense-filled moments in the film. But the problematic narrative too conveniently sets in motion the machinations for Slim to chart her revenge. Mitch is such an unsympathetic jerk that it makes it easy to root for the strong-willed Slim, despite Lopez's failure to make an emotional connection with the viewer. But the farfetched and staged climax is likely to wear away the good will of any viewer, Lopez fan or not.

Slim's vengeful intentions, even though they don't quite work out the way she expected, in many ways denigrate the very real danger of abused spouses. The film says that if you are strong enough, disciplined enough and willing to learn keen self-defense tactics, you can fight back and win. Had the film focused more seriously and realistically on the danger of spousal abuse and its repercussions, it might have made a powerful impression. Instead, it is a very Hollywoodesque take on domestic violence where the bad guy is punished and the good guy, no matter by what means, wins.

Due to several intense scenes of domestic violence, bloody fisticuffs and brief crass expressions with an instance of rough language, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.



CNS photo from Columbia Pictures

**Scene from movie 'Enough'**

**Jennifer Lopez stars in a scene from the dramatic film "Enough." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

## Movie Capsules

By Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.

**"The Believer" (IDP)**

Interesting drama about the tumultuous journey of a self-loathing young Jewish New Yorker (Ryan Gosling) who joins a neo-Nazi organization and becomes a powerful figure in the white supremacy movement, but his carefully constructed persona is jeopardized when a news reporter threatens to reveal his origins. The off-putting subject matter in writer-director Henry Bean's film prompts thought on faith versus intellect yet its stilted narrative doesn't deliver the expected punch despite Gosling's commanding performance. Some hateful violence, a suicide, a sexual encounter with nudity and recurring rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"CQ" (MGM)**

Quirky but flat story about a young American filmmaker (Jeremy Davies) in 1969 Paris who is asked to direct a floundering sci-fi movie set in the year 2000 and saddled with all sorts of problems. Director Roman Coppola's tribute to the '60's passion for cinema remains grounded and fractured, with uninspired characters who, despite all the action going on around them, aren't able to stir up much interest. Frontal nudity, a sexual encounter, brief rough language and an instance of profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Joshua" (Epiphany)**

Well-intentioned drama about a stranger (Tony Goldwyn) who inspires a small town to become a real community through his miraculous actions, prompting the locals to suspect he is the second coming of Christ. Director Jon Purdy concentrates on the message of hope, healing and love brought by the Jesus figure and soft-pedals the idea of the second coming by excluding any fire-and-brimstone histrionics. However, the storytelling is a bit prosaic and obvious in parts and may leave viewers perplexed about the theme of a possible Second Coming. Thematic treatment of a potential Second Coming. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

**"The New Guy" (Columbia)**

Worthless comedy about a high school loser (DJ Qualls) who purposely gets himself expelled so he can reinvent himself and start over at another school. As directed by Ed Decter, the unfunny film recycles stale jokes in a narrative that makes little sense with a lesson about the importance of accepting yourself half-heartedly pasted onto the end. Much sexual innuendo, crude humor, brief drug references and some crass language and profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

### Pope's trip cancels weekly general audience meeting

Pope John Paul II departed May 22 for Azerbaijan and did make his weekly general audience at the Vatican. The pope's travels had him spending the day in Azerbaijan followed by several days in predominantly Orthodox Bulgaria.

### Pope's birthday marked by acknowledgment of physical decline

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II struggled through a busy birthday weekend at the Vatican, canonizing five new saints and meeting with 7,000 youths who came to help celebrate his 82 years and wish him many more. But even as he joined in the festivities with young people May 18, the pope acknowledged his physical decline when he let an aide read part of his speech to the cheering, scarf-waving crowd.

Celebrating a Mass May 19 to proclaim five European saints, the pope sat with his head tilted down and pronounced liturgical prayers with a tremulous voice. At times he appeared to have trouble breathing.

When the liturgy was over he asked Catholics to keep praying for him.

### Pope congratulates East Timorese, urges construction of just society

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II congratulated East Timor on joining the list of "the free nations of the earth" and urged the nation's people to use their new freedom to build a just and peaceful society.

The pope sent his congratulations along with a personal envoy, Archbishop Renato Martino, the Vatican's U.N. representative, to the May 19 ceremonies marking the independence of the mainly Catholic nation. Accompanying the archbishop were Cardinal Julius Darmaatmadja of Jakarta, Indonesia, and Archbishop Renzo Fratini, apostolic nuncio to Indonesia, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Archbishop Martino presided at a May 20 midnight Mass that kicked off the independence celebrations. East Timor's Bishops Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo of Dili and Basilio do Nascimento of Baukau served as concelebrants. The Vatican also announced May 20 that it had established full diplomatic relations with the new country of 843,000 people.

"The hour of liberty has come," the pope told Timorese in his message. "The time of reconstruction has arrived."

### Don't drink and date: Here's why

We sat in my office and talked about her past. The conversation grew difficult as she told her story of alcohol abuse.

She started drinking when she was 12. Almost as soon as she began using alcohol with friends, she was getting drunk. She rarely stopped at a buzz; if she drank she almost always continued until she fell asleep or started throwing up.

Now 16, she was a classic binge drinker. She did not drink every day or even every week, but whenever she and alcohol got together she got wasted.

I wish binge drinking was rare among young people. Sadly, it isn't. Recent reports say heavy drinking has become almost fashionable.

Nobody knows why. I've got my own theory. I think that the images of bleary and seemingly ecstatic young people shown at "spring break" parties on MTV and other teen-oriented media portray a popular new image of young people having fun — drunk and out of control.

The girl in my office came to a particularly difficult point in her story. Several times, she admitted, she had been sexually abused. When she was drinking with guys, they would become sexual as she faded into the fog of alcohol. She lost her virginity when she was too drunk to know what was happening.

Other times in drunken states she had just yielded to persistent males. "I knew when it was happening — I just figured it didn't matter." She did not have a regular boyfriend, had never had one, but she thought she had been with perhaps six or eight guys sexually.

Hung over and humiliated in the morning, she never even had confronted one of them, let alone reported the incident.

Was it rape? Some of the time it certainly was. Getting girls drunk or high and taking advantage of their drunken state is an ancient strategy of predatory males. Having sex with a person who is too drunk to consent or resist is rape. It's a crime, one for which lots of guys have rightly gone to jail.

Date rape is a significant risk. The likelihood of sexual activity climbs when young people are drinking, and sexual abuse during binge drinking is sadly commonplace.

A drunken girl is not responsible for being raped. Rape is always the act of the perpetrator. However, there is a need for prudence.

You wouldn't walk at night through your town's toughest neighborhood, wearing your mom's best jewelry and carrying a portable television. If you got mugged, it would not be your fault. The thief still would be a criminal and deserve a jail term. However, you would bear part of the responsibility because you acted foolishly.

If you went shopping and had a bunch of nice new clothes in fancy shopping bags, you wouldn't toss them on the front seat of your car and walk off with the windows down. Of course, nobody should steal them, but you might not be terribly surprised if someone did. Some people don't do well resisting temptation, so prudent shoppers put their purchases out of sight in the trunk.

Binge drinking makes girls vulnerable for exploitation. Some guys will take advantage of that situation. You don't know in advance who they are.

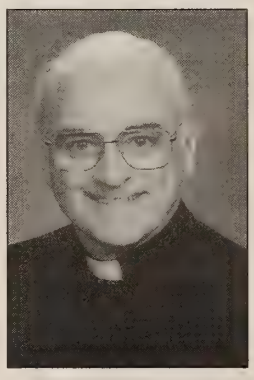
If you get drunk when you're with guys, your judgment is clouded at a time when you may need your wits about you.

For years they've said, "Don't drink and drive." I'd like to add a new slogan. Don't drink and date.

# Coming of Age



CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS COLUMNIST



# Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST

### Meditation: Exercising your joyful muscles

Jesus wants your joy to be full. He does not want you to live in a state of fear and guilt. One of the best ways to do what he wants is to meditate a few minutes every day.

The late Trappist monk, Father Thomas Merton, had much to say about the importance of meditation. "Meditation is for those who are not satisfied with the merely objective and conceptual knowledge about life, about God, about ultimate realities. They want to enter into an intimate contact with Truth itself, with God. They want to experience the deepest realities of life by living them."

God's joy resides deep within your soul. To bring it up to the surface you have to consciously let go of fear and guilt. To call forth God's joy from the center of your soul to the surface of your smile you need to exercise your joyful muscles. Meditation is one of the best ways to do this.

Here is a meditation technique I find helpful. I outlined it in my forthcoming book "Enjoy Your Precious Life."

Take a sitting position with your back erect or, if you prefer, lie down in a restful position with your hands at your side. Focus your attention on your breathing. Breathe naturally, three breaths in and four breaths out. Feel your tummy expanding and contracting with each breath. Do this for 10 or 20 breaths,

When your mind wanders, and it surely will, refocus your attention on your breathing. The mind jumps all over the place on us. Just learn to laugh at it. Don't judge yourself for failing to stay focused, but begin again, and pay attention to your breathing. Feel the air entering your lungs. Let it go saying, "Thank you, Jesus."

This exercise keeps you locked into the present moment. You will be casting aside memories and the bad feelings surrounding them. Thoughts will want to intrude, but you will refuse to let them take hold.

Don't let the past drag you down. Come back to the here and now. If you feel anger about past injustices, accept your anger as a simple fact. Observe it. Do not try to make it disappear. Simply return to your breathing.

The same is true of fear about the future. If your mind begins worrying about the future, just laugh at yourself. The worries may be legitimate, but now is the time to give yourself to the present moment.

After 10 or 20 breaths, begin saying the word "joy" every time you inhale. Silently, receive the gift of joy from Jesus. Say "joy" as you breath in, and as you exhale slowly say, "Thank you, Jesus."

Do this over and over again.

It is that simple. You are meditating. You are controlling your thoughts and inviting joy into your conscious mind. This process will transform your spirit and make you more relaxed.

As you drink in God' joy, you will be more at peace. Soon you will find yourself projecting a more joyful presence. You will become a messenger of joy wherever you go, and you will enjoy your precious life as never before.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Beyond endurance

Here's a want ad that I can't imagine placing, let alone answering:

Men wanted for hazardous journey — small wages, bitter cold,

long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful.

Honor and recognition in case of success.

Yet 5,000 applicants responded. Twenty-seven were chosen.

The year was 1914, and Ernest Shackleton was about to lead an expedition with the aim of crossing 2,000 miles of Antarctica on foot.

You've probably heard about Shackleton. Lately, several books, a museum photo exhibit and a TV movie have given a great deal of attention to the explorer who never reached his goal, but who, nonetheless, managed to triumph by surviving a terrifying two-year ordeal. I am among the many intrigued by this story.

Here's the gist of it: The expedition left England in August, but by January, 1915, their ship Endurance was trapped by pack ice and finally crushed ten months later. The party walked almost 200 miles across the ice to the safety of an island. From there, the nearest help was more than 800 miles away at a whaling station on South Georgia Island — and the only way to cross the wild, icy South Atlantic was in a lifeboat. Shackleton and five companions succeeded, and then had to trek from one side of the craggy, snow-covered island to the other. In May, 1916, with the help of the whalers, Sir Ernest Shackleton sailed back to the island to rescue those left behind.

Twenty-eight men set sail on the adventure. All 28 returned.

It's easy to see the appeal of this slice of history. The fact that every member of the expedition survived the grueling physical and mental nightmare is astonishing and, yes, inspirational. While it's true that the crew volunteered for the venture, the pure determination to go on in spite of overwhelming odds captures both attention and admiration.

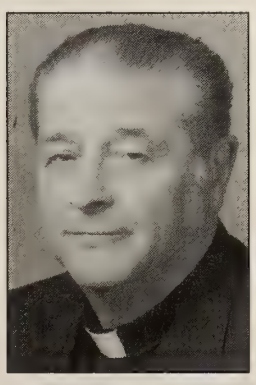
Sometimes, just getting through the day is a daunting task. Maybe you or someone you love has a serious health problem or you might be grieving the loss of someone dear to you. You might be going through serious work-related, financial or legal troubles. So you may feel as though you really are trying to steer an open boat tossed by frigid winds and waves. You know where you want to go, but fear that your greatest efforts won't be enough to get you there. Or you could feel so alone, even when in the company of others, you might as well be abandoned at the ends of the earth.

However insurmountable the challenges you face seem to be, there is always reason to hope. You may not succeed in all you do, but giving up on yourself insures failure.

There's a saying that's popular in our Christopher Leadership Course that can give you a boost of encouragement: "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do. And what I ought to do, by the grace of God, I will do."

Or, as those who sailed on the Endurance believed — Never give up. Never give up. Never give up.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Other medical uses of the Pill

*Q. Nine months after the birth of our third child, my doctor prescribed birth control pills to control irregular, heavy menstrual cycles. Is it morally acceptable to use a medication if it causes infertility as a side effect? Does the same hold true for men?*

*I am confused about where protecting my health begins, especially since my family have a history of cancer. I know several women who need some guidance on the subject. (Illinois)*

A. There is no moral objection to using the pill for the purpose your doctor prescribed. Millions of women today are, in fact, on the pill for a broad range of medical problems other than contraception.

So-called birth control pills were introduced on the American scene about 40 years ago, almost exclusively as a contraceptive. In various formulas and products they contained hormones intended to prevent ovulation or to induce other conditions making it difficult for sperm to unite with the ovum.

At first, scientists and those in the medical professions knew surprisingly little about how exactly these synthetic hormones accomplished their purpose. In order to be certain that the pills would actually prevent conception, manufacturers felt it necessary to load them with extremely large doses of hormones, which placed many women who used them at serious, sometimes even fatal, risk.

In the intervening years, however, contraceptive pills have been among the most intensely studied drugs in the history of medicine. Dosages today are greatly reduced, but generally effective for the many purposes for which gynecologists prescribe them.

At present, varieties of the pill are employed for a host of other hormone-related physical disorders, such as acne, pre-menopause anomalies, osteoporosis, and menstrual cramps and migraine headaches, to mention only a few.

A study by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists two years ago revealed that more than one-third of American women approaching menopause are either taking the pill or know someone who is taking it to treat symptoms accompanying menopause.

All these noncontraceptive indications for use of the pill would apply to your question. They may cause infertility as a side effect in pre-menopausal women, but when other medical purposes are directly intended, there is no need for concern about their morality.

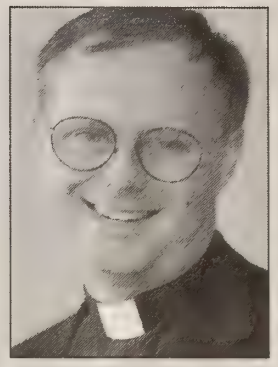
A few further concerns need to be mentioned. First, some so-called contraceptive pills have the function of inducing abortions, usually by preventing implantation of the fertilized ovum in the womb. I am not aware of any nonabortive indications for these medications. Should there be any, moral judgment on their use would necessarily weigh all these factors.

Finally, while progestational hormones are much safer than before, they are still the subject of much controversy. Side effects, including increased susceptibility to infections, nausea and interaction with other medications remain a serious concern.

All such hormonal medications must therefore be used under the care of a physician. Even if a particular drug is indicated, determining an effective but safe dosage often requires time and close monitoring.

The moral principles valid for women apply also to men when infertility is a side effect of medical treatment.

# Parish Diary



FATHER PETER J. DALY
CNS COLUMNIST

### When the bishops meet in Dallas

The cardinals' meeting in Rome in April failed to assuage the anger at the church or heal the hurt of the current clergy scandal. The U.S. bishops will have one more chance to set things right at their June meeting in Dallas, Texas.

Their response in Dallas probably will include a national policy on child abuse. But they need to demonstrate they have heard and understand the victims' anger and pain.

We do not need the response of lawyers or corporate executives. We need the response of pastors. For what it is worth, I have a few suggestions.

**If they call us "Father," act like fathers.**

A good father of a family protects the children.

One father in my parish said: "These priests and bishops are all worried about reporting this stuff to the police. If anybody ever did that to my kids, they better hope the police get to them before I do."

We need to have that same sense of outrage and a desire to protect children.

Acting like fathers means not using every legal technicality to avoid liability. It means not shifting blame for what went wrong in the family to the children. Being a father means worrying less about money, more about healing. When a father has an injured child, he does not count the healing's cost.

**Listen to the victims.**

I know the Dallas meeting's agenda is set, but this is urgent. The agenda needs to include some forum for clergy child abuse victims to be heard.

These people have good reason to be angry. Sexual abuse of children has horrible consequences. It can cause severe depression, sexual dysfunction, drug and alcohol addiction, sleeplessness, nightmares, despair, even suicide.

As part of their Dallas meeting, the bishops could hold a public penance service. They could assemble in the cathedral. They should sit in the pews. Victims from around the country could address the bishops.

Such a public airing of sin's effects would have a cleansing effect. Perhaps victims would feel they finally had been heard. Perhaps these listening sessions could be repeated in each diocese, with priests in the pews listening to the victims.

**Be sacramental.**

We should draw on our tradition of sacramental signs.Perhaps at the end of the cathedral listening session, the bishops could admit collective guilt. They could then come forward, symbolically asking the victims for some sign of forgiveness. This action could be repeated with priests in cathedrals around the country.

Our church's greatest strength is its sacramental sense. Bishops and priests with heads bowed in penance before the victims would speak much more powerfully than any 10,000-word document. It takes humility, but it would show our faith in the power of forgiveness.

**Be prophetic in tone.**

How would Amos or John the Baptist respond to this scandal? What would the Jesus who chased the money changers from the temple do?

If we are really angry about the injury to children, we should be no less forceful than the Lord. He said anyone who gave scandal to children would be better off if a millstone was tied around his neck and he was cast into the sea.

# St. John church celebrates 75th anniversary



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

**Parishioners at St. John Church in Waynesville wrapped up their 75th-anniversary year with a picnic on the church grounds May 19. Festivities combined a cookout with games for the children, including a merry-go-round and a water slide.**


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**Central Piedmont CC**
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DeStefano, Joseph
Fletcher, Michael
Pardee, John
Ramas, Marina
Sager, Charles

**College of Charleston**
Crockett, Caroline
Errico, Ashley Nicole
Terrio, Megan

**Clemson University**
Bernard, David
Hinson, William
Kuppinger, John
Rossi, Natalie
Scannell, Meghan

**Coker College**
Morabito, Christan

**Dayton, U. of**
Poff, Carly

**Duke University**
Benson, Michael
Novick, Thomas

**East Carolina U.**
Carlton, Laura
Fragakis, Jimmy
Heil, Eric
Lynch, Patrick
Nunes, Christopher
Slattery, Christine
Smith, Meaghan
Welsch, Michael

**Elon University**
Arone, Monica
Edwards, Stephanie
Eustis, John
Fleischmann, Kyle
Keach, Sarah
Mencarini, Theresa
Perret, Kathryn
Preslar, Elizabeth
Reynolds, Kristan
Shaw, Adam
Thompson, Amy

**Florida Inst. of Tech.**
Berlak, Amy

**Florida Intern'l U.**
Antunes, Gabriela

**Furman University**
Webb, Blair

**George Washington U.**
Wiggins, Neal

**Georgia, U. of**
Bouchon, Renee
DesNoyer, Erin
Kelly, Christine
Maslanka, Nicholas
Mayer, Jennifer
Nault, Sarah
Soladay, Jaclyn

**Guilford College**
Niedosik, Leonard

**Hampden-Sydney College**
Allison, William
LaBrosse, Douglas

**High Point U.**
Langevin, Kristin

**Int'l Acad.,Design & Merch.**
Norcom, Catherine

**Kettering University**
Hanson, Steven

**Lamar University**
Ervine, Robert

**Lees-McRae College**
Ervin, Mitchell

**Louisiana State U.**
Murnane, Michael
Staub, Lauren

**Loyola U- New Orleans**
Bragg, John
Hill, Timothy

**Mary Washington Col.**
Geraghty, Kathleen
Johnstone, Marguerite

**Maryland, U. of**
Eades, John

**NC A&T State U.**
West, Brandon
Wilkins, Gwendolyn

**NC Dent.Ass't Training Sch.**
Zelany, Michelle

**NC State University**
Arooji, Shiva
Bevington, Brandon
Clements, Audrie
Cole, Megan
Correll, Hannah
Cudic, Caitlin
Degnan, Kimberly
Galanti, Michael
Harkins, Brian
Hart, Deirdre
Hawkins, Edward
Holmes, Amanda
Humphries, Alden
King, Brittany
Mahedy, Neal
Martin, Gregory
McDonald, Magdalyn
McMahon, Erin
McWilliams, Anthony
Miller, Drew
Morgan, John
Rowe, Brian
Ryan, Joseph

**Northwestern U.**
Hines, Randall

**Notre Dame, U of**
Mason, Chelsea
Villier, Matthew

**Providence College**
Pannell, Robert

**Queen's Univ., Kingston**
McGroarty, Robert

**Seton Hall Univ.**
Burke, Amanda

**South Carolina, U of**
Coleman, Megan
Crane, Amy
DeMartine, Andrew
Emery, Mary Elizabeth
Harris, Ashley
Soffera, Bryan
Staub, Veronica
Sullivan, Michael
Worthington, Stanley

**Sweet Briar College**
Cox, Kelly

**Syracuse University**
De Castro, Nicolas

**Tennessee, U of**
Owczarzak, Anne

**Trident Tech. College**
Gallagher, Amie
German, Alexis
Hall, Annie
Morgan, Megan

**UNC-Chapel Hill**
Blais, Aaron
Blankemeyer, Megan
Carlucci, Christopher
Cauble, Elliot
Cox, Christopher
Davis, Joshua
Downey, James
Elliot, Patrick
Essig, Margaret
Fee, Colin
Frohne, Lauren
Gaskin, Jenya
Hazlehurst, Catherine
Lopez, Michael
Nguyen, Dan-Vinh
Penilla, Victoria
Pfefferle, Adam
Putman, Ellen
Schwartz, Christine
Steuerwald, Michael
Stober, Christopher
Tarnowicz, Stephanie
Van Hoy, Lauren

**UNC-Charlotte**
Baltmiskis, Patrick
Bertrand, Matthew
DeStefano, Michael
Gleeson, Elizabeth
Islas, Ana
Kenny, Brandon
Rains, Adrienne
Reaves, Thomas
Rebich, Timothy
Storick, Barry

**UNC-Greensboro**
Katupearachchi, Nilusha
Lindsay, Cameron
Morency, Clarissa
Nguyen, Van Nhi
Waygbeh, Gboo

**UNC-Wilmington**
Baarson, Kevin
Gomes, Kelsee
Harton, Ashley
Harton, Amanda
Joseph, Christina
Lambert, Brian
Lee, Mary
Nowell, Alison
Romano, Christine
Wenning, Emily
Whalen, Kaylee
White, Robert

**United States Navy**
Miller, Jacob

**Universal Tech. Inst.**
Dugick, Joseph

**Valparaiso Univ.**
VanDercook, Corey

**Vanderbilt Univ.**
Hegg, Kelci
Holt, Sarah
Posthauer, Janelle

**Villanova Univ.**
Bosse, Patrick
D'Amico, Joseph
Falencki, Matthew

**Virginia Tech**
Eichorn, John
Truslow, Carrie

**Virginia, Univ. of**
Conly, Hampton

**Warren Wilson College**
Stegall, Adam

**Western Carolina U.**
Bayes, Emily
Bolton, Lauren
Campbell, Christopher
Considine, Caroline
Culp, Shay
Purcell, Alison

**Wheeling Jesuit U.**
Street, Erin

**Wingate University**
Benfield, Kevin

**Xavier University**
Hennessey, Kelly

**York Tech. College**
Burbulak, Christopher

**York University**
Fordham, Fionnuala

**Undecided**
Soltis, Carli

## BMCHS

**Appalachian State Univ.**
Lo Tsz Cheng
James Patrick Day
Geoffrey Leigh Gill
Matthew Sean Madenjian

**Belmont Abbey College**
Lee Travis Coble
Alexandrew Joseph Harley
Chad Edward McDonald
Anthony Andrew Serwatka

**Campbell Univ.**
Gregory Allen Harrison

**College of Charleston**
Joseph Patrick McNeill

**Duke Univ.**
Barry Neil Creque Williams

**East Carolina Univ.**
Matthew Wayne Cohen
Claire Marie DelFavero
Courtney Diane Mikola
Melissa Dawn Petterson
Kathleen Augusta Ramey
Susan Mary Rotante
Steven Wallace Wrege, Jr.

**Elon Univ.**
Meghan Jeanne Davis
Jessica Marie Sullivan

**Greensboro College**
Mollie Beth Gray
Paige Marie Moquin

**Illinois Inst. of Technology**
Crystal Elaine Richards-Jimenez

**Lenoir-Rhyne College**
Jamie Nicole Robinson
Katrina Michelle Storer

**Manhattan College**
Meredith Theresa Kindl

**N C School of the Arts**
Patrick Joseph Leonard, IV

**N C State Univ.**
Tad Williams Lowdermilk, II

**Pace Univ.**
Ashley Ann Shore

**Peace College**
Colleen Catherine Phelan

**Purdue Univ.**
Matthew Steven Bastin

**Randolph-Macon College**
Eric Loflin Smith

**Salem College**
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# Sister dedicates life to education

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Franciscan Sister Beverly Eichler will be saying goodbye to students at St. Patrick School after nearly 15 years of serving as an educator and administrator. Sister Beverly was invited to work in the Diocese of Charlotte by Franciscan Sister Mona Wingert, her former superior and principal, while they were working in Chicago.

Sister Beverly began teaching fourth-grade and started one of the first learning support centers at St. Patrick School. After working at St. Gabriel School for several years, she returned to St. Patrick and has been the assistant principal for the past three years.

"St. Pat's is very family-oriented and has been a great place to work. Everyone has a warm spirit, so it is not hard to be here every day," said Sister Beverly, who will be retiring and moving back to the Sisters of St. Francis motherhouse in Iowa in June. "We have a loving principal, exceptional kids and willing parents who are so ready to work really hard for the school."

The country girl adjusted well to city life, but Charlotte is a long way from the farm in Pocahontas, Iowa, where Sister Beverly grew up. Taking care of the chickens and looking after the other animals filled many days of her young life. "We helped out as much as we could," she said of the farm inherited by her father from her grandfather.

The two Eichler girls attended the local school until they were sent to Catholic school via a bus purchased by the area farmers. Faith was at the center of Eichler's young life, and she received her cues from her mother, a devout Catholic.

"My mother taught us our prayers, and she prayed the rosary daily. She started a block rosary in October and May and went to different farms in the neighborhood," said Sister Beverly. "Mom was a faithful and faith-filled person with complete trust in God. I'm sure that is where I received my vocation."

When Eichler was in fifth-grade, her mother asked her if she would become a sister. Eichler responded with "only if I can be like Sister Catherine," one of her teachers who she says "planted the seed."

She continued with her high school education complete with group dating and barn dances, and a few months after graduation in 1954, Eichler entered the community in Dubuque, Iowa. "I was 18 then and knew what it was that I wanted to do," she said. "When I first met them (the sisters), they seemed to be very happy. I knew I would always have a family in community, which I appreciated."

Education was the Franciscan sisters' main ministry, and Eicher followed her path with steady but sometimes unsure steps. She embraced teaching but fought with occasional feelings of loneliness and fear of the unknown.

"Our community was a teaching community, and we had very strong teachers who taught us how to teach," said Sister Beverly, who began her teaching career with first and second grades in Alton, Iowa. "You were learning as they were learning, so there were times of scariness, but it was new and adventurous."

Sister Beverly professed final vows in 1957 and continued to hone her classroom skills with students. She enjoyed working with elementary-aged children because of their thirst for learning and eagerness to participate.



"I loved seeing the excitement they had when they learned their first words and could read their first book. They would drink in anything and were so inhibited and expressive," said Sister Beverly, who received her bachelor's in education in 1963 from Briarcliff College and her master's in reading education from Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa, 10 years later. "I became excited with every group I taught because I was helping them learn something new."

She was transferred to Waterloo, Iowa, where she continued teaching first-graders and also helped the children prepare for first Communion. "The innocence of them getting ready to receive the Eucharist excited me. They were full of joy and love," she remembered.

For the next 13 years, she taught first- and second-grade and reading classes in Chicago. This was a transition period because Vatican II convened, and the results affected her community. She welcomed the changes and was ready for different approaches and new ideas.

"I remember when we had to take the habits off. I wanted people to respect me for who I was rather than what I wore," she said of the change from the long, brown, woolen habits and black veils. "When the changes came, I accepted them. We had good leaders in our community that helped us along those lines."

She was sent to Oyens, Iowa, to continue her work in elementary education and had to readjust to small-town living. However, her farming background prepared her for the change, and she grew to enjoy the slower pace. Her next location was Eugene, Ore., where she became involved in parish ministry. Sister Beverly took advantage of the location in between the coast and the mountains, taking long walks and getting to know many of the locals.

Because her mother was growing older and she wanted to be nearer to her, she was sent back to Waterloo, Iowa, where she taught learning support for children with learning disabilities for the next eight years. Charlotte was the final stop on her journey as a woman religious, and now, retirement is on the horizon. She will be working in the chapel on the grounds of the motherhouse. She says that her life has been thoroughly fulfilling and enjoyable.

"We (women religious) have the freedom to give to all people; we aren't just concerned with family at this particular time. We can share the gifts we have, and that is what we are all put on this earth for regardless of color or creed. It is part of our responsibility," said Sister Beverly.

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

# Musical, from page 4

"Evita," "Cats," and "Phantom of the Opera," among others.)

Pisano began work on "Sermon" in January 2000, finishing in June 2001. "I started writing the play," she said, "but I had to stop because I had to get a job." Pisano was working part time at St. Barnabas Church in Arden, but needed additional employment. While at St. Barnabas, she directed Marty Haugen's musicals "Song of Mark" and "Tales of Wonder," but wanted to create her own material.

"I love doing drama with multigenerational church groups," she said, "(but) I was running dry. I kept thinking, 'I can do this; I can write a play.' " It's the poetry in Luke's writing that particularly touches her.

"A friend suggested I put on a concert of the music I'd finished and said, 'If people liked it, they'll back you up.' Within six weeks of the concert, a group of seven wonderful investors formed Plain Productions to fund me while I finished writing."

To make sure that the musical contained nothing contrary to Scripture, Pisano asked Father John Schneider, pastor of St. Elizabeth Church in Boone, to read the work.

"It proclaims the good news wonderfully and makes it come alive in a completely different way," Father Schneider said. "The people in the cast have an opportunity to share the good news and bring the gospel alive in the 21st century."

Pisano is preparing material that will allow others to perform her work. "We are in the process of putting together books so that parishes and other groups could purchase the rights (from Plain Productions) to put on the play, just like any community theater," Pisano said. "I wrote this to be as big or as small as it needs to be, so that other parishes could do it."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

May 31, 2002
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This issue begins our bi-weekly publishing schedule of The Catholic News & Herald. Our next issue will be June 14.

# A sweet recipe for success

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

BELMONT — It's lunchtime, and the Cherubs Café is bustling. Not line-out-the-door full, but a steady stream of regulars and newcomers who stumble into perhaps the best-kept lunchtime secret in downtown Belmont.

The menu board calls attention to daily specials, but the word around the quaint Gaston County town is that the café serves the best Reuben in the area, and their chicken salad has gained certain notoriety, bringing customers back just for to-go tubs of the pecan-speckled salad.

Cherubs, and its sister, Gifts & Candy Bouquets, sit side-by-side: Two sweet success stories nestled along the historic Main Street in Belmont. On one side, the best lunch menu in town; next door, an innovative shop sure to brighten the day of all candy lovers.

A unique alternative to flowers, candy bouquets are buds and arrangements of candy handcrafted with floral tape to spires similar to a floral support. At first glance, it looks like a dozen fire-red roses. Leaning in closer, the scent isn't floral, it's chocolate.

The secret to the success of Cherubs Café and Gifts & Candy Bouquets comes from the knowledge the entities are serving up more than food and candy concoctions. They are serving up ample helpings of self-esteem, with side orders of viability.

### Heavenly delights

The heart of any restaurant is its kitchen, and that holds true at the Cher-

See SWEET SUCCESS, page 8



Photo by Joann S. Keane

**Kitchen helper Lorraine shows carrots to Anna Bilas [a vocational special education teacher] in the kitchen of Cherubs Café, Gifts & Candy Bouquets in Belmont. The café provides vocational training and meaningful, supported employment options for individuals with mental retardation. Cherubs also provides the local community and surrounding areas the opportunity to learn more about the programs, services, work and ministry of Holy Angels, a Sisters of Mercy ministry serving the needs of children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation who also have multiple disabilities. Lorraine is a resident of Holy Angels.**

# Belmont Abbey College reaches out to Hispanics

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College is determined to position itself as a critical resource for the growing Hispanic community.

Approximately 50 people attended the college's Hispanic Outreach dinner discussion on campus May 28. The meeting was an opportunity for college and diocesan officials to sit down with Hispanic community leaders to develop ways in which the college can better serve local Hispanics.

"This was an initial get-to-know-you dinner," said Dean de la Motte, academic dean of Belmont Abbey College. "We (the college) really want to be of service. We want to be an entity that helps the Hispanic community and not be a spectator."

Dr. James Gearity, president of Belmont Abbey College, and Father Mauricio West, chancellor and vicar general for the Diocese of Charlotte, attended the meeting. Father West said the diocese welcomed the opportunity to partner with the college in serving the needs of the Hispanic community.

Belmont Abbey College has many reasons for initiating an outreach program, said de la Motte, right down to the college's primary mission: to educate students "from diverse religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds" as "guided by Catholic intellectual heritage" and inspired by Benedictine monastic tradition, as stated on the college's Web site.

"It's helpful for Hispanics to know just why we're interested in

See HISPANICS, page 15

### Brazilians celebrate Italian nun as country's first saint

NOVA TRENTON, Brazil (CNS) — More than 40,000 Catholics arrived in Nova Trenton early May 20 to pay homage to Brazil's first saint, an Italian nun who lived most of her life in the South American country. A large TV screen was set up in the southern town's main square so followers could see Pope John Paul II canonize St. Paulina of the Suffering Heart of Jesus, known to most Brazilians as Mother Paulina. Sister Ligia Mora, event coordinator, said inclement weather kept the crowd down. Originally, organizers were expecting more than 100,000 people. While many came to thank the new saint for prayers answered, many came to ask for St. Paulina's help. The nuns who carefully recorded prayer requests for St. Paulina said most requests were for jobs and cures for diseases, such as cancer. The tiny box with the capacity to hold 200 requests had to be emptied every 20 minutes.

### Canon lawyers offered principles for dealing with church challenges

HARRISBURG, Pa. (CNS) — A canon law professor presented a set of faith-based legal principles that diocesan canonists can use as they respond to the challenges facing the church. First and foremost, canonists must be humble, Dominican Sister Elizabeth McDonough said in a speech May 8 at the Eastern regional Conference of Canonists held in Harrisburg. She told the canonists to continue applying their skills and expertise in service to God's people, while at the same time "recognizing, embracing and developing the gifts of others." Hosted by the Diocese of Harrisburg, the conference brought together approximately 110 canonists from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia and the District of Columbia. An associate professor of canon law at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., Sister McDonough focused her address on the Code of Canon Law as it applies to the church's current round of challenges involving clergy sex abuse.




CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**American flag is removed from support beam at ground zero**
**Recovery workers cut away an American flag from the last support beam remaining at ground zero in New York City May 28. The beam, which became a makeshift memorial during recovery work at the former World Trade Center site, was removed at a ceremony May 30.**

### Crucifixes are sacred symbols, not jewelry, says Vatican news agency

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A crucifix is not simply a piece of jewelry, so wearing one should be accompanied by acts of Christian charity, said the Vatican's Fides news agency. "Wearing crucifixes made of diamonds and precious metals is a spreading fashion," said the agency in a brief May 21 commentary. "Stars of the world of entertainment and fashion have made it the mania of the moment," said the guest commentary by Andrea Piersanti, president of an Italian Catholic cinema organization. He pointed out that Jennifer Aniston, a member of the cast of the television program "Friends," wears a platinum crucifix decorated with diamonds. The model "Naomi Campbell has a collection of gigantic and very precious crucifixes" and the Italian designer Giuliana Cella "has more than 400." The actress Catherine Zeta-Jones "wears one of yellow gold and diamonds," he said. "It's an incomprehensible mania," he said.

### Encyclical rumored on Eucharist; homily on sacrament is published

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While Vatican officials would not confirm reports that Pope John Paul II is preparing an encyclical on the Eucharist, the Vatican newspaper published a Vatican official's homily on the sacrament. "Christ is alive and, hidden in the sacramental sign, is truly present. These are not empty words, not a superstitious suggestion or mythical fantasy — it is reality," said Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re. The cardinal, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, presided over the May 12 closing Mass of a Eucharistic Congress in Cesena, Italy. The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, published the text of the homily May 22, the day after an Italian news agency reported that Pope John Paul was preparing a new encyclical on the Eucharist. The agency, ANSA, said the encyclical will underline the Catholic Church's faith that Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and that the celebration of the sacrament is not simply a way to remember the Last Supper, but makes the sacrifice of Christ real again.

### Knights of Columbus museum hosts exhibit of Gismondi sculptures

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — No visitor to the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven can stroll past Mother Teresa of Calcutta without stopping in his or her tracks. The saintly nun, sculpted in a life-size bronze, carries a dying child in her arms while another suffering child reaches up for her help. Tomasso Gismondi, the sculptor, went beyond her facial features to capture her extraordinary compassion. "There is such emotion in the way she greets you," said museum director Larry Sowinski. "The sculptor tells the story of Mother Teresa." The eloquent piece is one of the major works in a show titled "Gismondi: A Journey Through the Art and Life of a Remarkable Italian Sculptor." The museum is hosting this exclusive, one-time U.S. exhibit of the works of the internationally renowned sculptor through Sept. 2.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**June 8 — 4:30 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Andrew the Apostle, Mars Hill

**June 9 — 3 p.m.**
Confirmation for Hispanics
St. Michael, Gastonia

**June 10 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Joseph, Asheboro

**June 11 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. Francis of Assisi, Jefferson

**June 12-14**
USCCB Spring Provincial Meeting
Dallas

**June 15 — 10 a.m.**
Sisters of Mercy Jubilee Mass
Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, Belmont

## Diocesan planner

**June**

**5** CHARLOTTE — The Newman Singers from the University of Iowa Newman Center will be performing a concert at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., tonight at 7:30 p.m. For more information about the free concert of liturgical and inspirational music, call Marti Dushak, director of music, at (704) 545-1224.

**5** CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will be having a meeting with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**6** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Ladies' Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. in Greensboro. The LAOH will also be hosting a brunch June 2 at Embassy Suites in Greensboro from 12-2 p.m. For brunch reservations, call Elaine McHale at (336) 292-1118. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

**8** CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo community will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight and every second Saturday of the month for a school of leaders at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For further information, call Ky Do at (704) 532-9094.

**9** CHARLOTTE — The 35th anniversary of charismatic renewal will be commemorated with a Mass to be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. Several diocesan priests will be concelebrating the Mass. All are asked to bring banners with poles and stands. For further information, contact Joyce Brown at (704) 547-1836.

**11** STATESVILLE — The Seniors Club of St. Philip the Apostle Church, 525 Camden Dr., will have its annual picnic

### New Mexico parish gets steel beams from World Trade Center

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A New Mexico parish is commemorating the return of one of its old church bells by building a new bell tower with two steel beams from the World Trade Center. Representatives of Sacred Heart Parish in Albuquerque drove nearly two days to New York City to claim the 20-foot beams. "They told us last week we had to come get the beams because by May 30 they were going to close down the site" of World Trade Center recovery operations, said John Garcia, executive director of the Barelas Community Development Corp., who made the New York trip with Sacred Heart pastor Father James Moore. Barelas is the historic Albuquerque neighborhood where Sacred Heart Church is located.

### USCCB president warns against exaggerated views in sex abuse scandal

BELLEVILLE, Ill. (CNS) — Writing in his diocesan newspaper, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops warned against unfair and exaggerated views of the priesthood or the Catholic Church as a result of the clergy sex abuse crisis. "The Catholic Church is not hopelessly corrupt — as many accounts would have you believe," Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville wrote in the May 24 issue of The Messenger, Belleville diocesan paper. "The priesthood is not filled with child molesters and perverts — in spite of the horrendous behavior of a few grotesque clerics," he added. "All bishops have not been negligent, deceitful or conniving in attempting to address this issue — though a number of terrible mistakes have been made by some of us."

### Pope's offer of a Rome church for Orthodox catches monks by surprise

ROME (CNS) — When Pope John Paul II announced he was offering Rome's Bulgarian Orthodox community use of a Catholic church, the details he said were still to be worked out apparently included informing the monks who run the church. Officials at the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity already had given a tour of the Church of Sts. Vincent and Anastasius to a Bulgarian Orthodox delegation visiting Rome in early May. But when the pope made his announcement in Bulgaria May 24, it was news to the community of Cistercian monks who celebrate Mass in the church twice a day on weekdays and three times on Sundays and holy days of obligation. Cistercian Father Mahari, who was staffing the church directly in front of the Trevi Fountain May 24, wondered if the news was true and if he and his confreres would be allowed to continue their ministry there.



CNS PHOTO FROM CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

**Pope John Paul II and U.S. President Bush discuss issues**

**U.S. President George W. Bush sits with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican May 28. President Bush expressed concern over the sex abuse scandals in the U.S. Catholic Church and thanked the pontiff for his leadership during the crisis. The pope said that, despite the current difficulties, he trusted the commitment of American Catholics.**

### Aftermath of standoff: Bethlehem residents seek peace amid chaos

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Bethlehem residents continued cleaning their city some 10 days after the end of the standoff at the Church of the Nativity and a 40-day Israeli-imposed curfew. At the church's Franciscan parish hall, destroyed by fire during the standoff, workers threw out rubble and plastered walls. Outside the church, clean-up teams cleared streets. "The future of Bethlehem is destroyed. My soul is broken," said Catholic resident Edward Anton Salman, 45. "I put my faith in God, but only peace can mend my soul." Salman, who used to work in construction, and four other men were straightening stone parking poles uprooted by Israeli tanks during the incursion. The men — all of whom have been without jobs for almost two years, since the start of the intifada — were given the cleanup work by a Palestinian charitable organization that will pay their salary for five days of work.

### Latin American, European bishops urge development in poor countries

EL ESCORIAL, Spain (CNS) — Globalization must be made to work for the poor as well as the rich, the bishops of Latin America and Europe told heads of state from 48 nations. Meeting together for the first time, the bishops urged the heads of state to give priority to the social dimensions of economic development, to fight against poverty and corruption and to protect the environment. "We are concerned about secularization and the crisis of values in our societies, but we are inspired by the search for spirituality, meaning, humanization and for new answers in various spheres in this era of profound change for humanity," said a statement issued by the bishops two days before a summit of Latin American and European heads of state in Madrid, Spain, May 17-18.

### Senior volunteers may be retired from careers but not from service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — There are some for whom retirement means taking it easy, and then there are the people who give time to the Ignatian Lay Volunteer Corps. More than 150 strong in six Jesuit provinces, these seniors have made at least a year's commitment to work with and for the poor in their communities and to reflect on those experiences in the Jesuit tradition. More than simply trying to keep busy, they are motivated primarily by gratitude for the blessings in their lives. "Where there is gratitude, there is generosity," said Jesuit Father Jim Conroy, founder of the program. Father Conroy, along with Jesuit Father Charlie Costello, started the corps in Baltimore seven years ago. It has expanded to Washington, Philadelphia/New Jersey, New York City, central New York state, Detroit, Chicago and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

## Late Printing

This issue of The Catholic News & Herald was published several days behind schedule. We apologize to our readers for the delay.

following 11 a.m. Mass today. All seniors are invited to attend. For further details, call the church office at (704) 872-2579.

**12** CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program featuring the Dancing Disciples and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Bobbe Conlin at (704) 643-1376 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

**12** GASTONIA— A series of presentations; sponsored by CSS Elder Ministry and facilitated by Richard Von Stamwitz, a national certified gerontological counselor; will continue throughout the diocese. Today's presentation will be given at St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with lunch served at 12:15 p.m. The topic, "Creative Aging/ Making a Difference in Later Life," will be presented in two sessions and will focus on "The Dignity of Older People and Their Mission in the Church and the World" and "Blessings of Age: A Pontifical Message on Growing Older Within the Faith Community." For pre-registration and other information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Marlo Wallace at (704) 370-3228.

**13** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be hosting ultreyas on the following dates and times: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. tonight for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1:15-2 p.m. on June 23 with a School of Leaders at 1 p.m. and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3 p.m. on June 23 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665.

**17** ASHEVILLE — The St. Martin De Porres Pro-Chapter of the Dominican Laity meets the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in St. Justin's Center at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid, OPL, at (828) 253-6676.

**17** CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

**18** SALISBURY — Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministry in collaboration with U.S. Financial Services will be presenting "The Senior Financial Workshop" this morning from 10-11:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St. The free educational workshop for seniors 65 and over will focus on Medicaid, social security, taxes, financial planning and other topics. For reservations and other information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220.

**22** WINSTON-SALEM — St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St., will be hosting a program on spiritual growth today from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and June 23 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Jesuit Father Richard McHugh, Ph.D., will be presenting an introductory workshop aimed at deepening one's personal, social and spiritual growth through neurolinguistic programming (NLP) entitled "Discovering Yourself." NLP is a way of training the brain to learn healthy patterns and behaviors to bring about positive physical and emotional effects. Lunch will be provided for both dates. For reservations and other details, call Jesuit Father Larry Hunt at (336) 725-9200.

**23** MAGGIE VALLEY — Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, will be presenting "The God Who Reconciles," a program about divine love and reconciliation beginning this evening through June 29. Dr. Diane Gautney, licensed psychologist and certified spiritual director, will aid participants in learning to listen for God's call despite outside influences and interferences. To register, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

# Deacon's lifetime of song leads to CD

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

FOREST CITY — The title of his first CD is "Sing to the Lord a New Song," but Andy Cilone's forte is well-established religious music and popular standards.

Rev. Mr. Andrew J. Cilone, permanent deacon at Immaculate Conception Church, chose the title song because it was the music used at his diaconate ordination in 1983. His 15-song CD of religious selections also includes "Lift High the Cross," "Panis Angelicus," "Amazing Grace," "How Can I Keep From Singing?" and "Our Father"; he wrote his own music for that particular selection.

"Basically, I was born singing," he said. "I remember at 3 or 4 years old, I was taught all the Italian songs."

Rev. Mr. Cilone was born in 1937, the youngest of 12 children of parents who had emigrated from Sicily to Follansbee, W.Va., with their two oldest children. The community was mostly Italian immigrants who worked in the local steel mill. The Cilones, however, owned The Spaghetti House, the local Italian restaurant.

Cilone attended Catholic grade school, where, as a boy soprano, he got all the solo parts. "The poor nun was really upset when his voice changed," Rev. Mr. Cilone's wife, JoAnn, said.

The soprano had become a baritone, and Cilone competed in local talent shows. He even garnered a spot with the Bobby Vinton Orchestra after Vinton recorded his first hit, "Roses Are Red," and toured as a solo act. Cilone himself performed solo at various engagements, to which JoAnn accompanied him.

"It must have been love," she said about traveling with him, recalling a New Year's Eve gig in Mingo Junction, Ohio, with elderly people — some leaning on canes — tottering in for the show.

Cilone also sang in his Catholic church choir, soloed in a Presbyterian church choir and served for 10 years as cantor at a Jewish temple in nearby Steubenville, Ohio.

"After high school I was taking singing lessons," Rev. Mr. Cilone said. "The woman who gave the lessons also sang at the temple. They were looking for a replacement for the cantor and asked if I wanted to audition. I went to my priest to ask if it was OK."

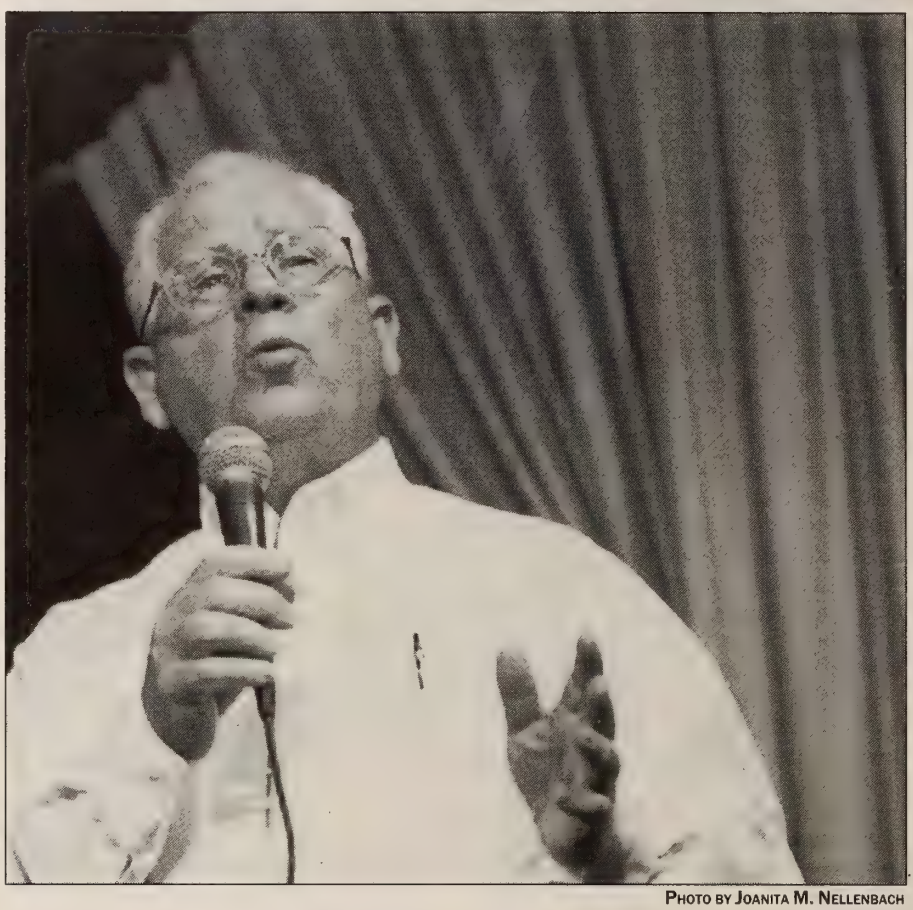


Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**Rev. Mr. Andy Cilone launches into a ballad during his concert at the Hodges Visitor Center May 24.**

When the priest learned that Cilone would be obligated only on Friday evenings, he replied, "I can't think of a better place for you to spend Friday nights."

"I had choir practice on Wednesday, temple on Friday, and was song leader at St. Anthony," Rev. Mr. Cilone said. "I'd go to our church first and then go over and sing at the Presbyterian church. That was in the '60s when ecumenism began, so I was right up with the times."

Later, he worked for C. F. Sauer Co., a manufacturer of spices and extracts. In the 1980s, the company transferred him and his family to Shelby, N.C.; he managed the Sauer facility for 21 years.

"When the plant closed," he said, "I took early retirement. That's when I got serious about my singing."

The plant closed in February 2001; in February 2002, he recorded the CD with keyboard arrangements and accompaniment by Diane McEnnerney, Immaculate Conception's organist and director of the Rutherford County Arts Council and the Globe Theatre Repertory Company. Rev. Mr. Cilone met her when she attended RCIA sessions at Immaculate Conception.

At Immaculate Conception, where "the congregation is the choir," Rev. Mr. Cilone cantors all three Masses each weekend. "The first weekend we were here," he said, "I noticed they didn't have a song leader at Mass, so I went to Father (Joe McCarthy) and asked if he'd like to have someone lead the singing."

Rev. Mr. Cilone also sang with the Isothermal Community College Chorus, but "that was before deacon days," he said.

Rev. Mr. Cilone's diaconate duties keep him busy with Communion calls two days a week, coordinating religious education, conducting marriage preparation sessions, baptismal preparation and helping with church maintenance.

He still finds time to sing, including programs at nursing homes, and has been invited back to Follansbee in July to perform during Community Days.

On May 24, Rev. Mr. Cilone gave a concert in the Hodges Visitor Center, which serves also as a performing-arts center until the Globe Theatre is built. He sings in English and Italian, and his program contained a variety of Italian songs including "I Can't Get You Out of My Heart" and "O Sole Mio."

He then switched to selections from his CD: "Go Rest High on the Mountain," his grandson Austin's personal favorite; "God Bless America" and "Let There Be Peace on Earth." Then it was on to ballads and Broadway music, including "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," "My Happiness," "The Sound of Music" and "If I Were a Rich Man," from "Fiddler on the Roof."

He believes that his music and diaconate ministry enhance each other. "My ministry is in the church, but so is my singing," he said. "I expand my ministry by singing, and I bring my music outside the church."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

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# Sowing seeds, tending the garden, watching it grow

"Planting Seeds of Hope"

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Parishioners across the diocese have scattered their seeds of hope that will grow into programs and ministries to help those in need. The annual Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) has come to a close, but people are continuing to share of their time, talent and treasure in the spirit of stewardship. The theme of this year's appeal was "Planting Seeds of Hope."

To date, the target goal of $3,550,000 was exceeded by over 9 percent with $3,863,380 pledged. Over 18,600 households have contributed to the appeal, and 75 percent of parishes have reached or exceeded their goals, said Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development.

The money will go toward four areas of focus including Catholic Social Services, multicultural ministries, educational ministries and vocations. The permanent diaconate, campus ministry, Catholic Social Services, Hispanic ministry, faith formation, seminarian training and lay ministry are but a few of the life-giving ministries yielding fruit to nourish those in the diocese with some type of spiritual or material hunger.

The target goal is based on the yearly budgets of these ministries, not on the goal from the year before. Churches that surpass their original goal, assigned by the diocese, will receive that extra amount back from the diocese after all donations are sent in and tallied.

In his column in the Jan. 25 issue of The Catholic News & Herald, Bishop William G. Curlin noted the importance of the annual appeal, from a spiritual as well as a practical standpoint.

"The DSA is an opportunity to participate in the very heart of God's work. It is a way of helping our children grow in their faith through quality faith formation and youth ministry programs," wrote the bishop. "I see the DSA as a way that every parishioner can participate in the ministries so vital to the life of our diocese. The DSA provides an opportunity for others to join with me in reaching out to make Christ present in a world where his presence is so sorely needed."

The official appeal was conducted from February through Appeal Sunday weekend March 16 and 17. For some parishes, where many spend the winter outside the diocese and have congregations made up of many visitors, their Appeal Sunday will be conducted when their summer residents have settled in for the season.

Gaddy said the numbers will go up, and a final count will be determined at the end of August after these churches receive all of their donations. But the DSA covers more than a monetary benefit; it reaches out to people's sense of dedication to their parish family, the diocese and those who benefit from the various programs and ministries

"I firmly believe that as more parishes promote stewardship as a way of living out discipleship, people will continue to see the DSA as a way of truly living the corporal works of mercy — the key to the appeal," said Gaddy. "It is so reassuring to know that I have helped plant a seed that will flourish and make a positive difference in someone else's life."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*


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# Latest trip shows how pope's power of communication is gradually slipping away

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

SOFIA, Bulgaria (CNS) — For several weeks before his trip to Bulgaria, Pope John Paul II took pronunciation lessons from a priest so that his Bulgarian-language speeches could be understood.

The priest traveled to the Vatican from the Bulgarian Diocese of Plovdiv, and he found the pope a quick learner.

"He was a good student, very attentive," said Father Petar Kjossov, who spent an hour-and-a-half daily with the pontiff for nearly a month.

In Sofia May 24, the lessons seemed to pay off when the pope launched into a speech to artists, educators and politicians.

"Oh!" gasped a young Bulgarian translator, who was watching on TV. "He's speaking Bulgarian, and it's very good."

But less than a minute later, the pope's voice slurred and faded, and his audience strained to make out the syllables. Then a local priest took over and read the papal text.

"I guess he got tired," the translator said.

More than on any previous journey, the pope's trip to Azerbaijan and Bulgaria marked a steep decline in the pope's physical condition and especially in his ability to express himself.

Once known as the great communicator, the 82-year-old pontiff is finding his own powers of communication fast slipping away. The polyglot pope today has trouble making himself understood in any language.

When he addressed monks at the historic monastery in Rila, an event broadcast on Bulgarian national TV, his voice projected so poorly that the microphone didn't pick it up. He sat bent over in a large white chair, chin on his chest, both hands shaking — and someone else quickly stepped in to read the speech.

The pope has for several years suffered from a neurological disease, believed to be Parkinson's, which has caused his speech to become less distinct and his movements unsteady.

But on this trip, the effects were dramatically visible to all. At one point, he apparently could not descend from his popemobile to lay a wreath at a statue of Sts. Cyril and Methodius.

For the first time, instead of walking down airplane steps, he was lowered to the tarmac in a "papal lift" behind the aircraft and out of sight of photographers. During events, he was rolled on a special wheeled platform or supported as he walked by two aides.

At Masses, his irregular breathing was amplified by the altar microphone, prompting concerned looks among the faithful. In Azerbaijan, he did not distribute Communion and seemed barely able to preside over the Communion rite, which required him to stand at the altar.

His hosts reacted with a mixture of admiration and apprehension.

After watching the pope struggle through the brief ceremony at Rila, Orthodox Archbishop Simeon said he felt like he was watching a heroic missionary at work.

"We honor this great mission, which is his wish. Who of us can do this? No one. He is suffering, like Christ," the archbishop said.

"But I think the people around him, they must tell him he has to stop," he added with concern.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said May 25 that the pope would keep up his foreign travels as part of his papal ministry, even if he has to work within the "obvious limitations" imposed by his declining health. He confirmed the pope's July trip to Toronto for World Youth Day, but hinted that planned stops in Guatemala and Mexico might be canceled.

"Toronto is certain. For the others, we shall see," he said.

The pope today often communicates in signals instead of language. When he raises his right hand, it's a sign of his appreciation; when he taps his fingers on the arm of a chair, it's like applause — with his shaking and clenched hands, he cannot clap anymore.

A smile is perhaps the ultimate papal gesture, because it has broken through the mask his disease has imposed on his facial muscles.

Sometimes the pope's body language is misread by his audience. At a performance of traditional music in Azerbaijan, the pope placed both hands on the side of his head, as if to steady himself in his chair. But many in the hall thought he was covering his ears.

The pope has good days and bad days, and some have noticed that he seems more energetic in the afternoon and evening than in the morning. For that reason, some events — like his meeting with young people in Plovdiv the evening of May 26 — seemed to recapture some of the old spark.

But even on good days, the pope's ability to ad lib has been reduced to a few remarks.

Through it all, most of the pope's top aides appear remarkably at ease with the pope's physical struggles. They treat him as a family would treat an elder who is still in charge, stepping in only when necessary to turn a page, wipe his mouth or help him down a step.

In Bulgaria, however, journalists thought Cardinal Walter Kasper looked a little worried as he stood next to the pontiff.

"We are all concerned," the cardinal said later. But he said the pope's public trials were a sign of his determination and a good example to a modern society that often fails to appreciate the contributions of the old and infirm.

### Charlotte Diocese seminarians receive degrees

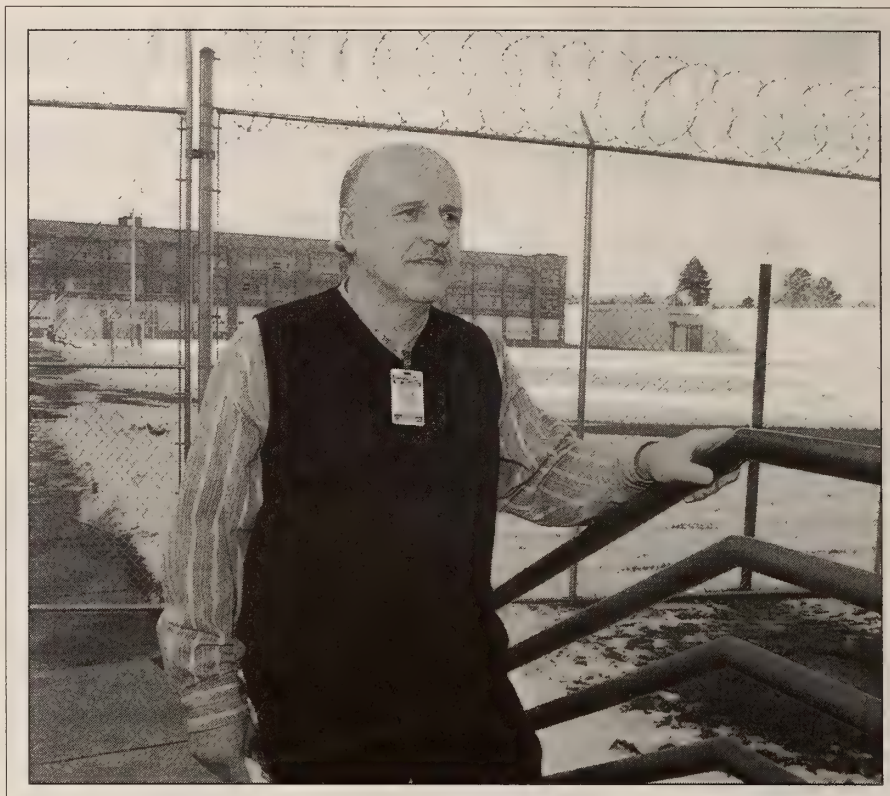
BALTIMORE — St. Mary's Seiminary & University recently awarded two degrees to two seminarians from the Diocese of Charlotte. A baccalaureate in Sacred Theology and a Master of Divinity were bestowed on Johnathan Matthew Hanic and Lawrence Matthew LoMonaco during the commencement ceremony on May 16. Founded in 1791 by the Society of St. Sulpice, a French community of priests dedicated to the formation of parish priests, St. Mary's Seminary & University is the first Roman Catholic seminary in the United States.

### Priest says Mother Teresa could be beatified within a year

ROME (CNS) — After an Italian newspaper reported that Mother Teresa of Calcutta could be beatified within a year, the promoter of her cause said technically it would be possible. "If everything goes favorably, the beatification could be sooner rather than later," said Missionaries of Charity Father Brian Kolodiejchuk May 21 when asked if Mother Teresa could be beatified within a year. He said that in late April he gave the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes a four-volume, 5,000-page biography of Mother Teresa recounting her "life, virtue and reputation for holiness." The report, known as a "positio," must be studied by nine theologians.

### Expert assesses church teaching on war before, after Sept. 11

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — Developments in Catholic teaching on war and peace since Sept. 11 demand a new understanding that goes far beyond the just-war theory, according to an adviser to the U.S. bishops on international affairs. Jesuit Father Drew Christiansen, former director of the bishops' Office of International Justice and Peace who still serves as a counselor for international affairs, traced the history of the just-war tradition before and after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 in a talk to the National Association of Diocesan Attorneys, meeting in Arlington. "Sept. 11 and the ensuing war on terrorism have, at the very least, uncovered the diversity of Catholic positions on the use of force, and may drive us yet to formulate a new, synthetic, Catholic view of peace and war," said Father Christiansen, who is a senior fellow and interim director at the Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University in Washington.



CNS PHOTO BY DAVE HRBACEK, CATHOLIC SPIRIT

**Father Greg Skrypek ministers at Minnesota prison**
**Father Greg Skrypek enters the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Stillwater, Minn. The priest has made daily rounds at the prison, which he considers his parish, for the last 17 years.**

### East Timor's president says church plays large role in reconstruction

DILI, East Timor (CNS) — East Timor's first president has expressed strong support for the role of the Catholic Church in the process of building a democratic state. President Xanana Gusmao promised to try his "best to continue to give people the opportunity to know about freedom, tolerance and democracy" and invited the church to help, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. "I see a very important role for the church, in giving a message to the people, not only with respect to democracy but also to give confidence to people as individuals or as groups (and) that is very important," he said. His esteem for the church is so high that Gusmao, the former guerrilla leader turned president, paid tribute to the church during his acceptance speech following the April 14 presidential election. More than 90 percent of East Timor's 740,000 people are Catholic.

### Russian court rules U.S. priest has right to head Russian parish

MOSCOW (CNS) — In an encouraging sign for Russia's embattled Catholics, a provincial court ruled in mid-May that a U.S. Catholic priest had the right to be the head of a parish in the Siberian port city of Magadan. Father Michael Shields of the Archdiocese of Anchorage, Alaska, has worked since 1994 in Magadan, a city of 540,000 on the Sea of Okhotsk. Officials from the local Ministry of Justice said earlier this year that, as a foreigner, he could no longer lead the city's Nativity of Jesus Parish. After retaining a Moscow-based lawyer, Father Shields took the case to the Magadan Regional Court, which handed him a victory May 15. The Justice Ministry has until June 1 to appeal the verdict, said Father Shields' lawyer, Vladimir Ryakhovsky. Father Shields told the Catholic Anchor, Anchorage archdiocesan newspaper, the ruling "closes the particular question about whether a foreigner can serve as a pastor in a Catholic parish."

### For some graduates, fateful day changed perspectives, priorities

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (CNS) — Every spring, college graduates in cap and gown march into their life's work to the tune of "Pomp and Circumstance." But the circumstances of a single event — the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States — will to varying degrees affect the outlooks of some graduates this spring as they embark on their careers. "Any time a tragedy of such magnitude happens, it is natural for people to step back, look around and see where they are as far as what they're doing with their lives," Brian Ragatz, told the St. Cloud Visitor, newspaper of the St. Cloud Diocese. He graduated May 12 from St. John's University in Collegeville with a major in social work and a minor in education. Ragatz, who is from Mendota Heights, said Sept. 11 already has made the way he teaches philosophy more global and inclusive of other cultures.


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For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

# New Mexico parish gets steel beams from WTC

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A New Mexico parish is commemorating the return of one of its old church bells by building a new bell tower with two steel beams from the World Trade Center.

Representatives of Sacred Heart Parish in Albuquerque drove nearly two days to New York City to claim the 20-foot beams.

"They told us last week we had to come get the beams because by May 30 they were going to close down the site" of World Trade Center recovery operations, said John Garcia, executive director of the Barelas Community Development Corp., who made the New York trip with Sacred Heart pastor Father James Moore.

Barelas is the historic Albuquerque neighborhood where Sacred Heart Church is located. The original church had to be torn down in the 1970s because of structural problems. The parish moved the church to a former gymnasium across the street.

But when the church was torn down, the two bells from the bell tower disappeared. One of the 3,000-pound bells was found recently and has been sitting in the new church, prompting discussion on what should go into the making of a new bell tower.

The consensus parish leaders reached was to make a connection to the Sept. 11 terror attack with the construction of the tower.

"What a great way to memorialize the victims of Sept. 11 by transforming part of it (the World Trade Center) into a bell tower," Garcia told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from New York May 22.

"We wrote a letter to the mayor of New York asking for assistance in finding some steel beams. That way we could pay tribute and recognize those who died on 9-11. We wanted a tribute to the people of New York," he added.

Further help to secure the two beams for the church's use, Garcia said, came from Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York, Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe., N.M., and Rep. Heather Wilson, R-N.M.

At the World Trade Center, "Father (Moore) blessed the beams. It was pretty emotional. You know you're on hallowed ground," Garcia said.

"It was a pretty exciting event. It was pretty memorable," he added. Garcia had stayed behind in New York while the beams were being hauled to New Mexico on a flatbed truck donated by an Albuquerque trucking firm.

The New Mexico-to-New York delegation received a festive send-off May 18. On May 25, hundreds of people gathered to welcome the group upon its arrival with the beams in Albuquerque.

Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe, N.M., sprinkled the beams with holy water and sacred oil as a huge American flag was hoisted. He said using them to build the bell tower will be a tribute to the victims of Sept. 11.

# From tragedy to triumph, parish grows in spirit

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

NEWTON — The flames may have scorched the church, but not the hearts and spirit of the parish.

A candle caused a fire that destroyed St. Joseph Church's chapel and damaged much of the sanctuary Feb. 28. Forced from their church, the parishioners have chosen to turn adversity into opportunity by rebuilding their church and growing as a community of faith.

"We're pleased with the organization and enthusiasm of the congregation and workers," said Joe Long, chairman of the campaign committee.

The "Growing in the Spirit — the Rebirth of St. Joseph's Faith Community" campaign kicked off in May with the hope of raising $300,000 to renovate and expand the church, in addition to insurance money for fire damages.

"As an Easter people we will experience a renewal of the Holy Spirit in our lives as we come together to rebuild St. Joseph's," wrote Father James Collins, pastor, in a letter to parishioners.

The 4,000 square feet of additions will include extending the side walls to add more worship space and seating (to accommodate 100 more people), a conference room, office space, a new sacristy, a larger cry room and storage rooms and two "much-needed classrooms," said Long.

"We don't have enough classrooms. Our most pressing challenge and need is to expand our classroom space," said Rev. Mr. Scott Gilfillan, who described faith formation classes with students overflowing into the hallway.

The church expansion is needed due to the growing numbers of parishioners, said Rev. Mr. Gilfillan.

In order to reach the campaign goal, Father Collins is encouraging total parish participation. So far, $200,000 has been pledged, he said.

"We have 50 to 75 workers making home calls (to parishioners) and getting good responses," said Long. The workers intend to visit with every member of the parish. "We're hopeful that we'll meet the campaign objective."

"We've had a very generous response from the community outside the church," noted Rev. Mr. Gilfillan. Beth Eden Lutheran Church, St. John's Lutheran Church, the Knights of Columbus state council and the Hispanic La Fabulosa radio station have all donated to the campaign.

"There's a real good spirit with doing something for the parish," said Long.

Other renovations include modifying the church entrance, minor aesthetic changes to the church interior, adding two additional peaks to the roof to make the church look more symmetrical and extra parking space outside.

The modifications will blend "in well with the existing architecture," said Rev. Mr. Gilfillan. "Years from now, people will be hard pressed to tell what's added and what was the existing structure."

The campaign will continue for a few more weeks, said Father Collins. Long said they are hoping to start work on the church in early to mid summer.

"Our new church will be a symbol of God's presence among us and a sign of our dedication to continue 'growing in the spirit,'" said Father Collins.

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*




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# Sweet Success, from page 1

ubs Cafe. But this café beats with two hearts. What isn't apparent to the casual visitor is this café is more than a lunchtime favorite, but a ministry in action.

Along the peripheral, Cherubs provides vocational training for the mentally retarded, but it's serving up a plethora of delights from specialty coffee and ice creams to its daily luncheon fare. "We average serving 450 to 500 people a week," says Mercy Sister Nancy Nance. It keeps the workers busy even on a slow day.

Though she's taking a lunch break, albeit brief, Sister Nancy continually scans the restaurant, making sure operations are going smoothly. "We have a great staff," she says.

"Anna Bilas helps with the vocational aspects. The special education teacher has done a myriad of jobs with Holy Angels over the years. She is key to helping us keep up with our goals and teaching the jobs that need to be done."

In the kitchen, a member of Holy Angels residential facility, Lorraine, helps Anna with salad prep. "When she started, Lorraine was doing very basic things," says Sister Nancy, who spends her days on Main Street, overseeing the shop operations. "Now she comes in and knows immediately to set the tables for the lunch crowd." From there, Lorraine continues her tasks with pride.

Belmont City Manager Barry Webb comes in at least once a week, admitting "this week, it is my second or third trip." Clutching his to-go Cherubs lunch, Webb calls the entire menu wonderful. "It's such a nice place; a lot of times I come in when I have lunch meetings with people coming into town. I bring them here."

Downtown Belmont is nothing short of quaint. It has, as Webb says, "a true, small-town community feel. It is authentic, and not created." The café and candy bouquet fit perfectly in small-town Belmont.

### Miracles on Main Street

The evolutions of the café and candy boutique parallel the evolution of Holy Angels, with ministries established to serve a fragile population. More than 45 years ago, Holy Angels was founded to meet the extreme requirements of special-needs children in a residential setting.

Over the years, as the young children grew, Holy Angels expanded its ministry to provide innovative programs and services for its residents — children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation, some of whom have physical disabilities and are medically fragile.

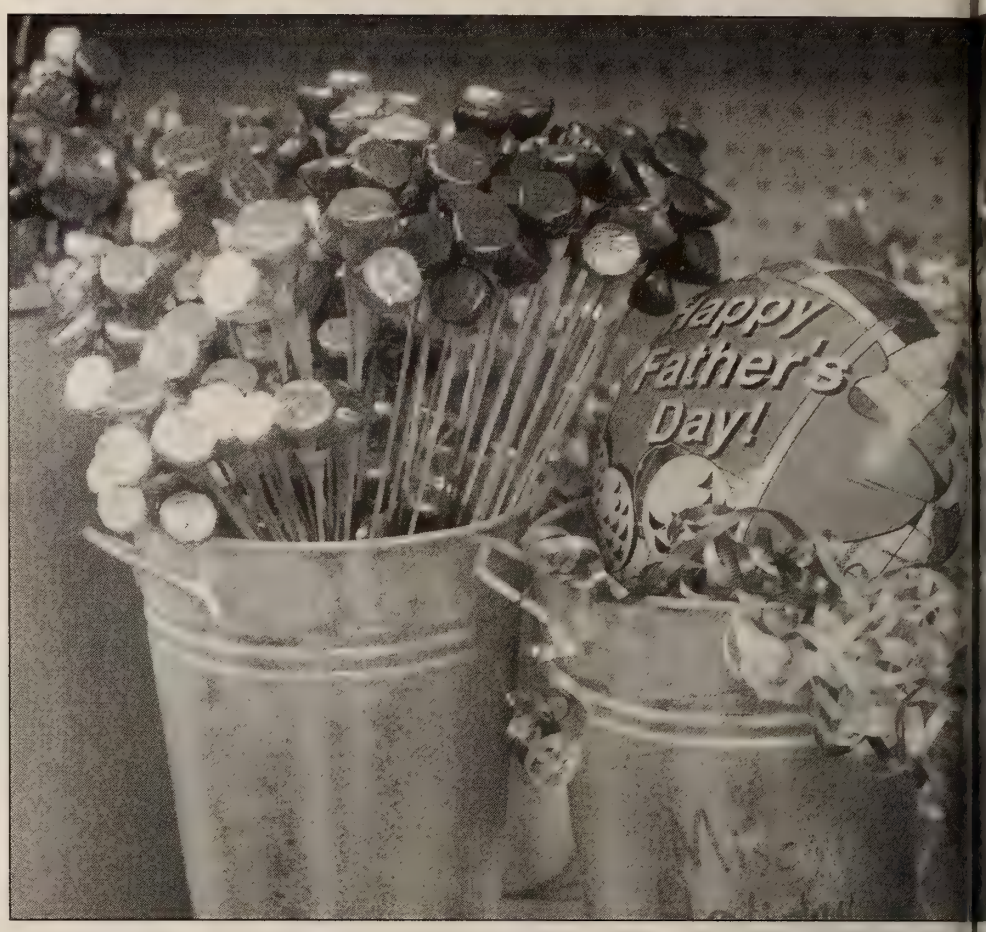
Holy Angels, however, was quick to recognize the physical disabilities and challenges of its older residents did not equal an inability to be productive. In the late 1980s, the Sisters of Mercy ministry introduced vocational programs.

"From there, we thought it would be a good model to have a small business for [our residents] to work, learn skills and perform work, and to be present in our community," explains Regina Moody, president and CEO of Holy Angels, Inc.

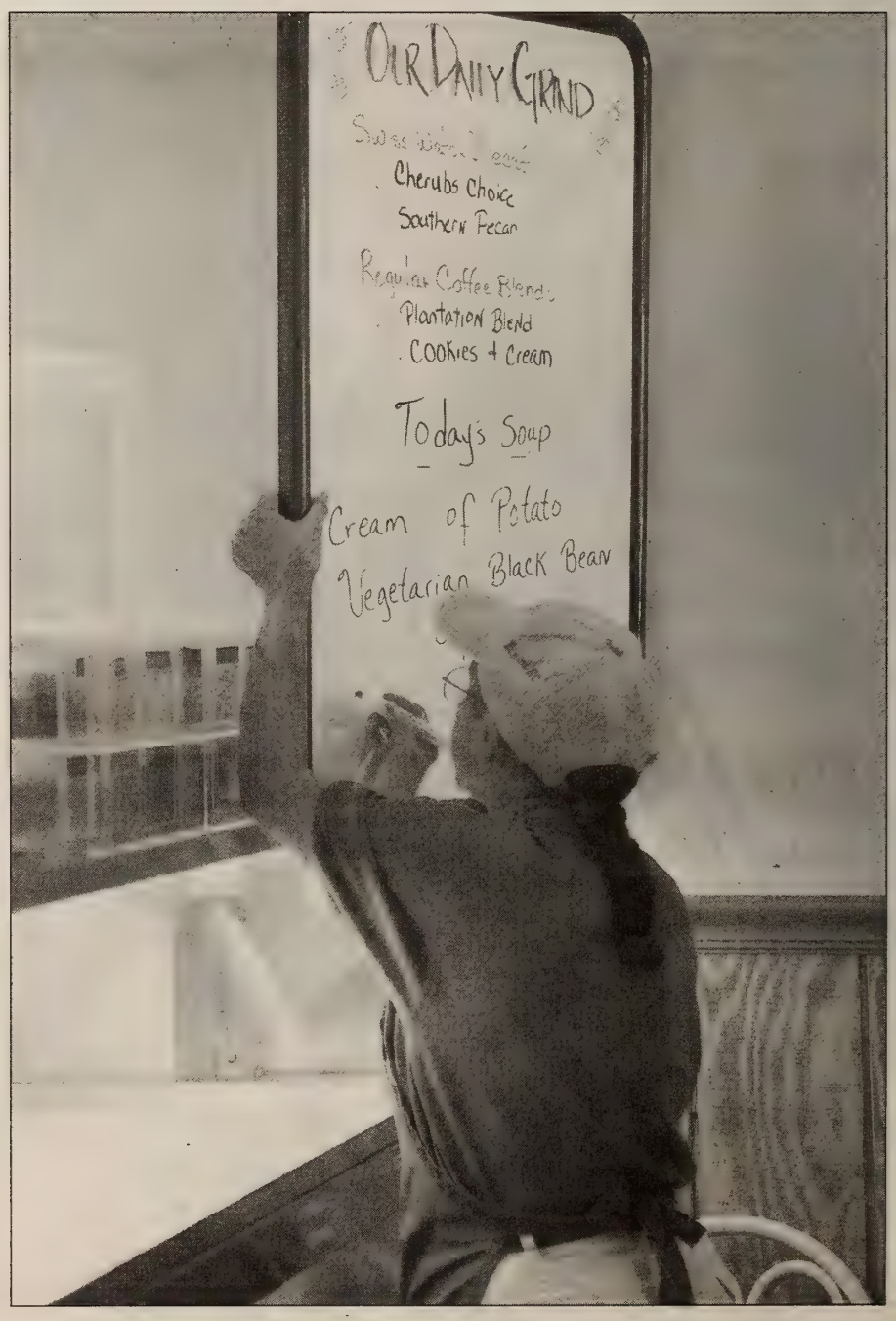
Cherubs Café and the Gifts & Candy Boutique "has been a great thing for the people we are serving in terms of vocational training," says Moody. "It is a win-win situation; it helps us achieve our mission with meaningful work, while being more present in the community and educate others that people with disabilities can work."

*Contact Editor Joann S. Keane by calling (704) 370-3336, or email jskeane@charlottediocese.org*

Cherubs Café and the Gifts & Candy Boutique can be found at 23 North Main Street in downtown Belmont. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Or visit holyangelsnc.org and follow the links to Cherubs Café and the Candy Boutique.



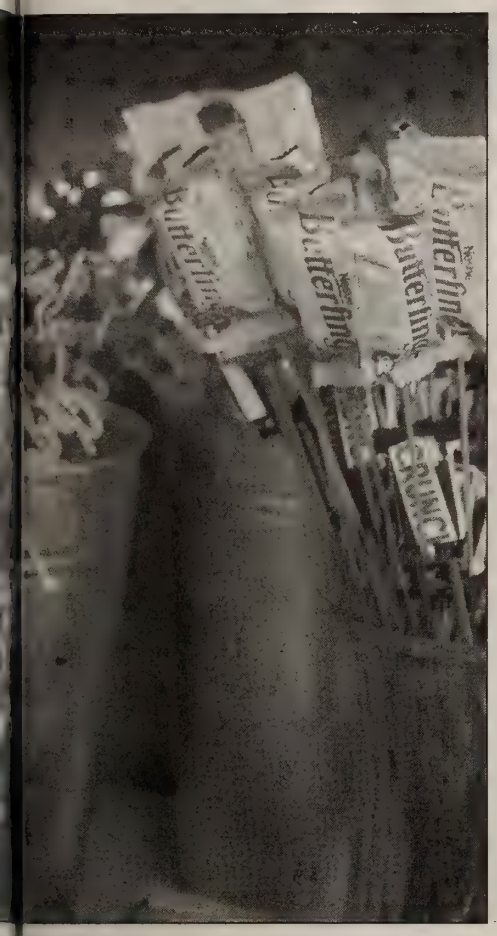

**Looking for a tasty idea for Fathers Day? Look no further than the candy boutique. options for individuals with mental retardation. Located on Main Street in Downto about the programs, services, work and ministry of Holy Angels. Pictured, a corn exterior shot of the Cherubs Café; a worker adds the daily specials to the restaura**

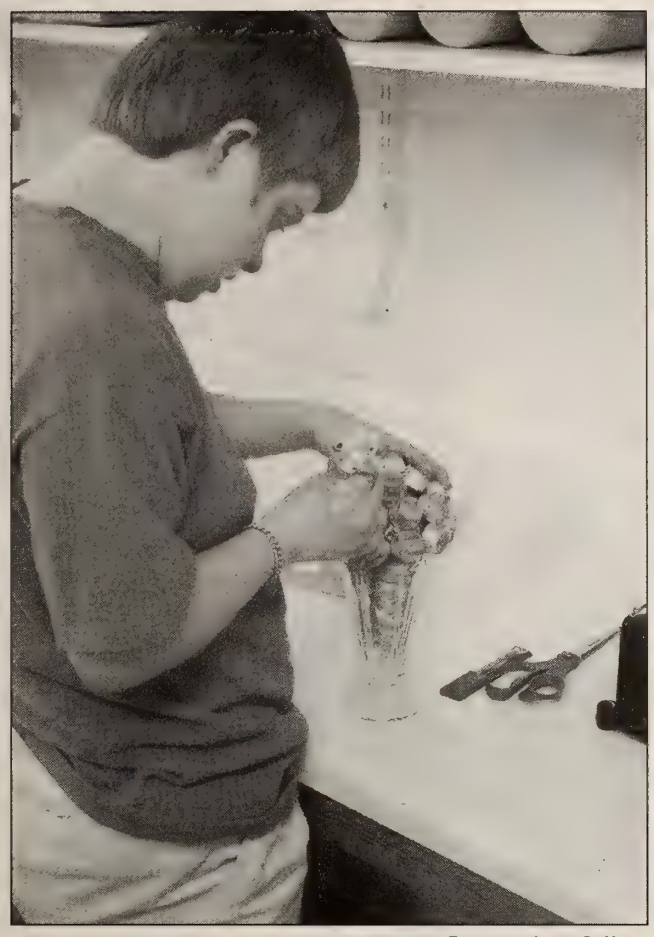



***Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of June***

| | |
|---|---|
| *Rev. Msgr. Roueche* | *2000* |
| *Rev. Guy E. Morse* | *2000* |

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PHOTOS BY JOANN S. KEANE

s Café, Gifts & Candy Bouquets provides vocational training and meaningful supported employment mont, Cherubs offers the Belmont community and surrounding areas the opportunity to learn more of treats ready for insertion into candy bouquets; applying the final touches of a candy 'sundae'; an l; Sister Nancy Nance chats with café patrons; and more details are readied for a candy bouquet.





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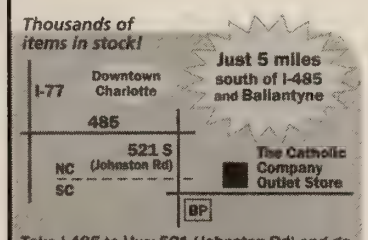
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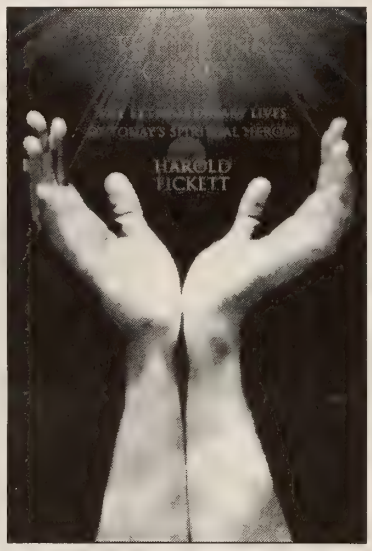
**Book Review**

# Writer reveals Christ through followers' lives

REVIEWED BY WAYNE A. HOLST
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"From South Carolina to Mexico City to the California coast to Thailand to Rome and Iran I have been privileged to encounter extraordinary people," writes Harold Fickett. "Christ does seem to shape their lives in a way that makes (his) own presence visible."

Fickett wrote "The Living Christ: The Extraordinary Lives of Today's Spiritual Heroes" because he believes that exemplars of the Christian faith enchant the public imagination. He writes for evangelical Protestants as well as Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christians. His centrist position may ruffle conservative Catholics on the one hand and liberal Protestants on the other. The common appeal comes in the form of the stories, which will attract readers wanting to discern and affirm the Spirit of God at work in the world.




One of the best ways for people to come to know and follow Jesus is to discover him at work in the lives of Christ-like individuals. So Fickett, a journalist and religious writer living in Nacogdoches, Texas, set out to draw a portrait of the living Christ by telling about lives of his followers. Fickett looked at the Gospels to find key characteristics of Jesus' personality and ministry. He then visited people whose stories and behavior demonstrated roles Christ might play were he alive now. As he interviewed candidates worldwide Fickett found that, just like the classic saints, contemporary saints have their foibles and weaknesses, open or secret.

"The already redeemed and yet still sinful character of the believer is at the core of the Christian tradition," he writes. "We are all wounded healers. ... My subjects were conscious — sometimes overly conscious — of how their own debilities might come through far more clearly than any reflection of Christ's character."

Six chapters introduce his multicultural and ecumenical cross-section of modern saints. Subject titles range from the wayfarer, the healer, and the man of prayer, to the liberator, the prophet and the martyr. Pentecostal, evangelical and mainline Protestant representatives are highlighted alongside a Roman Catholic lay person, a priest and the current pope. A concluding chapter describes how an Orthodox parish of Lebanese heritage in Wichita, Kan., points modern Americans to Christ through the drama of its timeless liturgy.

Fickett's skill as a journalist and spiritual writer leads the reader through these varied narratives: the hardened truck driver who suffers from a profound loneliness; a priest who discovered his charism of healing decades ago and now ministers to thousands who trust him as a God-focused miracle worker; and a thrice-divorced woman who lives one of the most spectacular prayer lives possible and whose daily visions, scientifically verified as authentic, have become a gift to all believers.

He writes of a Baptist missionary in Thailand who leads a "safe house" movement for the liberation of vulnerable young women lured from the countryside and enticed into the sex tourist trade; Pope John Paul II as a prophetic advocate of apology and reconciliation counteracting centuries of church bias against the Jewish people; and three indigenous evangelical Protestant leaders who are martyred for the faith in the Muslim-dominated theocracy of Iran.

"The Living Christ" is a worthy candidate for parish and ecumenical book studies and provides stimulating, private devotional reading for those valuing an integration of the spiritual and the practical.

*Holst is a writer who has taught religion and culture at the University of Calgary.*

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings*
*June 2, 2002*

**Cycle A Readings:**
June 2, The Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus
1) Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a
Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20
2) 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
3) Gospel: John 6:51-58

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In many churches, this is the season of first Communions. Last Sunday at Mass, I watched as three children received the Eucharist for the first time. Typically, they were enthusiastic as they thrust their open palms up to the priest to receive the body of Jesus. Then they practically rushed to the minister offering the blood of Christ. As sometimes happens, one of them subtly made a face as he swallowed.

I remembered a religious education director suggesting, once, that in preparing children for first Communion parents might want to give them a sip of wine ahead of time so they won't be surprised by the taste.

But today, in reading this weekend's Scripture from Deuteronomy, I think the surprise might be called for. The reading reveals that, when God's people were hungering the most, God fed them with manna ("a food unknown to you ...") so that they would realize they are ultimately sustained by something not so ordinary as bread, but by the substance of God. And to a human person, yes, this should come as a great lip-puckering, eye-squinting surprise.

The surprise is the same when, as the second reading points out, we ourselves, being sustained by the life of Jesus, receive his body into ours as we give it to another.

My friend Glenn, an exceptional high school catechist, explains it this way: "My daughter has a problem at school, and I sit on her bed and listen. I hold her in my arms, give her a kiss, and — I give her Eucharist; our neighbor is rushed to the hospital in the middle of the night, and my wife goes and stays with her all night and the next day, holding her hand, and — she gives her Eucharist."

Here is something "unknown to you." How can I feel so happy and content when I have this problem? How can I feel so safe and good when I'm so sick? After that taste — of someone participating in the body of Christ — it becomes known. What sustains us is not something ordinary. It is the life, the substance, of Jesus.

**QUESTIONS:**
When was a time that you experienced the surprising taste of the body of Christ? When have you given Eucharist, through your presence, to someone?

**SCRIPTURE TO ILLUSTRATE:**
"If you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you" (John 6:53cde).

# Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of June 2 - June 8**

**Sunday (Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ),** Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, John 6:51-58; **Monday (St. Charles Lwanga and Companions),** 2 Peter 1:2-7, Mark 12:1-12; **Tuesday,** 2 Peter 3:12-15, 17-18, Mark 12:13-17; **Wednesday (St. Boniface),** 2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12, Mark 12:18-27; **Thursday,** 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Mark 12:28-34; **Friday (Sacred Heart of Jesus),** Deuteronomy 7:6-11, 1 John 4:7-16, Matthew 11:25-30; **Saturday (Immaculate Heart of Mary),** 2 Timothy 4:1-8, Luke 2:41-51

**Scripture for the week of June 9 - June 15**

**Sunday (Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Hosea 6:3-6, Romans 4:18-25, Matthew 9:9-13; **Monday,** 1 Kings 17:1-6, Matthew 5:1-12; **Tuesday (St. Barnabas),** Acts 11:21-26; 13:1-3, Matthew 5:13-16; **Wednesday,** 1 Kings 18:20-39, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday (St. Anthony of Padua),** 1 Kings 18:41-46, Matthew 5:20-26; **Friday,** 1 Kings 19:9, 11-16, Matthew 5:27-32; **Saturday,** 1 Kings 19:19-21, Matthew 5:33-37

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# 'Insomnia' will keep you wide awake

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The grim thriller "Insomnia" (Warner Bros.) follows a world-weary police detective on the trail of a vicious killer in Alaska.

Flying on assignment into a remote spot in Alaska, Los Angeles detective Will Dormer (Al Pacino) has the look of a jaded, exhausted cop, but he's glad to be out of his home turf with his partner, Hap (Martin Donovan). The two are under an internal affairs investigation — and family man Hap has decided to cooperate once they return, much to Will's fury.

The two have been asked to help out the local force find the killer of a 17-year-old girl and star cop Will is effusively welcomed by rookie Ellie (Hilary Swank), who has studied all his cases.

An astute investigator, Will soon sets a trap, but the killer, in trying to escape the foggy, rocky site, wounds a local cop named Farrell (Larry Holden), and Will returns fire, only to discover he has killed his own partner.

More determined than ever to nail his man, he lets everyone believe the killer shot Hap.

However, the murderer (Robin Williams) contacts Will, having seen what really went down and insists they must cooperate by framing the victim's boyfriend. Tortured by guilt and realizing killers he put behind bars likely will be released once the internal affairs investigation finds out he tampered with evidence, Will strings the killer along.

Meanwhile, Ellie and Farrell wonder if Will's obvious sleep deprivation and depression over his partner's death are compromising his investigation.

Based on the 1997 Norwegian film of the same title, screenwriter Hillary Seitz transports the story to northern Alaska (handsomely photographed in British Columbia) and focuses on the moral struggle of a good cop who rationalized that the end justified the means if it meant getting clearly guilty murderers off the streets.

Under Christopher Nolan's sleek direction, Pacino carries the picture as the tortured lawman who can't let this killer get away but also hopes to escape detection now that his partner can no longer testify about their past misdeeds. But in this unforgiving Land of the Midnight Sun, Will is haunted by hallucinations of Hap, who died suspecting Will deliberately shot him. Will's struggle with his conscience also extends to Ellie when she suggests another course of action. Swank makes a strong impression as the eager rookie forced to look anew at her chosen role model.

But Williams is less effective, speaking softly and underplaying his role to the point where he's not fully convincing as a callous killer. Nor is his character sufficiently fleshed out.

Director Nolan, however, has crafted an atmospheric neo-noir film of dark visuals despite the 24 hours of sunlight in the film's locale that add an extra layer of pressure to insomniac Will, whose weathered face bears witness to a lifetime of dealing with the dregs of humanity.

The film's most original scene involves the killer being chased over thick logs on the water by Will, who missteps and is nearly drowned as the logs close ranks above him.

"Insomnia" is a dramatic character study unlikely to have anyone dozing off.

Because of some violence, fleeting corpse nudity, much rough language and brief profanity, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

*Pare is director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*



CNS PHOTO FROM DREAMWORKS PICTURES

**Scene from movie 'Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron'**
**Horses Spirit and Rain run free on the open plains of the American frontier in the animated feature film "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of A merica rating is G — general audiences.**

## Video Reviews

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

**"The Children Are Watching" (1999)**

Serious documentary hosted by Jane Seymour looks at four troubled teen-agers, delving into how their parents' behaviors became part of their problems. From substance abuse to promiscuity, hateful arguments and fast driving, the program demonstrates how the children copied negative behavior patterns from parents and suggests that adults should focus more on their children's needs than their own interests. (PBS Home Video)

**"Corky Romano" (2001)**

Mindless comedy about the goofy veterinarian son (Chris Kattan) of a Mafia boss (Peter Falk) who poses as an FBI agent to retrieve evidence the feds have on his dad. Director Rob Pritts' tired fish-out-of-water premise garners a few chuckles from the silly circumstances and Kattan's shameless lunacy, but the comedy trudges along, feebly throwing in a lesson about family acceptance at the end. Recurring, comically intended violence, some mild sexual humor including homosexual jokes, brief drug content and intermittent crass language with profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Touchstone)

**"From Hell" (2001)**

Barbarous thriller set in 1888 London in which a police inspector (Johnny Depp) suspects a royal conspiracy as he tracks methodical serial killer Jack the Ripper murdering and mutilating prostitutes. Substituting gruesome visuals for suspenseful drama, directors Allen and Albert Hughes' conventional film is revolting in its imagery, with one-note characters, sloppy narrative and lackluster performances. Savage violence with excessively gory images, a few sexual encounters, frontal nudity, intermittent opium use, brief same-sex kissing and some rough language with fleeting profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Fox Home Video)

**"The Majestic" (2001)**

Feel-good fable set during the McCarthy era in which a blacklisted Hollywood screenwriter (Jim Carrey) loses his memory after a car accident and is mistaken for a small-town World War II hero. While reminding viewers of the difference one life can make, director Frank Darabont's nostalgic take on early-1950s America leisurely develops the narrative before falling into familiar sentimentality. A car crash and fleeting profanity with a few crass words. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Warner Home Video)

**"On Our Own Terms" (2001)**

Provocative and emotional look at end-of-life issues hosted by Bill Moyers which explores cultural attitudes and beliefs toward death, palliative and hospice care and the rising costs of dying. Thought-provoking and impressive in scope, the four-part series is nonetheless draining as its powerful subject matter is ripe for emotional manipulation. And the sympathetic view on physician-assisted suicide leaves untreated the position that human beings have a transcendent value even in the presence of physical suffering which makes it wrong to deliberately end a human life. The intense subject matter may be too heavy for adolescent viewing. (PBS Home Video)

**"The Others" (2001)**

Eerie psychological thriller set in 1945 about a mother (Nicole Kidman) and her two photosensitive children who live in darkness in a remote island mansion, but soon discover they are not alone. Writer-director Alejandro Amenabar's chilling tale of isolation is well-written, deftly building tension until its startling conclusion while prompting questions about faith and the mysteries of life after death. Mature questioning of afterlife, some menace with several frightening moments. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Dimension)

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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

### Pope says trip to Azerbaijan, Bulgaria strengthened relationships

BY JOHN NORTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II gave thanks to God for allowing him to visit Azerbaijan and Bulgaria, a trip he said sought to strengthen minority Catholic communities and to reach out to the Orthodox Church.

"I carry in my heart a profound echo (of the trip)," he told pilgrims at his weekly general audience May 29, three days after his return from the five-day journey.

The pope said the high point of his "brief but intense" four-day stay in Bulgaria was a public Mass May 26 to beatify three priests executed in 1952 under communist rule.

"These courageous witnesses of the faith, together with other martyrs of the last century, prepare a new springtime for the church in Bulgaria," he said. Catholics number about 80,000 in Bulgaria, making them about 1 percent of the majority-Orthodox population.

The pope noted that his visit to Bulgaria coincided with the feast of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Greek brothers who evangelized Central and Eastern Europe in the ninth century, before the 1054 Catholic-Orthodox split.

The missionary brothers had regular contact with the church in Rome.

"Since the beginning of evangelization, a solid bridge unites the See of Peter to the Bulgarian people," the pope said.

He said his trip was aimed at "strengthening the bonds of communion" with the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, headed by Patriarch Maxim, "whom I had the joy of meeting after the visit to the patriarchal cathedral."

The pope especially highlighted his visit to the ancient and remote St. John of Rila Orthodox monastery, which he called the "heart of the Bulgarian nation and a pearl of world cultural patrimony."

"Going in pilgrimage to that holy place, I wanted to render solemn homage to Eastern monasticism, which illumines the whole church with its centuries-long witness," he said.

The pope arrived in Bulgaria from a 25-hour stop in overwhelmingly Muslim Azerbaijan, where he celebrated Mass with the former Soviet republic's 120 Catholics and appealed for religious tolerance.

"Azerbaijan's Catholic community is one of the smallest that I have ever visited," he said, adding that it was also heir to a very ancient spiritual tradition.

The pope closed with a prayer that the Catholic Church in Bulgaria and Azerbaijan, "in the variety of its traditions and in the unity of one faith and one love, will spread the good perfume of Christ's holiness."

During the audience, the 82-year-old pontiff looked and sounded stronger than he did throughout most of his foreign trip.

He read his entire prepared audience text in a quavering but understandable voice and greeted pilgrims in the sun-bathed St. Peter's Square in 13 languages.

In Azerbaijan and Bulgaria, by contrast, the pontiff only managed to read short parts of his Russian- and Bulgarian-language speeches before passing them to aides to finish.

The trip was the 96th foreign journey of Pope John Paul's nearly 24-year pontificate and brought to 132 the number of countries he has visited.

# Letters to the Editor

### Father Drinan's voting habits unclear

I liked the article in the Catholic News & Herald on Father Drinan. One thing that concerned me was that his party affiliation was not mentioned. From what was said about Father Drinan, he seemed like he was a Democrat. This makes you wonder how he voted on issues such as abortion, etc.

— Kevin Roeten, Asheville

### Father Drinan's influence used for pro-abortion cause

Having just read the article regarding Father Robert Drinan's talk to high school students, I am afraid that those who do not remember his time in Congress will have an incomplete profile of Father Drinan's "contributions" to the political system.

Congressman Drinan can be classified politcally as a very liberal Democrat. More importantly, this Catholic priest/congressman consistently voted pro-abortion. Many believe that he was a strong influence on politicians such as Ted Kennedy, Mario Cuomo and other Catholic office-holders in their developing the now famous (infamous?) philosophy of maintaining "private" views that abortion is wrong while voting for legal abortion as public policy. The Holy Father and all other pro-life leaders have of course consistently rejected this "private/public" dichotomy as neither logical nor theologically sound.

My recollection is that after leaving office, Father Drinan worked extensively for the Democratic National Committee helping to raise money for partisan political efforts, which obviously supported many pro-abortion candidates. While this work may not have violated the letter of the papal ruling regarding political activity by priests, it could certainly be argued that it violated the spirit of that edict.

In recent years, Father Drinan has been outspoken in his support of President Clinton's veto of the partial birth abortion ban passed by large majorities of Congress and vigorously supported by the U.S. bishops. Cardinal O'Connor was publicly critical of Father Drinan for taking a position so contrary to Church teaching.

I think more detailed information regarding Father Drinan's political record and activities should be reported and considered before one relies on his "guidance" — particularly when considering the appropriate political participation of Catholics trying to follow the church's teachings.

—Joe Burns, Winston-Salem

### Letters to the Editor

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less.

To be considered for publication, your letter must include the address and daytime phone number of the writer for purposes of verification.

Letters may be condensed because of space limitations and edited for clarity, style and taste.

Send letters to: Editor Joann Keane The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237



# The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

### An incredible journey of hope

I received a phone call recently from a stranger, Joe Aranha, who became a friend within minutes. A worker for New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty, he told me that in late April they were hosting a gathering called "Journey of Hope — From Violence to Healing" in the New York City area. Having read my book, "Choosing Mercy" (Orbis), he asked if I would join them.

I am no stranger to NYADP (www.journeyofhope.org). The president of its board is Bishop Howard Hubbard of the Diocese of Albany, N.Y., an outstanding leader in both church and community. The executive director is a close and dear friend, David Kaczinski, who opposes capital punishment because "it asks us to deny our human kinship." I respect him for his tremendous courage, first when he had to face the truth that the killer known as the Unabomber was his brother Ted, and then when he found the strength to turn his brother in to the authorities so that he would kill no more people.

I was also familiar with the Journey of Hope, which is an anti-death penalty movement started by Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation and a man named Bill Pelke to communicate the crucial importance of love and compassion and forgiveness to all people. The leaders and speakers are family members of murder victims who oppose executions, believing these only perpetuate the cycle of violence.

When Aranha told me I would be one of four speakers for this Journey, working with Kaczinski, Pelke and a man I had yet to meet, George White, I said immediately, "Yes!" We would bring our message of life, emphasizing "please, don't kill in our name," to Fordham University, St. John's University, several churches and organizations, ending with a rally at Union Square Park in Manhattan.

I knew Pelke's story, which began when his beloved grandmother was murdered by a 15-year-old named Paula Cooper in Indiana in 1983. This black teen-ager faced the death penalty, and at first Pelke thought "an eye for an eye" response to this heinous crime was just. But one day he suddenly "saw" his grandmother crying, telling him he had to pray for "love and compassion for Paula Cooper and her family."

Through his tears he knew then that he "no longer wanted Paula to die." Pelke began a successful international campaign to overturn her death sentence, aided immensely by two Italian priests and, ultimately, by Pope John Paul II, who contacted the governor of Indiana. The miracle came in the summer of 1989 when the Indiana Supreme Court overturned Cooper's death sentence; instead, she would serve a 60-year prison term. Now Pelke spends his life getting people to think about the wrongness of the death penalty, while "spreading seeds of love and compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation."

As for White, in his store in Alabama in 1985 an intruder shot both him and his wife. She died in his arms, and he and his two children mourned. Unbelievably, 16 months later, White was arrested, charged with his wife's murder. He spent two and a half years in prison before Alabama authorities acknowledged the trial had been unfair.

Since then, putting bitterness aside, White stays on the Journey of Hope, begging others not to kill "in our names. Our hearts have bled enough."



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Flying high — A life of service

These are not the best of days in general for the priesthood. The headlines have not been kind; the sins and crimes of the few — and the terribly misguided attempts to sweep them under the rug — have cast an unwelcome pall over the entire fraternity.

It should not be that way, of course. With that in mind, it's a time to concentrate on the service of priests in general, and on the incredible sacrifice that some are called on to make. I'm humbled just reading about them — and one in particular, who I'd like to tell you about today, should remind all of us that great priests still walk among us and lead by example, in a way at which all the rest of us can simply marvel.

Such a man, such a priest, was 73-year-old Father Jim Kelley. I did not know him, but I read about him in a Catholic News Service story written by John Roscoe, editor of the Catholic Anchor in Anchorage, Alaska. And I can only stand in awe of what he accomplished with his life.

It was a life that ended tragically on March 23, when his single-engine airplane went down in a snowstorm. A retired Navy chaplain who had been a pilot for more than 40 years, he was based at Holy Rosary parish in Dillingham, Alaska, and was on his way to celebrate Palm Sunday Masses in some of the countless outposts of the St. Paul Mission that he called his own.

"He went to every little tiny place — canneries, villages, wherever he heard there was a Catholic," said Jo Ann Armstrong, a member of Holy Rosary parish. "We had no idea how many people he'd touched, but we're finding out."

One of those people was Dan Salmon, Father Kelley's lone parishioner in the village of Igiugig, population 33. According to John Roscoe's story, when Father Kelley met Salmon 10 years ago and discovered that he was Catholic, he offered to add Igiugig to the St. Paul Mission. From then on he flew in at least twice a month, celebrating Mass one-on-one with Salmon in the man's kitchen or office.

"I kind of had an excuse for not going to Mass before Father Kelley came along," Salmon told Roscoe. Left unsaid was the obvious follow-up: once Father Kelley showed up, all excuses were gone.

The priest's mission encompassed 23 villages, many of them as tiny as Igiugig, stretching across 600 miles between Iliamna in the northeast and Unalaska on the Aleutian peninsula. Roads are few and far between in the St. Paul Mission, and it takes a plane to reach most of the outposts. It was foggy and blowing snow when Father Kelley took off from Dillingham on March 23, and it wasn't until two days later that his wrecked plane was discovered in a mountain pass near the village of Togiak. He was still strapped to his seat.

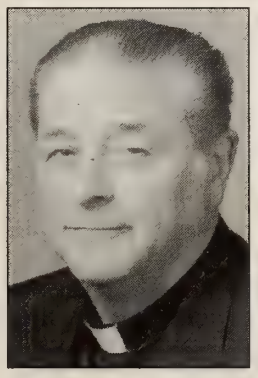
Archbishop Roger L. Schweitz of Anchorage was among the mourners. "I think the good news is that he died doing what he loved: flying and ministering to the people," said the archbishop.

Father Kelley, a native of Massachusetts, was ordained in 1961 for the Diocese of Fall River. He spent many years as a Navy chaplain.

Is it too much to call Father Kelley a hero? I don't think so. He spent his entire priestly career giving of himself for his people, and his priesthood ended exactly that way.

There are many, men beyond counting, who in one way or another are just like him. We should never lose sight of all they do for us.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Funerals for non-Catholics in Catholic churches

*Q. I am Catholic, my husband is not. But he has always supported me and our children in the Catholic faith. We're getting older now and need to know if he may be buried from the Catholic Church. Is there a ceremony for a non-Catholic that can take the place of Mass? A friend has the same question, and I suppose many other Catholics wonder also. (California)*

A. There are several possibilities you can consider. First, if your husband is baptized, a Mass at his funeral may not be out of the question.

In June 1976, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith liberalized the law on this matter, following requests from priests in several countries to celebrate Mass for deceased people who were baptized in another Christian denomination.

This happens particularly, it noted, when the deceased person showed particular respect for the Catholic religion or held public office in the service of the whole community.

Such Masses, private or public (announced in the parish bulletin, for example), not only are permitted, they can be unreservedly encouraged, said the decree, for reasons of patriotism, friendship and gratitude, if the family and friends request it, and if in the judgment of the bishop there is no danger of scandal. (See also the 1993 Vatican directory for ecumenical matters, No. 120.)

Under certain circumstances funeral services in a Catholic church are also possible for others who are not Catholic or not baptized. Priests often officiate at funerals of those not of our faith, especially when the family requests it or when the individual has an otherwise close relationship to the church or a parish.

Usually these ceremonies are conducted in a funeral home, but nothing forbids holding them in church. They could include Scripture readings, prayers, a homily and other elements usually included, for example, in the Liturgy of the Word at Mass.

### Importance of organ donation

*Q. We at the Transplant Resource Center of Maryland appreciate references in your column to Pope John Paul II's strong support for giving an organ of one's body to another. As you point out, many states now make it easier for people to let their wishes be known through drivers license check-off programs.*

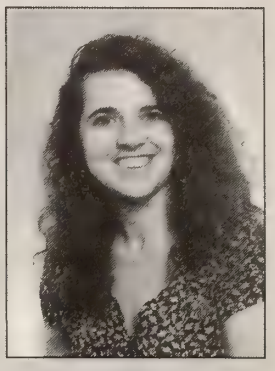
*We use the words "organ and tissue" donations together because people often think only of organs — heart, lung, kidney, etc. People need to know that tissue donation — bone, skin, heart valves, veins — may be as life saving as organs and is far more commonplace. There are 500,000 tissue transplant operations performed in the United States every year to help people walk, see, move and alleviate pain. We thank you for keeping this need in the public discourse. John O'Donnell. (Maryland)*

A. I am grateful to Mr. O'Donnell and others in transplant centers for their reminders of the serious need for tissue and organ donors.

As I have pointed out often in this column, willingness to give part of one's body to another, before or after death, with the proper medical and moral safeguards of course, is a generous act of love, sharing what God has given us with someone in need.

Further information is available from transplant centers in most states or from The Living Bank, Box 6725, Houston, Texas 77265. Web site: www.livingbank.org. Phone: 800-528-2971.

# Coming of Age



AMY WELBORN
CNS COLUMNIST

### The big surprise hit of the spring TV season

The surprise hit of the spring TV season was, of course, "The Osbournes," MTV's program that took viewers into the lives of the family of aging rocker Ozzy Osbourne.

If you watched the show, you know its basics: Osbourne, his wife and manager Sharon, and two of their three children, Jack and Kelly, have moved to a huge mansion in Beverly Hills, Calif. Cameras followed them around the house and sometimes around the country as Ozzy went on tour. We saw this rather unusual family fight, laugh, cook, eat, have family meetings and do a whole lot of cursing.

Different people have been interested in the show for different reasons. Some think it is a positive portrayal of a family — an unusual family, but an intact, open and honest family nonetheless. And a loving one. Imagine the sight of Ozzy Osbourne greeting his wife at a surprise birthday party with the rather sweet question, "Where are the babies?" referring, of course, to his goth son and pink-haired daughter.

Other people see the show as a sign of the end of the world — or almost that. They're dismayed by the freedom the Osbournes give their kids and are not happy that this family is being held up as any kind of model.

Well, here's my answer: I don't think they are being held up as a model. I don't think they're presenting themselves that way either. I think what they're doing is something smart, at least in worldly terms: Dad's clearly reaching the end of his career, so more money has to be made. Now, one series down, another to be produced with a $20 million windfall to the Osbournes and a two-book publishing deal, the Osbournes have seen they can make a load of money doing nothing more than being themselves. They're laughing (and merrily cussing) all the way to the bank.

And what do I think?

I've watched several episodes and have been absolutely intrigued. But what intrigues me isn't their style of family. It doesn't shock me either. These kids have basically been raised on the road, as their heavy-metal dad toured, managed by their mom. It would be a miracle if they were anything but off-the-wall, profane and free-spirited. And, it seems, pretty much without direction as well.

No, what compelled me to watch, more than anything else, was the sight of Ozzy Osbourne himself.

So after 30 years of this, here's what we've got in Ozzy Osbourne: a doddering, constantly befuddled guy whose dyed black-and-red hair and dark glasses can't hide the fact that, in reality, he's getting old, can barely walk straight, doesn't seem to understand half of what's going on around him and is, in the end, a pretty ineffectual father.

What's done it to him? Hard living, of course. Drugs and drinking, and he's said as much to his kids, asking them, "Do you want to end up like me?"

So when making choices now, a good, simple question to ask is: "How do I want to end up my life? Is this choice going to take me where I want to go?"

As Ozzy Osbourne, a confused geezer at only 53, makes clear, those choices make a difference.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

**Diocese breaks ground for new Catholic school**
Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte (center), is flanked by diocesan and school officials during the "golden shovel and hard hat" ceremonial groundbreaking for the new St. Mark Catholic School in Huntersville May 23. Also participating in the ceremony were Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of schools; Msgr. Joseph Kerin, pastor of St. Mark Church; Rev. Mr. Guy Piché, director of properties; and Victor Adams, president of the MACS board, among others.


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# Hispanics, from page 1

helping them," said de la Motte, indicating that historically many immigrants received their education from Catholic institutions.

"Reaching out to immigrants is a principle that we (at the college) live with," said Carol Brooks, director of foundations and corporate relations at Belmont Abbey College. "We try to identify populations that we can serve and try to develop programs around that."

Gearity extended a proposal to the Hispanics in attendance: "If you know of young people who would benefit from an education at Belmont Abbey College, put us in touch with them and we'll follow up," he said.

"We'd be a much richer campus to have that diversity," noted Brooks.

De la Motte welcomed feedback to the college's outreach proposals for the Hispanic community. The proposals were divided into three phases:

Phase one, to be fully implemented by 2003, included English conversation (not formal ESL) classes with free babysitting provided, as well as grant writing and fundraising for later phases. The college also plans to expand its current Spanish courses for clergy and lay ministries to the Triad and Asheville areas via teleconferencing.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

**Dean de la Motte, academic dean of Belmont Abbey College, addresses a gathering of approximately 50 people at the college's Hispanic Outreach dinner discussion on campus May 28. The meeting was an opportunity for college and diocesan officials to sit down with Hispanic community leaders to develop ways in which the college can better serve local Hispanics.**

Phase two, for 2003 to 2005, featured the development of an on-campus resource center for Gaston, Lincoln and West Mecklenburg counties; a weekly Spanish language Mass at the Basilica; an interactive Web site for Hispanics; and on-campus seminars for businesses, such as Spanish and English for the workplace and understanding cultural differences.

Phase three, slated for 2005 and beyond, included creating an endowed scholarship for first generation Hispanics to attend Belmont Abbey College, an international business program, internships, study abroad and career placement services.

"We want to do a lot, but it depends on the grants and the support we get from the community," said de la Motte. "But we are very committed to doing these things. We want to make this happen."

"I think it's a great opportunity for the college to do something for the Hispanic community," said Lissette Westover, a Spanish teacher and pastoral assistant for Hispanic ministry at St. Michael School in Gastonia.

Westover, who often serves as a liaison between Hispanics and social services, law enforcement and the judicial system, discussed current Hispanic resources at St. Michael and said more services were needed.

"We're all from somewhere else. This country is primarily made up of immigrants," she said. "There are so many people who are willing to be part of this country legally, but it's so difficult for them."

De la Motte was hopeful that Belmont Abbey College could provide some of the needed help. "We can solve all the problems we're interested in, but we can chip away at many of them," he said.

De la Motte felt the discussion was positive, with a "frank exchange of views," he said.

"We got a lot of what we were looking for — we got direction and focus on what we should be working on," said Brooks.

In addition to exploring grant possibilities from the government and foundations, the college will review feedback collected at the meeting and make the necessary refinements to its outreach plans, "now that we know what the Hispanic community is looking for," said Brooks.

By fall, the college will be looking for assistance from the community in implementing its proposals, said de la Motte.

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*




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# On feast of Corpus Christi, pope encourages vocations to priesthood

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — On a church feast dedicated to the Eucharist, Pope John Paul II urged Rome's young men to respond generously and without reserve if they felt a call to the priesthood.

The 82-year-old pope let a Vatican cardinal celebrate the May 30 liturgy, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, which in Rome ends with a eucharistic procession through the city streets.

"(God's) people need the Eucharist," the pope said in his homily during Mass, celebrated on the front steps of Rome's Basilica of St. John Lateran.

"In fact, it is the Eucharist that makes the church missionary. But is this possible without priests, who renew the eucharistic mystery?" he said.

Cardinal Camillo Ruini, the pope's vicar in Rome, celebrated the Mass. The pope sat to the side, mostly with his eyes closed, wearing an embroidered red and gold stole over his white papal attire.

"The days, the years, the centuries pass, but not the most holy act (of the Eucharist) in which Jesus condensed his whole Gospel of love," the pope said in a quavering but understandable voice.

He asked for prayers for a diocesan congress that was to begin in a few days and was to focus on the theme of religious vocations.

After the Mass, the pope was helped onto the back of a white flatbed truck at the head of a traditional twilight procession to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, about nine-tenths of a mile along a tree-lined Roman street. He knelt in front of the monstrance under a gold-tasseled white canopy.

Cardinals, bishops, priests, religious and thousands of lay faithful walked the route, carrying prayer books, flowers and candles in the waning daylight.

Until 1994, when he underwent a hip operation, the pope walked the procession, carrying the monstrance with the Eucharist. He reinstated the Corpus Christi procession in 1979 after a 109-year hiatus in the tradition.

> Jesus said to them, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me."
>
> — John 6:56-57

# Educator shares her skills with students in Philippines, United States

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Dominican Sister Anastacia Pagulayan worked for years as a teacher before entering the convent. She loved working in education and pursued her career with tenacity, but the idea of becoming a woman religious always seemed to hover in the background.

At age 20, she began teaching in a mission school after graduating from college in 1962. Her affiliation with the St. Paul sisters, who taught at St. Paul College in her native Philippines, was her first contact with women religious. She admired them but was not sure about what she wanted to do.



**Dominican Sister Anastacia Pagulayan**

"It is possible that my association with the sisters developed in college. I had intentions to become a sister, but I didn't know where I was going," said Sister Anastacia. "I taught for nine years before entering the convent. I loved teaching and wanted to be with the kids."

She had enjoyed school as a child and had wanted to share that love of education with others. Her mother, a single parent after her husband died in the Army in 1945 during the Japanese occupation in the island country, raised her three children to be independent thinkers, to pursue whatever they wanted to do. Her mother had supported her daughter's decision to pursue teaching as a career choice.

The family had moved around Luzon, the northernmost large island in the Philippines, while Sister Anastacia was growing up. "We moved around a lot for a better kind of life because my mother was alone," she said.

While pursuing her bachelor's in education, she joined a catechetical group in which she began teaching faith formation classes. After graduation, Sister Anastacia taught in three mission schools staffed by women religious, so she had much exposure to sisters of various orders. Because of her association with the St. Paul sisters while in college and a friendship that developed with one of nuns of that community, she felt most attracted to them.

However, she was not sure which community she would join or if she would join a community at all. She taught for years in schools far from home, and her mother wanted her daughter to work closer to family. Sister Anastacia found a school near her mother and taught for six years, but missed the missionary school atmosphere. She liked the idea of working in distant places and returned back to the Dominican school where she had worked previously.

Her principal at that time, a Dominican sister, and the mother general asked her if she wanted to enter the sisterhood. She made her choice at that point to become a Dominican sister. "It was a spur-of-the-moment decision. I really didn't plan it. I had been praying hard to St. Vincent and had asked him to show me the way," she said.

Time in the convent was fulfilling but difficult. The development of a prayer life and her desire to become a nun kept her going during formation.

"I was already a professional when I entered, and I had ways of doing things. I had a lot of trials to overcome, and when I made my decision, there was no way back. I had to submit, and it was difficult to accept," said Sister Anastacia, who professed her final vows after eight years in 1979. "It (one's vocation) takes time to develop. That's why we have years of formation. You can work it out during your formation years."

She was assigned to a school as a principal for one year after receiving her final vows, and she earned her master's degree in educational management two years later from LaSalle University in the Philippines. For the next two years, she served as principal until she was sent to Hawaii in 1984. She especially loved her first teaching assignment in the United States because of the tropical climate.

"I want to go back there one day," she said with a smile. "It was a beautiful place, and I loved the beach. There were a lot of Filipinos there who were working with the sugar cane and pineapple industries."

She was sent back to the Philippines in 1987, where she served as a high school principal for three years. She continued to teach because she felt a connection to students. "I liked dealing with younger people. We both learned when we shared things together, and you have to study to be able to share something," said Sister Anastacia. "I enjoyed closer contact with the children because if you teach them, they are easier to deal with as a principal. If not, they are afraid of you."

In 1990, she was sent to New Jersey to St. Aidan School and served as the vice principal and principal during her eight-year stay in the cold climate state. "It was easy to adjust," said Sister Anastacia of the weather.

A year of vacation in her homeland led her back to the states in 1999 — Charlotte. Sister Anastacia serves as the director of religious education at St. Thomas Aquinas Church and says she enjoys the quiet, family environment of the parish. "This is a very loving community, and the love and concern they have for one another is very beautiful," she said. "All of the catechists are volunteers who are willing and eager to help."

Sister Anastacia says that her time as a woman religious is a gift from God. "We serve other people and help in proclaiming God's message. We have accepted to be disciples of Christ, so we have to follow in his way," she said.


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# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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## Graduation 2002

For story and photos of the diocesan high school graduation ceremonies, see pages 12-13.

# Two newly ordained join the flock





Rev. Messrs. Johnathan Hanic and Lawrence LoMonaco were ordained into the holy order of the priesthood by Bishop William G. Curlin June 1. See story and photo essay on pages 10-11.



Pictured above left: Eileen and Tony Quigley from St. Gabriel Church receive a blessing from Father Lawrence LoMonaco. Above right: Rev. Mr. Johnathan Hanic kneels before Bishop William G. Curlin. At right: Bishop Curlin extends hands over the kneeling candidates and prays the prayer of consecration. Photos above left and at right by Alesha M. Price; above right by Kevin E. Murray.

### Pakistani bishops urge India, Pakistan to seek peace, avoid war

LAHORE, Pakistan (CNS) — The Pakistani bishops' justice and peace commission has called on India and Pakistan to strive for peace and not to pursue war. The worsening situation at the borders has shaken the people of India and Pakistan, said the May 31 statement by Archbishop Lawrence Saldanha of Lahore, commission chairman. The statement came as tensions rose between the neighboring countries. India and Pakistan reportedly have amassed 1 million troops on the borders of the disputed territory of Kashmir and have increased their war rhetoric. "The two countries have seen years of bloodshed, misery and wars waged in the name of religion and nationalism. Weapons and wars have failed in the past and will fail in the future to bring any solution to problems," the statement read. The military escalation on the borders will affect most severely the common people of both countries, it said.

### Vatican says pope will canonize Juan Diego even if trip is canceled

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With Vatican officials saying Pope John Paul II might not visit Mexico in July, devotees of Blessed Juan Diego were left wondering if and when the peasant who saw Our Lady of Guadalupe would become a saint. An official at the Congregation for Saints' Causes said two things are certain: Only the pope can canonize someone, and Pope John Paul plans to canonize Blessed Juan Diego. "Up until the moment of the celebration, the way, the time and the place can change," the official told Catholic News Service June 5. "Changes are always possible, even when things have been announced in a formal way," he said. "Just like a wedding, you set the date and send out invitations, but until the moment of the ceremony you can make changes."

### TV documentary to track married couples over next decade

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Borrowing a page from his acclaimed "Up" documentary series, director Michael Apted begins a look at nine newly married American couples to explore, in their own lives and actions, how the institution of marriage works and where the rough spots are. And not only will Apted look at them now, he'll also show viewers what their lives are like after two years of marriage, and after four years of marriage, and after six years, and eight years, and 10 years. "Married in America" will be shown on the A&E cable channel in two versions: a three-hour version 8-11 p.m. EDT Monday, June 17 (repeated 4-7 p.m. EDT Sunday, June 23), and a two-hour version 8-10 p.m. EDT Thursday, June 20. Apted has used the same technique of revisiting his documentary subjects in the "Up" series, which began with a look at British schoolchildren in "7 Up." He has interviewed them every seven years, the most recent in the series being "42 Up."



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Youths carry WYD cross into downtown Toronto**
**Catholic young people carry the World Youth Day cross into downtown Toronto June 9 on the final leg of its journey through Canada. Toronto will host the international gathering of Catholic youth in late July, with Pope John Paul II celebrating the closing vigil and Mass.**

### Croatian news agency says pope has postponed September visit

ROME (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has postponed a tentatively scheduled visit to Croatia until spring 2003, reported IKA, a Croatian Catholic news agency. The trip, originally slated for September, was postponed because the Vatican process for a beatification expected during the trip will not be completed by then, IKA said, citing the Croatian bishops' conference. "The apostolic nunciature in Zagreb has informed the Croatian conference of bishops that the cause of the beatification of Servant of God Ivan Merz cannot be completed by September of this year," IKA said. "Therefore, the apostolic visit by Pope John Paul II ... will be postponed until the spring of 2003," it said.

### Cross-country walkers aim to raise pro-life awareness

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — Eager young adults from across the nation and gray-haired pro-life activists from San Francisco gathered in front of a Planned Parenthood office May 18 to pray for an end to abortion and to prepare for the young people's cross-country walk to World Youth Day in Toronto. San Francisco police officers outnumbered visitors to the Planned Parenthood office as nine members of Crossroads' Pro-Life Walk 2002 joined San Francisco pro-lifers in praying the rosary and singing "Holy Queen Enthroned Above" in front of the abortion clinic. Two days later, the young people began a walk that will end in Toronto July 22. Along the way they will pray the rosary, visit abortion facilities, and talk about the sanctity and dignity of all human life from conception to natural death.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**June 21**
25th episcopal anniversary of Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick
Washington, D.C.

**June 23 — 3 p.m.**
LIMEX graduation Mass
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

**June 27 — 11 a.m.**
Priests' jubilee Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

**June 29 — 11 a.m.**
Mass and blessing of Sisters of Mercy eucharistic chapel
Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, Belmont

**July 5 — 9 p.m.**
Mass for participants in Catholic Heart Work Camp
Charlotte Catholic High School, Charlotte

## Diocesan planner

**June**

**18** SALISBURY — Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministry in collaboration with U.S. Financial Services will be presenting "The Senior Financial Workshop" this morning from 10-11:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St. The free educational workshop for seniors 65 and over will focus on Medicaid, social security, taxes, financial planning and other topics. For reservations and other information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220.

**21** CHARLOTTE — Thank God It's Friday (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, will meet tonight at 7 p.m. in the St. Matthew Church parish center, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., with a potluck dinner and a guest speaker from the community. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Trish Wilson at (704) 543-8986.

**22** WINSTON-SALEM — St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St., will be hosting a program on spiritual growth today from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and June 23 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Jesuit Father Richard McHugh, Ph.D., will be presenting an introductory workshop aimed at deepening one's personal, social and spiritual growth through neurolinguistic programming (NLP) entitled "Discovering Yourself." NLP is a way of training the brain to learn healthy patterns and behaviors to bring about positive physical and emotional effects. Lunch will be provided for both dates. For reservations and other details, call Jesuit Father Larry Hunt at (336) 725-9200.

**23** HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for

### New York bishop resigns after admitting affairs with women

NEW YORK (CNS) — New York Auxiliary Bishop James F. McCarthy has resigned after admitting he had affairs with several women, the New York Archdiocese announced June 11. In a statement New York Cardinal Edward M. Egan expressed "my personal care and concern for all involved in this situation, in particular any women and their families who may have been hurt, and Bishop McCarthy as well." Bishop McCarthy, 59, had been a bishop only since June 1999. He was pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Shrub Oak and regional vicar for the northern Westchester, Putnam and Rockland region of the New York Archdiocese. In the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, he was a member of the Committee on Women in Society and in the Church. He was the fourth bishop to resign since the start of the year following allegations or admissions of sexual misconduct.

### Monks killed at Conception Abbey remembered as 'generous, gracious'

CONCEPTION, Mo. (CNS) — The abbot of Conception Abbey Benedictine monastery mourned two monks killed by a gunman June 10 as men who had lived "in a generous, gracious spirit." Benedictine Abbot Gregory Polan said there was "a lot of shock and sadness" at the violent deaths of Brother Damian Larson, 64, who was known as the "weather monk" at the abbey, and Father Philip Schuster, the retired chaplain at St. Francis Hospital in Maryville, who was in his 80s. The gunman, who was identified by police only as a 71-year-old man from Kearney, Mo., was found dead in a chapel at the abbey with two weapons, an AK-47 and a sawed off .22-caliber rifle. Abbot Polan said he was shown a driver's license picture of the gunman and "we have no sense of who this man is."



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Catholics board up windows, doors in East Belfast home**
**Two women stand between boards protecting the door and windows of their house from loyalists during rioting in East Belfast in early June. Belfast's acting police chief said recent rioting between Catholic and Protestant groups in the city was the worst in four years.**

### Variation on a theme: Vatican denies that pope will retire in Poland

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The latest papal resignation rumor, officially dismissed by the Vatican, is a variation on an old theme that had Pope John Paul II eventually retiring to a Carmelite monastery in Poland. The new rumor, published by the Czech weekly Tyden, says that at the end of the pope's Aug. 16-19 visit to his homeland, Pope John Paul will resign as head of the Catholic Church and stay in Poland. Tyden said its information came from "Polish prelates with close ties to the pope," but did not mention the Carmelites. Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the Vatican spokesman, denied the rumors June 4, citing appointments the pope already has made in Rome after the Poland visits.

### Family tradition comes to end as 11th child finishes Catholic school

JOLIET, Ill. (CNS) — When Donna Markun graduated from Joliet Catholic Academy in mid-May, she was following in some familiar footsteps. Not only were her mother and father alumni of St. Francis Academy and Joliet Catholic High School, respectively, but each of her 10 siblings went to one of the schools or to the academy which was formed from both of them. For the past 21 years, a Markun had been at one of the schools. On a recent day in May, several members of the Markun family gathered around the large U-shaped kitchen table to swap stories of their experiences growing up in the Catholic school tradition. "You have to prioritize," said the Markun matriarch, Rosemary. "(Catholic education) was high on our priority list. We wanted the children to hear outside of the home the same values they hear inside — of God's importance in life."

### Cuban bishop calls for constructive dialogue with government

HAVANA, Cuba (CNS) — The church wants a "sincere, respectful and constructive dialogue" with the Cuban government and the Communist Party concerning restrictions on church activities, said Auxiliary Bishop Salvador Riveron Cortina of Havana. Government openness toward religion is "still insufficient" despite the lessening of discrimination and increased contacts between church and government officials since Pope John Paul II's 1998 visit, the bishop said May 30 in a speech at the Dominican San Juan de Letran Monastery in Havana. Hard-line attitudes by people in government and the Communist Party hinder the church's social action and educational work, he added. In addition, "a cloud of silence" exists in the official media about the church's activities, Bishop Riveron said.

### Ohio bishop retires; new ones named in Ohio and Kentucky

WASHINGTON (CNS) — New bishops have been named for the dioceses of Steubenville, Ohio, and Covington, Ky., and the current bishop of Steubenville has retired. Pope John Paul II accepted the resignation of Bishop Gilbert I. Sheldon of Steubenville, who turned 75 last fall. He appointed a pastor from the Cincinnati Archdiocese, Father R. Daniel Conlon of Holy Redeemer Parish in New Bremen, as his successor. Msgr. Roger J. Foys, vicar general of the Steubenville Diocese, was named bishop of Covington, succeeding Bishop Robert W. Muench, who was appointed bishop of Baton Rouge, La., on Dec. 15. The appointments were announced in Washington May 31 by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

### Lexington bishop, facing three abuse claims, resigns

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II June 10 accepted the resignation of Bishop J. Kendrick Williams of Lexington, Ky., who faces three allegations of sexual abuse of minors or young men when he was a priest. Bishop Williams, 65, has denied the allegations. He is the second bishop this year and the third since 1998 to resign following accusations of sex offenses against under-age boys. The Vatican notice of his resignation cited Canon 401.2 of church law, which says a bishop should resign if he is less able to govern his diocese "because of ill health or some other grave cause." Previously a priest of the Louisville Archdiocese, Bishop Williams is named in three sexual abuse lawsuits filed against the archdiocese since mid-May.

more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

**23** MAGGIE VALLEY — Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, will be presenting "The God Who Reconciles," a program about divine love and reconciliation beginning this evening through June 29. Dr. Diane Gautney, licensed psychologist and certified spiritual director, will aid participants in learning to listen for God's call despite outside influences and interferences. To register, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

**24** NEWTON — The Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group will be meeting at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

**26** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**July**

**1** CHARLOTTE — The bereavement support group will meet tonight from 6-7:30 p.m. and every first Monday in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. This support group is for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. For details, call Ruth Posey, CSS counselor, at (704) 370-3238.

**1** CHARLOTTE — The regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight and every first Monday at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on July 2 and every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**1** CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on Aug. 5. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

**Ongoing**

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., hosts free tours of the historic church after each weekend Mass. The Masses are celebrated every Saturday at 5 p.m., and on Sundays at 9 a.m. and noon. For more information on scheduling guided tours, call Shirley Gregory at (828) 274-4592.

BRYSON CITY — The St. Joseph Church thrift shop is open every Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information, call the shop, located at 316 Main St., at (828) 488-2266 or Katherine Kelly at (828) 488-2519.

CHARLOTTE — "Forever Young" is an exercise group for people 55 and older held at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. They meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m.-noon and are always seeking new members. A professional instructor will teach the hour of cardiovascular exercises. Call Peg Hill at (704) 540-7255 for details.

CHARLOTTE — Rachel's Children is a service for parents who have lost a baby to miscarriage, stillbirth or SIDS. If interested in meeting to discuss the emotional, physical and spiritual effects from this type of loss, Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast at (704) 543-7677, Ext. 43.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the publication date.*

# New church dedicated for growing Hispanic community



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

**Bishop William G. Curlin blesses the new Our Lady of Guadalupe Church during the dedication Mass June 2.**

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Years of struggle and faith have finally paid off for Hispanic Catholics in the Charlotte area.

Bishop William G. Curlin presided over the dedication Mass for the new Our Lady of Guadalupe Church June 2. The new building — formerly known as the Catholic Hispanic Center — symbolizes the growing Hispanic population in the diocese, but it is only the first phase of a continuing plan that started a long time ago.

"With praise and thanksgiving let us ask God, through whom all things are accomplished, to bless this new building and catechetical center," said Bishop Curlin to the crowd of over 600 gathered in the parish hall for the morning Mass.

"This means a lot for the Hispanic people," said Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty, who came to the Hispanic community seven years ago when they were holding Mass in the gymnasium of the old Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte.

Father Finnerty said the parishioners, whom he described as humble and devoted people, have worked hard to get the center built. Those who cannot donate their treasure donate generously with their time and talents, he said.

Many of them spend Sunday — their only day off from work — to cook and sell food outside the building, bringing in an extra $200-$300 a week to help with the center's expenses.

"I think the people are very happy with what their struggle has produced, and they feel that Our Lady of Guadalupe has been with them through it all," said Father Finnerty, explaining that the Lady of Guadalupe has been embedded in the Hispanic culture ever since Mary first appeared to peasant Juan Diego near Mexico City in 1531.

Because today's Hispanics have many struggles, including learning English and finding work, Father Finnerty said, "I think today they can really express their confidence that Our Lady of Guadalupe has been with them and will continue in all of their struggles; and this is part of that struggle — the construction of their own church."

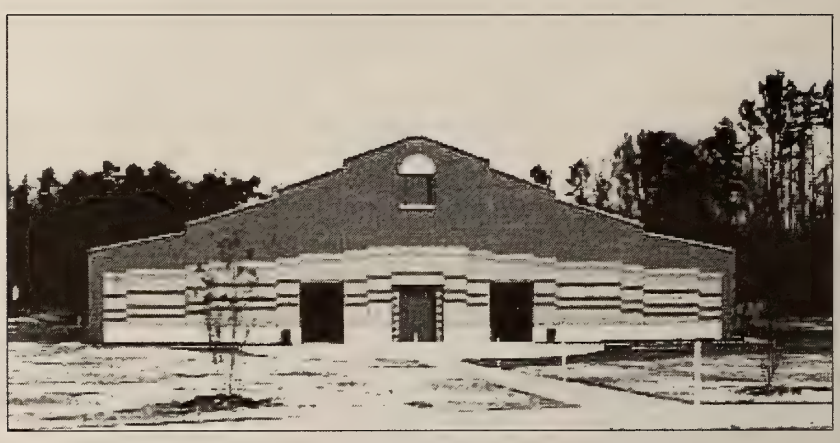
It was in September 1997 when Father Finnerty first announced to the parish the fundraising campaign to build the community/multipurpose facility on a 16-acre tract of land off of Tuckaseegee Road in Northwest Charlotte."

Father Finnerty translated for Bishop Curlin as he said, "This is the dream that all of us had for many years, and now the dream has come true. So I ask God to bless you for all that you have done to make this possible."

The Hispanic Center includes a kitchen, shower facilities and a parish

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## From previous page

hall that accommodates over 4,000 Hispanics at each of its seven weekend Masses. The average age of the parishioners, said Father Finnerty, is 25.

"We have a nice building, but it's already too small," said Father Finnerty, indicating the building holds numerous social activities, including karate classes, weightlifting, prayer groups, marriage encounters and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. A Hispanic radio program also broadcasts from the building.

"It's not only a church but also a center for a lot of activities that bring people together," said Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, diocesan director of Hispanic Ministry. "The people have been praying and working to get this building built for years. It's a real tribute to the Hispanic community."

The parish plans to build a sanctuary in the next decade, as well as a sports complex and soccer field. "We have a soccer league with almost 200 kids," said Father Finnerty. "The parking is barely enough now, so there's a need to keep on expanding."

Ramón Morales and family have watched the congregation grow over the last several years. "We come every Sunday morning, and we have new faces every week," he said.

"In 20 years, we are told that this will be primarily a Hispanic diocese," said Bishop Curlin. "Here (in Our Lady of Guadalupe), the young will learn of their Catholic faith, and adults will deepen their commitment to live as Christ has taught us."

"The Catholic Church has always been an immigrant church in the United States," noted Father Finnerty. "I think our Christian obligation to them is not to ask why they're here but how we can lend them a hand."

Father Finnerty said Our Lady of Guadalupe Church was a positive step forward for both Hispanics and the Catholic Church. "There are a lot of signs of growth in this diocese; not just physically but spiritually," he said.

"This building is a place to which we come to know one another and give witness to our faith in Jesus," said Bishop Curlin. "We pray that the word of God will always echo inside these walls."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*



**Father Vincent Finnerty, Bishop William G. Curlin and Rev. Mr. Raphael Torres during the dedication Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe June 2.**

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY





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# Pastoral Assignments

*Bishop William G. Curlin announces the following pastoral changes:*

**Effective immediately**

**Appointment of Vicariate Vicar**

**Rev. Frank O'Rourke** while remaining as Pastor of Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro
To: Vicar of Greensboro Vicariate

**Rev. William Robinson, OFM Conv.**
From: Parochial Vicar, Our Lady Of Mercy, Winston-Salem
To: Pastor, Our Lady of Mercy, Winston-Salem

**Effective July 9:**

**Appointment of pastors**

**Rev. Thomas Kessler**
From: Administrator, St. Dorothy, Lincolnton
To: Pastor of St. Leo, Winston-Salem

**Rev. W. Ray Williams**
From: Administrator, St. Joseph, Bryson City
To: Pastor of St. Mary, Sylva

**Rev. Thomas Stott**
From: Sabbatical
To: Pastor of St. Dorothy, Lincolnton

**Rev. John Kelly**
From: Parochial Vicar, Immaculate Heart of Mary, High Point
To: Pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary, High Point

**Rev. Thomas Murphy, OSFS**
From: Interim Administrator, Saint Paul, Greensboro
To: Pastor, Saint Paul, Greensboro

**Appointment of administrators**

**Rev. John Hanic**
From: Chaplain, Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, Charlotte
To: Administrator of Holy Redeemer, Andrews with Prince of Peace Mission, Robbinsville

**Rev. Robert Ferris**
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Gabriel, Charlotte
To: Administrator of St. Benedict, Greensboro

**Rev. David Brzoska**
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Mark, Huntersville
To: Administrator of St. Andrew the Apostle, Mars Hill with Mission Sacred Heart, Burnsville

**Rev. Frank Seabo**
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Lawrence Basilica, Asheville
To: Administrator of St. Joseph, Bryson City with Mission Our Lady of Guadalupe, Cherokee

**Rev. Matthew Kauth**
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Matthew, Charlotte
To: Administrator of St. Francis of Assisi, Franklin

**Appointment of Parochial Vicars**

**Rev. Christopher Gober**
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Michael, Gastonia
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Gabriel, Charlotte

**Rev. Carmen Malacari**
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick, Charlotte
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Matthew, Charlotte

**Rev. Joseph Long Dinh**
From: Parochial Vicar, Sacred Heart, Salisbury
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Lawrence Basilica, Asheville

**Rev. Shawn O'Neal**
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Elizabeth, Boone
To: Parochial Vicar, Sacred Heart, Salisbury

**Rev. Peter Pham**
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Vincent de Paul, Charlotte
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Francis, Lenoir

**Rev. Larry LoMonaco**
Newly Ordained
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Leo the Great, Winston-Salem

**Rev. Johnathan Hanic**
Newly Ordained
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick, Charlotte

**Rev. Christopher Roux**
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Leo the Great, Winston-Salem
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Mark, Huntersville

**Rev. Anthony Gilborges, OSFS**
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Paul the Apostle, Greensboro
To: Parochial Vicar, Immaculate Heart of Mary, High Point

**Rev. Anthony Larry, OSFS**
To: Parochial Vicar, Saint Paul the Apostle, Greensboro

**Rev. Daniel Quackenbush, OFM Conv.**
To: Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Mercy, Winston-Salem

**Rev. Denis Hackett, OFM Conv.**
From: Parochial Vicar, Our Lady Mercy, Winston-Salem
To: Reassignment by his religious order.

**Rev. Lucian Martinez, S.J.**
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Peter, Charlotte
To: Reassignment by his religious order.

**Rev. John Allen**
From: Pastor St. Michael, Gastonia
To: Full-time Vocations Director

**Rev. Morris Boyd**
From: Pastor, Saint Francis, Franklin
To: Sabbatical for Hispanic studies

**Rev. Cecil Tice**
From: Pastor, Saint Leo, Winston-Salem
To: Leave from priestly ministry at his own request

**Rev. James Cahill**
From: Pastor, St. Mary, Sylva
To: Retirement at his own request

**Rev. Msgr. Joseph Showfety**
From: Pastor, St. Benedict, Greensboro
To: Retirement at his own request

**Rev. Edward Ifkovits, S.J.**
From: Pastor, St. Andrew the Apostle, Mars Hill
To: Reassignment by his religious order

**Rev. Robert Bond, Glenmary**
From: Pastor, Holy Redeemer, Andrews
To: Reassigned by his religious order

**Rev. Stephen Hoyt, OFM Cap**
From: Chaplain, Charlotte Catholic High School
To: Reassigned by his religious order

**Effective July 31:**

**Rev. Patrick Winslow**
From: Diocese of Syracuse
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Vincent de Paul, Charlotte

**Effective August 15:**

**Rev. Joseph Mulligan**
From: Sabbatical
To: Pastor of St. Michael, Gastonia

**Effective Sept 1:**

**Rev. Mark Horak, S.J.**
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Peter, Charlotte

# Ninth year of perpetual adoration begins on Corpus Christi



PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**Bishop William G. Curlin takes part in the eucharistic procession around the rose garden during the celebration of the feast of Corpus Christi at Maryfield June 2.**

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

HIGH POINT — One of the best-known secrets of success for the Poor Servants of the Mother of God is found in the perpetual adoration chapel within the Maryfield complex.

"Perpetual adoration began here on the feast of Corpus Christi in 1994," said Poor Servant Sister Lucy Hennessy, director of Maryfield. "For the last eight years, not a day has passed without at least one person praying before the Risen Christ in the chapel of adoration every hour of every day."

Perpetual adoration is a practice of displaying the Eucharist 24 hours a day in a chapel for continuous adoration. This feat is accomplished at Maryfield through the Poor Servant Sisters, their associates, the residents and other volunteers "who unselfishly give of their time for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for several hours on a weekly basis," said Sister Lucy.

On the feast of Corpus Christi, said Sister Lucy, we celebrate the real presence of Jesus — body, blood, soul and divinity — in the Eucharist. Bishop William G. Curlin, along with Father Anthony Marcaccio, vice chancellor, and resident and visiting priests celebrated Mass at Maryfield.

"This annual celebration of Corpus Christi is our public way of giving prayer and homage to the body and blood of Jesus Christ," said Sister Lucy.

This feast of Corpus Christi is a movable feast based on the church calendar and the celebration of Easter. It always falls on the Sunday following Trinity Sunday, the first Sunday after Pentecost, and focuses on the body and blood of Jesus and highlights the redemptive nature of his total self-sacrifice in the sacrament of the Eucharist.

During the 13th century, when devotion and belief in the church was in decline, St. Juliana of Mont-Cornillon, an Augustinian nun, received a revelation from God showing her that the Christian year was lacking a feast in honor of the Blessed Sacrament. It was through her efforts that Pope Urban IV sanctioned the feast of Corpus Christi in 1264.

A eucharistic procession was added to the feast of Corpus Christi during the 14th century. This came immediately following the Mass for public adoration with the purpose of enhancing the nature of the festival.

"On the feast of Corpus Christi ... Jesus is carried in procession around the rose garden and into the main reception hall where the bishop has always blessed the residents with the presence of the Risen Lord," said Sister Lucy.

During his homily, Bishop Curlin stressed the fact that the life, the heart and the foundation of the church are in the Eucharist. "Without the Eucharist, the church would surely die," said Bishop Curlin. "I became a priest to celebrate the Eucharist."

Bishop Curlin said that when one receives Jesus in the Eucharist, you "assimilate him and become like him. You are the presence of Christ for others," he said. "When you visit the sick and the infirm, you are, Christ for them."

Friends and benefactors of Maryfield enjoyed the celebration.

"Bishop Curlin does such a good job of reminding us that the center of our faith is Jesus Christ embodied in the bread and wine," said Geri Breeding. "It is always a pleasure to celebrate this feast with our bishop."

"This standing room-only celebration always brings us closer to Jesus and our own bishop," said Jim Neely of the Knights of Columbus Bishop Hafey council. "I wouldn't miss it for the world."

"I'm so thrilled to be here," added Theresa Hamsen. "I look forward all year long for this celebration knowing we have the body of Christ and our bishop with us."

*Contact Correspondent Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

# Various cultures celebrated at outdoor Heritage Festival



PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

**Melissa Martinez shows her son, Emmanuel, one of the Mexican piñatas to be broken open during the St. Joseph Church Heritage Fair on Corpus Christi June 2.**

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church held only one Mass Sunday morning, June 2, for the feast of Corpus Christi.

The outdoor Mass, celebrated in both English and Spanish, was symbolic of the parish's many cultures coming together for their Heritage Festival. This is the second year that the church's Family and Community Life Commission has sponsored the festival, which included displays, foods and entertainment supplied by parishioners of various nationalities.

"We are the wheat scattered across the world," said Rev. Mr. Scott Gilfillan, permanent deacon at St. Joseph Church, in his homily. Just as flour comes together to make bread when oil and water are added, he said, "We come together with the baptism of water and the anointing with oil."

Rev. Mr. Gilfillan said that we need to be like Jesus in the world. "We can look upon ourselves and see Jesus Christ," he said. "We can also look around and see all of us gathered together as one body and one bread."

During the Mass, parishioners sung hymns and recited prayers in Spanish and English and listened to intercessory prayers in several different languages.

The Mass concluded with a eucharistic procession around the church. The fragrance of incense floated on the welcomed breezes that helped to cool the parishioners out in the 90-degree heat.

Father Jim Collins, pastor of the church, carried the Eucharist during the procession in a monstrance — a sacred vessel with a clear glass center that allows the Eucharist to be viewed. Parishioners followed, many in costumes native to their countries of origin, carrying banners and singing hymns.

After the procession, those in attendance visited booths representing the cultures of Brazil, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua and Poland. Parishioners were able to view the items on display and sample native foods and drinks.

Many in attendance participated in or watched a soccer game during the festival. Soccer was chosen for the festival as a sport that most of the cultures represented at the festival had in common.

The St. Joseph's Irish Step Dancers, instructed by parishioner Meg Barrett, performed hard- and soft-shoe dances in the church hall. After their demonstration, they invited members of the audience to learn a dance called the Bridge of Athlone.

The festival ended with the children lining up, smallest to tallest, to take turns swinging a stick at two Mexican piñatas.

# Montagnard refugees arrive in Charlotte

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — The long trip may have ended, but there's still much to do for the Montagnard refugees.

After several days of traveling, the first 59 of approximately 240 Montagnards arrived in two groups at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport June 4 and June 6. The refugees, who have been persecuted by the Vietnamese government, are among 900 expected Montagnards slated for resettlement around North Carolina over the next several months.

"They're doing as well as can be expected for people who have traveled so far. They're exhausted yet very excited," said Cira Ponce, director of the Catholic Social Services (CSS) Refugee Resettlement Office, an affiliate of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Ponce was at the airport with a group of local Montagnards to greet the incoming refugees after a series of overseas delays impeded their original May arrival. Ponce has been working closely with the newcomers to help them get adjusted.

"They've now had a chance to rest and adapt to their surroundings," she said. "They have visited with other Montagnards and are starting to feel at home."

As Christians who have lived for centuries in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam, the Montagnards (a French word for mountain dwellers) aided U.S. Special Forces during the 1960s, and many became prisoners in re-education camps after the Vietnam War ended.

The 900 coming to North Carolina are mostly men who fled Vietnam and left their families after the communist government crushed their protests over religious and political persecution and the taking of their tribal lands. Since February 2001, the refugees have been staying in two United Nations-administered camps in Cambodia until the opportunity arose to resettle in the United States.

"We came here, and want our lives to be like American lives, with the freedom to speak and freedom of religions," said 23-year-old Ywing Eban, who spoke through an interpreter.

Since their arrival, the Montagnards have been busy making trips to the Mecklenburg County Health Department and Social Security Office, among other places.

"They have lots of hopes; one is getting a job to send money home to their families," said Ponce.

Due to cooperative resettlement efforts of the U.S. Special Forces and the State Department, North Carolina is currently the largest Montagnard resettlement site in the Western hemisphere. The Diocese of Charlotte has already helped resettle 614 Montagnards in the diocese since 1986.

In May, with a letter from Bishop William G. Curlin, the Refugee Resettlement Office began a diocese-wide campaign to raise the needed items for the Montagnards, who arrived in Charlotte with little more than the clothes on their backs.

The combined efforts of Catholic parishes, other churches, youth groups, employers, veterans, the existing Montagnard community and Sunny Sarahany, owner of a local apartment complex, helped to furnish apartments in the Charlotte area and supply clothes, said Ponce.

"It's been an extraordinary response," she said. "We've been so blessed to have so much support."

More refugees, including entire families, will continue to arrive throughout the summer. The CSS Refugee Resettlement Office still requires the following assistance: cars in good condition, diapers, food coupons, financial donations and tutors to teach conversational English (orientation and training will be provided to the tutors).

"I continue to be moved by the magnitude of our community's unfailing compassion and commitment to those in need," said Ponce.

*For more information on ways to help the Montagnards, please contact the CSS Refugee Resettlement Office at (704) 370-3255.*

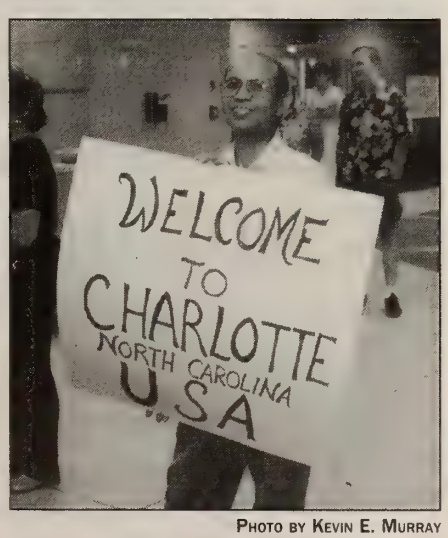



Photo by Kevin E. Murray

**Yjuen Eban, a Montagnard who resettled in Charlotte in 1986, waits to greet the first group of Montagnard refugees arriving at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport June 4.**

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# Many contribute to help aid domestic abuse victims

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

*Editor's Note: This article contains graphic accounts of domestic abuse. Certain names have been changed to protect those involved.*

WESTERN N.C. — Susan's husband, Bill, broke down the front door at 2 a.m., threw her onto their bed and began strangling her in front of their two children. When she regained consciousness 10 minutes later, Susan called 911 and charged Bill with attempted murder.

In the last two years there have been more than 3,000 "Susans" in North Carolina's seven westernmost counties — Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Clay, Cherokee, Swain and Graham — the counties that comprise the 30th Judicial District and the Diocese of Charlotte's Smoky Mountain Vicariate.

That statistic isn't restricted to this area. "What we hear nationally is that 15-17 percent of women experience some form of family violence," said Julia Freeman, director of REACH of Haywood County, which provides emergency help to domestic-violence victims.

To help alleviate the problem, the 30th Judicial District Domestic Violence-Sexual Assault Alliance Inc. has established Partnership for Peace.

"We want to educate the clergy on how to work with victims of domestic violence in an appropriate manner," said Patricia Gaddis, the Alliance's sexual assault specialist. "A lot of pastors do couples' counseling, and that's the most dangerous thing the counselor can do because abuse is about power and control. If the battered woman reveals something in a counseling session that her partner has done, when they go home, he can take it out on her because she revealed something about him."

"We realized there was a great need for this and that the churches could be instrumental in helping with this," said Augustinian Father Francis J. Doyle, pastor of St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley, chair of the Haywood County Domestic Violence Task Force and a REACH board member.

"The first year I was here (1998)," Father Doyle said, "the St. Margaret Women's Guild was having a luncheon, and Patty Gaddis was the guest speaker; at the time, she was working for REACH. She talked about the needs here. I was shocked."

Partnership for Peace has obtained grants of $25,000 and $15,000 respectively from the Z. Smith Reynolds and Duke Endowment foundations.

"The Duke Foundation wants to see an ecumenical base, and that's when I was approached to see if the Catholic community would be involved," Father Doyle said. "The Augustinians have a ministry fund, and after one of our (Smoky Mountain) vicariate meetings, I called our ministry office of our province and told them what I was involved in, and they said,' yes, there was money available.'"

The Augustinians contributed $4,000; the Smoky Mountain Vicariate's 12 parishes matched that with a check presented at the June 3 vicariate meeting. Susan and her "sisters" in abuse will benefit.



Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**Presenting a check to Patricia Gaddis is Father George M. Kloster (right), vicar of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate. With them is Augustinian Father Francis J. Doyle, pastor of St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley.**

Bill began verbally abusing Susan the second month they were married.

When they'd been married 10 months, and she was nine months pregnant, Bill physically abused Susan. Then he beat up her father because she and her father had a close relationship.

"The very next night," Susan said, "when Bill came home, he was drunk. He held a gun in my mouth and to my head all night long. (He said) he was going to make me watch while he cut my father's throat and killed his whole family, and then he'd kill me. He made me call my father and call him (names). I had to tell my father I wouldn't ever see him again."

Susan and Bill's son was born 13 days later. Her family was afraid to go near her.

She moved out several times, but either lack of money or her husband's promises to reform brought her back. She gave birth to their daughter. After that, Bill took to shoving Susan, slapping her, threatening to kill her.

The last time Susan left, Bill was asleep when she packed what she could into trash bags. She quickly put the kids in the car and got out of there as fast as she could.

He found where she lived, broke into the house and strangled her. Technicalities reduced the charge from attempted murder to assault — inflicting serious bodily injury — and burglary. Currently in jail, Bill will be out in only a few years.

"I worry about it, and I pray about it every night, for the safety of my kids," Susan said.

Susan divorced Bill. She has a good job and takes online courses toward a bachelor's degree; her children are doing well. She tries not to dwell on her marital hell.

"If I live in it and live with it," she said, "then my children have to. I fear that we're going to have to run in six years. If we have to pick up and go, we will. I just try to live in the present and move on."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

# Charismatic renewal celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — Seventy prayer group members from parishes throughout North and South Carolina gathered for the 35th anniversary celebration of the charismatic renewal at St. Patrick Cathedral June 9.

Father Dean Cesa, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon, concelebrated the Mass with Father Manuel Sundaram, parochial vicar of St. Ann Church in Charlotte and charismatic member.

Prayer group members processed into the church carrying banners at the start of the Mass. Raising of hands, singing and joining the celebrants on the altar were special characteristics of the Mass.

In the opening prayer, Father Cesa said, "It is wonderful the way the Lord works. We trust his Holy Spirit will continue to lead us."

The late Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley started Charlotte's charismatic renewal program 25 years ago with the assistance of his secretary, Mary Beatty. Charismatic members, who meet weekly in prayer groups, are committed to acts of charity and love and helping other people.

Charismatic renewal flows from the personal and communal experience of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. What was received in the sacraments of baptism, Communion and confirmation is enlivened or rekindled. Members are encouraged to establish a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit through daily prayer, meditation, attendance at daily Mass and receiving the sacraments.

Through conferences, seminars, retreats and presentations, the Charlotte charismatic renewal program makes known the power and presence of the Holy Spirit of God as he seeks to reveal the love of the Father through Jesus.

In the homily, Father Cesa related that the charismatic movement played a vital part in his vocation. While attending the 25th anniversary celebration of the charismatic movement in Pittsburgh, Penn., he joined in an altar call for vocations — those thinking of entering the religious life were encouraged to pray for their vocation, make a retreat with just their vocation in mind, seek spiritual direction and speak to a director of vocations.

"Things moved very quickly for me after that," said Father Cesa. "This is an indication of how God was moving within me, prodding me along to answer his call."

Referring to Sunday's Gospel, Father Cesa noted that Matthew was called to leave one vocation — that of a tax collector — to follow another, which was Jesus' calling.

"The Holy Spirit asks all of us to follow Jesus, to find our vocation in him, leaving behind those things that may hinder our vocation," said Father Cesa. "Through the Holy Spirit, may our prayers be a continuing, guiding force. Let us all be filled with love and mercy in God and share that. It is his guidance that leads us to righteousness and ultimately brings us peace in our lives."

A special part of the Mass occurred at the consecration with members standing on the altar. As Father Cesa raised the host and chalice, prayer group members vocally expressed personal praise and prayer.

Another meaningful moment occurred during the sign of peace, when a true expression of friendship and unity was expressed through handshakes and hugs.

Just before the final blessing, many members shared their thoughts, strengths and testimonies. A potluck supper in St. Patrick School's cafeteria followed the Mass.

*The National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference will be held Sept. 13-15 in Pittsburgh. For more information about the Charlotte Catholic Renewal Service Team call Joyce Brown at (704) 547-1836 or Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.*



Photo by Mary Marshall

**Prayer group members join Father Dean Cesa and Father Manuel Sundaram on the altar for the consecration during the 35th anniversary celebration of the charismatic renewal at St. Patrick Cathedral June 9.**


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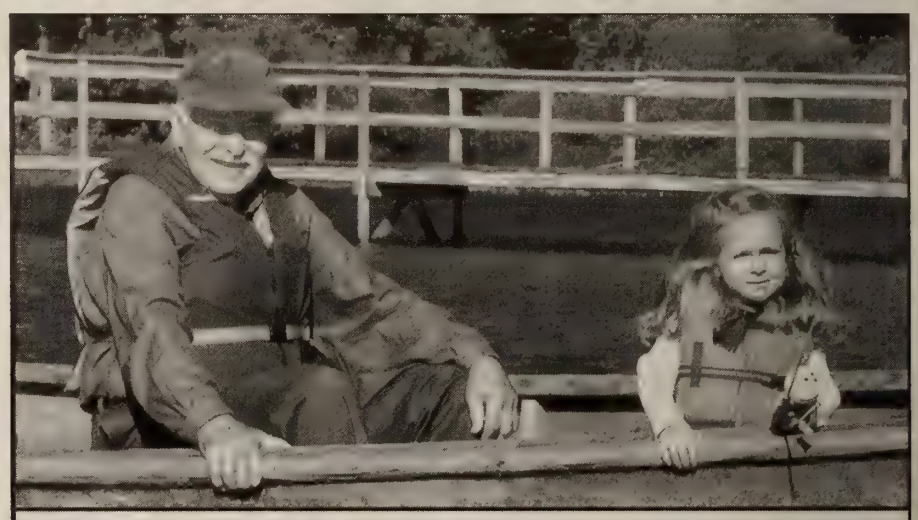


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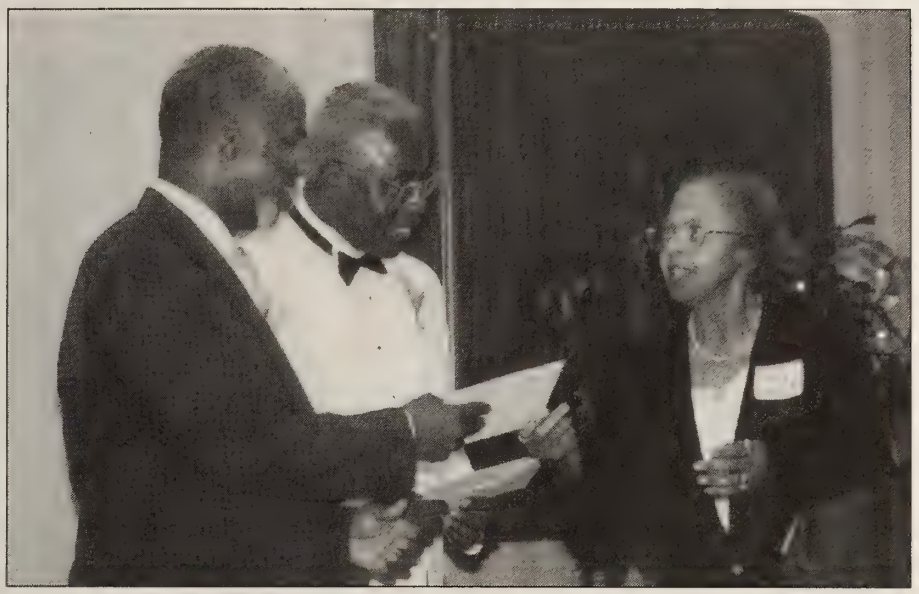
# Men honored for years of service in Scouting, helping Eagles to fly

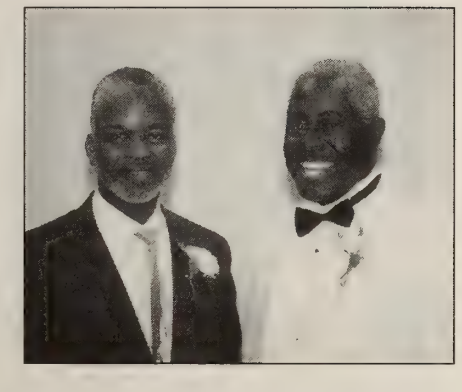
By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Willis Joseph's and Henry "Penny" Wallace's lives converge in various ways: both work for the same company in different departments; both are baritones who sing in the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Church (OLC); and both grandfathers have dedicated their time and talent to helping raise boys to become successful, prosperous men in their community. For more than 40 combined years, Joseph and Wallace have been Assistant Scoutmaster and Scoutmaster respectively for Troop 172 in the Polaris District of the Mecklenburg County Council, Boy Scouts of America and were honored for their affiliation with the age-old organization.

Held on June 1, the appreciation banquet, sponsored by a committee from OLC and spearheaded by co-chairpersons Priscilla Duncan and Pat McDonald, highlighted their careers and spotlighted the fruit of their labor — 21 Eagle Scouts since 1987 and many Cub and Boy Scouts. With less than one percent of Boy Scouts reaching the Eagle level, Joseph and Wallace were commended for their work with aiding the young men to strive higher and reach farther for their goals.

"They've done so much good for the kids and for their families. Henry and Willis have been involved a lot and have provided an important continuity for the boys," said Leroy Mayne, Mecklenburg County Council Scout executive and banquet guest. "They have had a much higher number of Eagle Scouts than most of the troops and most of the African-American troops because of their tenure with the program, dedication and positive encouragement year after year for the Scouts to be the best they can be."





Photos by Alesha M. Price

**Assistant Scoutmaster Willis Joseph and Scoutmaster Henry Wallace of Troop 172 smile for a picture after an appreciation banquet June 1 and graciously receive appreciation cards from Mary Jones, Our Lady of Consolation Choir representative.**

Several church and community leaders, parishioners, family, friends and most of the Eagle Scouts from Troop 172 were present to offer their thanks and appreciation for their years of service. Joseph and Wallace received apostolic blessings from Rome, certificates of special congressional recognition, Mecklenburg County seals, engraved watches from the families of Troop 172, appreciation cards from the OLC choir and roses and gift certificates for their wives, Mary Joseph and Carolyn Wallace. Each of the Eagle Scouts also addressed the men to thank them for their work and for serving as role models for all and father figures for some.

"Through the Boy Scouting program, Mr. Wallace and Mr. Joseph taught me how to be a leader especially as a young black man in this world. They taught me how to survive, to look at things from different angles and to use the skills that are needed to become a successful and independent person," said Rodney James, an Eagle Scout pursuing his master's degree in electrical engineering at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. "They are special individuals that are important to our community."

A love of service and a dedication to volunteerism led Wallace to step forward in 1982 and serve as the troop committee chairperson in his parish. He later became Scoutmaster when the position was left vacant and has gone nonstop ever since. He and Joseph helped to recruit boys not only from the parish but also in the surrounding neighborhoods and placed them in situations and settings with which many were not familiar.

"We took kids out of highly urban settings out into the mountains, which was something that many of them would not have experienced. This is a program that provided something for the boys to do. To see the look of exhilaration and joy on the face of a 17-year-old who has just been on his first whitewater rafting trip or of a 14-year-old who has climbed atop a mountain can be compared to no other experiences," said Wallace.

Wallace has received many awards and has served in many capacities including Scoutmaster of the Mecklenburg Council's Troop 1504 at the 2001 National Scout Jamboree, Polaris District Klondike Vice Chief in 2000, Catholic Camporee Chief and Talahi District Camporee Chief. He has also been elected to serve on the executive board of the Mecklenburg County Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Wallace talked about the importance of boys, especially African-American youth, seeing Joseph and himself in leadership positions. "So many of our kids are being raised by single parents across all racial divides, but it is important for our kids because we comprise the majority of males behind bars," he said. "If our kids will be successful, our kids have to see adult black males in these types of roles."

Joseph, a Trinidad native, has also been heavily involved with Scouting since his son, Jamal, became involved with Cub Scouts in 1982. He became the Webelos leader, the stage between Cub Scout and Boy Scout, and the Assistant Scoutmaster and, like Wallace, has garnered many accolades and served in various other positions including district training chairperson, Southeast Regional Cub Scout Woodbadge Counselor, Talahi District Chief and Catholic Camporee Chief.

"We have had the pleasure and reward of seeing young men, whether they are Eagle or not, who have matured and have prepared to step out in the world and do what is right," said Joseph. "It has been a real privilege to have been a part of these young folks' lives. They all came with something, and all we did was help the seeds that were already planted to grow."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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# New priests called to be lights i

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — In a spirited message to two candidates for the priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte, Bishop William G. Curlin focused on the responsibility that comes with the sacrament and called on his brother priests to be living examples of Christ.

Before a church packed with clergy, religious, seminarians and the two candidates' families, Bishop Curlin proudly welcomed Rev. Messrs. Johnathan Hanic and Lawrence LoMonaco as the diocese's newest priests during a two-hour Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral June 2.

The ordination was unique as the newly ordained Father Johnathan Hanic joined his father, Father John Hanic, chaplain at Holy Trinity Middle School, as a priest of the diocese.

In his homily, Bishop Curlin expressed the fulfillment and rewards of being a priest, but revealed it as a life that requires endless faith and devotion.

"I imagine that only in the years to come will you realize the enormity of what you are doing today," he said to the two candidates. "It will demand much sacrifice on your part. It may mean receiving criticism that is unjust and unfair. It will entail at times making sacrifices.

"You have to be proud to be a priest and never apologize for it," he added, stating the priests should have a deep reverence for the church. "You should defend the church and speak up for it."

Bishop Curlin spoke of the recent scandals in the church that have "horrified, sickened and angered us." Even though the percentage of involved priests is small, he said, "One is too many for a priest to be guilty of abuse of a child."

The bishop challenged the candidates — and all the priests in attendance — to be holy priests and to be "lights in the world and be the salt of the earth. Wen people criticize the church, we can point to you and say, 'They're the priesthood. They're what the priesthood is.' Make God proud."

To be entrusted with the souls of men and women, each priest must be a mature, "trustworthy representative of Jesus Christ," said Bishop Curlin. "The people have a right to see in us a profound resemblance to Jesus Christ when they put their souls in our hands."

Being a good priest means living in intimacy with Jesus Christ, said the bishop. He encouraged the priests to spend one hour a day before the Blessed Sacrament and called it the heartbeat of every priest's life.

"Never spend a day without celebrating the Eucharist," he said. "You must share your heart with Christ. Enrich your life with him."

Priests are to be "servants of the servants of God," said Bishop Curlin. "Jesus said 'I came to serve others.'"

This message applied to the importance of priests respecting the members of their parishes. "They're not under you; they are your co-workers," said the bishop. "Welcome them."

Bishop Curlin also focused on the importance of priestly brotherhood, that priests should rely on one another for support, prayer and guidance.

"Find a good, brother priest to whom you can turn, laugh with and rejoice with," he said. To the priests in attendance, he said, "Welcome them with joy in your hearts and show them that we share with them this wonderful gift. Be brothers to them. Help them be wonderful priests."

Concelebrants to the Mass included Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor; Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B., spiritual and administrative leader of Belmont Abbey and chancellor of Belmont Abbey College; Father Paul Gary, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral; and Father John Allen, assistant to the bishop for vocations and pastor of St. Michael Church in Gastonia.

During the rite of ordination, the candidates confirmed their promises to fulfill the office of priesthood. Kneeling, both men placed their hands between Bishop Curlin's hands in a promise of obedience to him and his successors.

The congregation was invited to join in prayer for the candidates, the church and its people as the candidates lay prostrate.

During the rite's most solemn moment, the candidates knelt in silence before Bishop Curlin, who laid his hands on their heads. The celebration of the sacrament of holy orders was completed as the bishop extended his hands over the kneeling candidates and prayed the prayer of consecration.

Both new priests were vested with a stole and a chasuble — outer garments of the priestly office. The bishop anointed their hands with sacred chrism, and they were then presented with a chalice and paten signifying their roles as celebrants of the Eucharist.

The newly ordained Father Hanic and Father LoMonaco then joined their brother priests to concelebrate the Mass, thus opening new chapters in their lives.

Bishop Curlin expressed his pride in the new priests. "I have no doubt that you will be wonderful priests. You're such a hope for us and an encouragement for all of your brothers still in the seminary. You are our future."

The bishop made a point to address the families of the newly ordained. "We thank you for the gifts of your sons," he said.

"I am very proud of my son. He's worked very hard," said Betty LoMonaco, mother of Father LoMonaco. "He's a very devoted and loving person, and I think he'll do very well as a priest. He'll live to serve the people."

"Nothing's ever felt so right," admitted Father LoMonaco after the ceremony.

Father John Hanic expressed joy at







**Pictured above: Father John Hanic helps his son, newly ordained Father Johnathan Hanic, with his vestments. Pictured above right: Father John Allen; Father Lawrence LoMonoco; Bishop William G. Curlin; Father Johnathan Hanic; and Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B. Pictured right: diocesan, religious and visiting priests lay hands on the heads of the candidates during the most solemn moment of the ordination rite.**

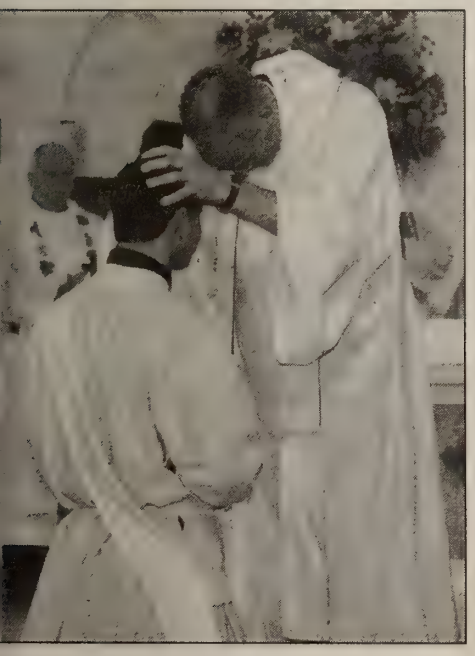
# the world and salt of the earth





PHOTOS BY ALESHA M. PRICE

**Pictured above right: the candidates kneel and place their hands between Bishop Curlin's hands in a promise of obedience to him and his successors. Pictured below right: the congregation was invited to join in prayer as the candidates lay prostrate.**





witnessing the ordination of his son. "Having my son as a priest in the Diocese of Charlotte is more meaningful to me than anything else that's ever taken place in my life," he said. "I rejoice in this."

Father Allen worked closely with Father Hanic and Father LoMonaco during their formation. "They each bring unique and wonderful gifts to the diocese," he said.

"I think Bishop Curlin's challenge to all of the priests and the faithful to give our hearts generously to the vocation to which God has called us is itself the key to our earthly happiness and fulfillment," he added.

Father Johnathan Hanic is looking forward to his life as a priest. "It's all about Jesus Christ," he said.

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

# Graduates leave their mark on their high schools

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

Graduation is a time filled with thoughts and feelings that run the gamut: leaving old friends behind, the excited fear of meeting new acquaintances, the anticipation of learning the quickest route through the maze of college campus buildings that all look the same, starting a career and entering a world very different from high school. Over 300 graduates from the diocese's two high schools, Charlotte Catholic High School (CCHS) and Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School (BMHS), reached a milestone in their young lives as they crossed the narrowly bridged chasm between adolescence and young adulthood.



Photos by Alesha M. Price



**Pictured above: Colleen Phelan, right, helps Jennifer Tryon, valedictorian, pin her medals onto her gown at the BMHS baccalaureate Mass May 30 at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro.**

**Pictured right: CCHS students throw up their hats at the end of the commencement exercises June 6.**

### Charlotte Catholic High School

Thunderstorms met many of the graduates June 6 with navy blue gowns flapping in the strong winds as students and families ran into Ovens Auditorium to avoid the downpour. However, the weather did not dampen the spirit and zest of the class of 2002 or their families. People packed into the auditorium to watch 237 young men and women receive diplomas which stood for years of academic achievement, sports awards and life's highs and lows.

The nervous bunch of future college students and working men and women gathered upstairs waiting to present themselves to the audience until they heard the familiar strains of "Pomp and Circumstance," played for the first time by the CCHS Concert Band.

The students represent 66 colleges and universities including Belmont Abbey College, Catholic University, North Carolina State University and others and earned over $3.7 million in scholarship money from their prospective schools.

The family atmosphere of the school was reflected in the nicknames that were called out from the graduates as the students walked on stage and in the bear hugs that Augustinian Father James Cassidy, principal, received and doled out to every member of the class. Several students jumped for joy as they received their diplomas, while others waved at family and friends or smiled when their nicknames were yelped.

After the processional, salutatorian Patrick Elliot told his classmates to reflect on their years together in a Catholic school setting and to take that knowledge with them on their journeys in life. He said that their lives are beginning anew as they leave their high school and walk into a new world.

"Our education from Charlotte Catholic has come not only from lectures and textbooks; but also from the daily instruction that we received on how to live as Christians and from the examples that faculty and students set for each other ...," he read to his classmates. "... The diplomas we will receive today reflect more than our knowledge of subjects such as science, English and social studies; they demonstrate that we have been given the wisdom and understanding necessary to make the difficult ethical and moral decisions that we face each day."

Valedictorian Hampton Conly delivered a more humorous but, nonetheless, serious message to his class as he mentioned their achievements and the sobering and life-altering effects that the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 left on the country. He also thanked his family, the CCHS faculty and his friends for the last four years.

"... Our focus must now shift from the past to the future. As we begin to look ahead, a myriad of emotions fills each of us: apprehension, sorrow, anxiety and eagerness. ... I have recently discovered that one man and his military forces will not defend freedom; rather, we, our generation, will be the first to begin reshaping the United States of America ...," read Conly.

"As a class, we have achieved a staggering number of accomplishments, yet I see no reason to stop here. The cohesive unit seated in front of me comprises student governors, talented artists, intelligent scholars and celebrated amateur athletes. What stops us from becoming national politicians, world-renowned artists, published professors or world-class athletes? The person seated next to you may be your closest crony or your fiercest foe, yet each of you would have no reservations about crossing the threshold of the future next to him or her," he said.

After the conferment of diplomas, Father Cassidy thanked Dr. Michael Skube, who is stepping down as diocesan superintendent of schools, and gave him a token of appreciation from CCHS. The students recessed out into the night and threw their hats up in a familiar gesture signaling that their high school days are over.

Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated the baccalaureate Mass at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte June 5.

### Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School

Students fanned themselves as they waited to be called outside. The heat in the cafeteria of Our Lady of Grace School rose up as students busied themselves with zipping up their

See NEXT PAGE

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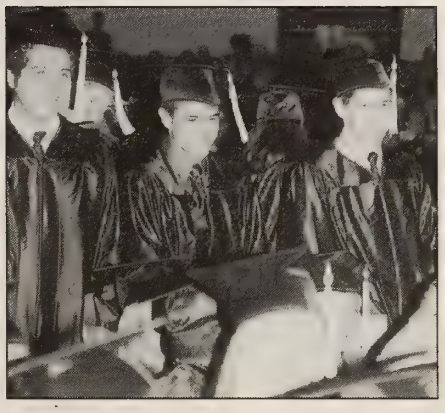
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**Pictured left: Carol London, BMHS guidance counselor, fixes Lo Tsz Cheng's collar while Tessa Tu, center, looks on. Cheng was an exchange student from Hong Kong.**

**Pictured below from left to right, Nicolas De Castro, Daniel de Armas and Joshua Davis stand after receiving their diplomas at the CCHS commencement exercises June 6 at Ovens Auditorium in Charlotte.**



gowns, placing their Honor Society stoles on correctly and pinning on their medals earned throughout the year. Sister of St. Joseph Anne Thomas Taylor, dean of students, gave last-minute instructions to her 68 students right before they walked outside to join their faculty for the procession into Our Lady of Grace Church May 30.

This was the first time that the baccalaureate Mass, celebrated by Bishop Curlin, was held in the Greensboro church. Principal George Repass said that the school will be celebrating the Mass in various locations throughout the Triad in years to come.

"We thought it was an appropriate time to move it in recognition of the fact that we serve the Triad as a wider community," said Repass. "There were several options, and we went along with Our Lady of Grace. It was a lovely setting for it."

Dressed in their navy blue gowns, the students processed in with roses for their parents, which they gave out along with hugs and kisses during the Mass.

The bishop told the graduates that they must prepare themselves for a rocky road ahead and must arm themselves with not only what they have learned but also their faith instilled in them through their Catholic education.

"This is frightening time in which to graduate, but you have the gifts and potential to make this a better world," he said. "I am hoping that maybe some of you will find a cure for AIDS or find a way to create peace on earth.

"In order to do this, you have to adopt a way of life grounded in the faith of Jesus Christ that can transform the lives of others. If you young people believe in God and use your faith and make it the foundation of your lives, then you will be able to face any challenges of this world," said the bishop.

After the Mass, students received various awards for their achievements throughout the year. Graduate exercises continued June 1 at the Stevens Center in the North Carolina School of the Performing Arts in Winston-Salem. The commencement speaker; Dr. Philip Cary, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at North Carolina A&T State University; talked to the students about the common denominators of success, said Repass.

Salutatorian Peter K. Attwater weaved building and construction metaphors throughout his speech as he talked about the new school facility in Kernersville and the senior class gift of a boulder to represent the class of 2002 as being a part of the foundation of the new school.

"... Now we stand before you, having not forgotten the old, but excited and honored to be the first class to graduate from that new Bishop McGuinness that we made our home...," he said to his classmates. "...We are known as the class that sticks together, but now it is time for us to go our separate ways. ... Soon, we will begin the construction process as we journey out into the vast unknown that is the world around us. We will be leaving Bishop McGuinness, but it will never leave us. Bishop McGuinness, when it is all said and done, is more than a building, more than a name, more than high school; it is an experience and a spirit that we will always remember and hold dear to our hearts."

Jennifer Tryon was the valedictorian of the class of 2002.

BMHS graduates received more than $1.5 million in scholarship money and are scheduled to attend over 30 colleges and universities including the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the U.S. Naval Academy, Appalachian State University, East Carolina University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price at (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*


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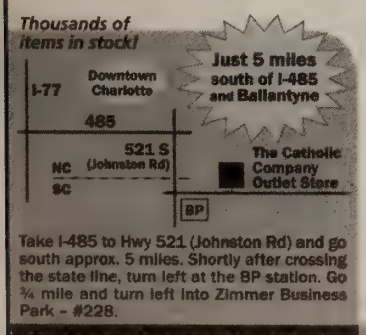
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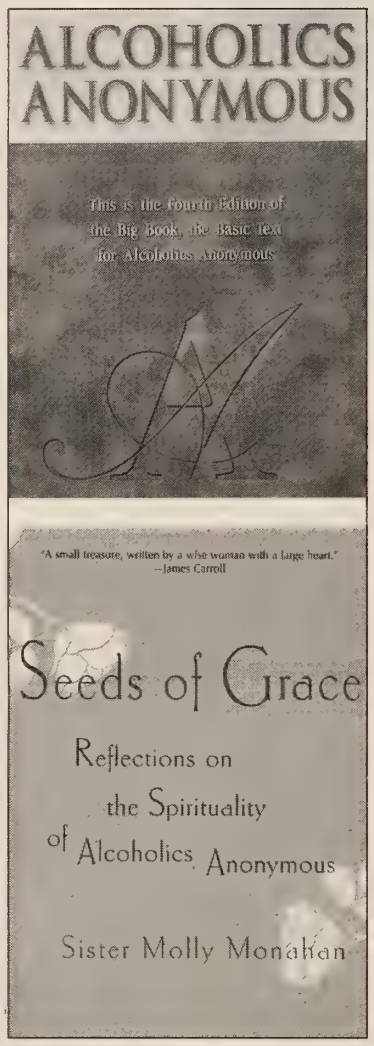
**Book Review**

# Books on alcoholism inspire life-altering changes

REVIEWED BY GRAHAM G. YEARLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

All textbooks instruct, some entertain, and a few — and only a very few — change lives.

"Alcoholics Anonymous," affectionately called the "Big Book" by AA members, is one of those rare textbooks that does all three. It teaches, inspires and promotes life-altering changes. It also resists qualitative judgments; no sensible reviewer would pass judgment on this book any more than on the Bible or the Quran.




The first edition of "Alcoholics Anonymous" was published in 1939, a mere four years after the first meeting of Bill Wilson and "Dr. Bob" Smith in Akron, Ohio, which gave birth to AA. Traditionally the authorship of the first edition is credited to 100 of the earliest members of AA, but the actual writing was done, for the most part, by Bill Wilson. In the first 164 pages, the early members outline the spiritual program of the Twelve Steps with other chapters devoted to the families of alcoholics and their employers. These first 164 pages have remained unaltered through all of the succeeding editions of the "Big Book."

"Oldtimers" in AA, many with 30 and 40 years of sobriety, are no less astonished than newcomers to the program that no one involved in the compiling of "Alcoholics Anonymous" had more than four or five years of sobriety. AA's insight into the nature of alcoholism as a disease was particularly farsighted, as the idea generally was not accepted by the medical profession in the 1930s.

Even more radical was the conviction of AA members that only a spiritual awakening, a dependence on a higher power, could lead to sustained sobriety and that each alcoholic might choose a higher power of his or her own liking.

The changes in this new fourth edition come in the second major portion of the "Big Book," a collection of stories of individual members of AA. In 1939 most AA members were male, white and Protestant, but as the program grew, so did the variety of its members. With each new edition of the "Big Book," stories have been added and older ones subtracted. Stories of African-Americans, Native Americans, Catholics and women appeared in the second and third editions. In this new edition there is a second story of Native Americans and new stories of Jewish, gay and teen-age members.

Meanwhile, "Seeds of Grace: A Nun's Reflections on the Spirituality of Alcoholics Anonymous" is a slim, charming series of meditations based on the experience of a Catholic nun in AA.

In keeping with AA's tradition of anonymity, the author uses a pen name, Sister Molly Monahan. The author links the nondenominational spirituality of AA to the classic Christian division of the spiritual life into the purgative, illuminative and unitive ways. While the connection seems legitimate, it seems of secondary importance to her principal interest in revealing the gentle-but-demanding path AA members follow to greater communion with the God of their understanding and their fellow human beings.

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings:*
*June 16, 2002*

**Cycle A Readings:**
June 16, Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time
1) Exodus 19:2-6a
Psalm 100:2-3, 5
2) Romans 5:6-11
3) Gospel: Matthew 9:36 to 10:8

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The intentions of the teacher who chose the scenes for the greatly condensed version of a children's drama class presentation of C.S. Lewis' "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" were likely innocent. Her excerpted version omitted the dramatization of the lion Aslan coming back to life.

It may have been done to avoid any offense to non-Christians in the audience or simply have been an accident caused by failing to appreciate how crucial the scene was to the meaning of the book. Aslan, a Christ figure throughout the three-book "Chronicles of Narnia" series, offered himself as a stand-in for Edmund, one of the four Pevinses children who had betrayed the others to the White Witch. After his sacrificial death on a great stone table, Aslan, according to the action of the book, then came back to life.

The significance of the series of events was not lost on my then 10-year-old daughter, Amy. And she was not happy that the meaning had been blurred.

Together we looked at the script and discovered that in shortening the lines with a highlighter, the director had eviscerated the meaning right out of the playlet.

Though Amy was upset by the cutting of the lines, we counseled her on how to respectfully present her case for the reinstatement of the crucial lines that would restore the Christian message of Aslan's resurrection.

The teacher, a fine woman with a strong Christian faith herself, readily agreed to the changes Amy suggested. By acting firmly but not in an accusing manner, my young daughter had won a victory for the presentation of the Christian message in the arts

I suspect that the universal call to holiness, so much emphasized in the church today, calls for nothing more than what my daughter did — a certain degree of fearlessness about proclaiming the Gospel in the circumstances of our lives.

Jesus in this week's Gospel commissioned his 12 disciples to go out to the lost sheep of Israel and call them home; he's calling each of us to do the same today.

**QUESTION:**
*Where is God calling you to bring his kingdom, to proclaim the redemptive love that buys us all back from the consequences of our sins?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of June 16 - June 22**

**Sunday (Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Exodus 19:2-6, Romans 5:6-11, Matthew 9:36—10:8; **Monday,** 1 Kings 21:1-16, Matthew 5:38-42; **Tuesday,** 1 Kings 21:17-29, Matthew 5:43-48; **Wednesday (St. Romuald),** 2 Kings 2:1, 6-14, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday,** Sirach 48:1-14, Matthew 6:7-15; **Friday (St. Aloysius Gonzaga),** 2 Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, 20, Matthew 6:19-23; **Saturday,** 2 Chronicles 24:17-25, Matthew 6:24-34

**Scripture for the week of June 23 - June 29**

**Sunday (Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Jeremiah 20:10-13, Romans 5:12-15, Matthew 10:26-33; **Monday (Birth of John the Baptist),** Isaiah 49:1-6, Acts 13:22-26, Luke 1:57-66, 80; **Tuesday,** 2 Kings 19:9-11, 14-21, 31-36, Matthew 7:6, 12-14; **Wednesday,** 2 Kings 22:8-13; 23:1-3, Matthew 7:15-20; **Thursday (St. Cyril of Alexandria),** 2 Kings 24:8-17, Matthew 7:21-29; **Friday(St. Irenaeus),** 2 Kings 25:1-12, Matthew 8:1-4; **Saturday (Sts. Peter and Paul),** Acts 12:1-11, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16:13-19

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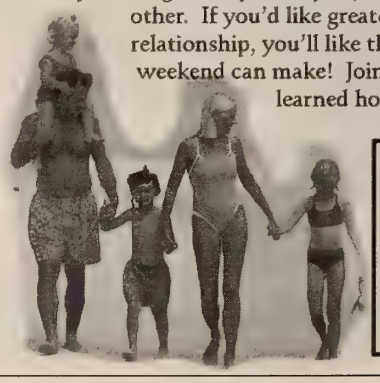
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# "Ya-Ya" is only so-so

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — In "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood" (Warner Bros.), writer-director Callie Khouri adapts Rebecca Wells popular novel with mixed results.

Calling to mind other films such as "Beaches," "Fried Green Tomatoes" and "Steel Magnolias," which also paid tribute to the fruits of female friendship and, like the last, rocky mother-daughter relationships, "Ya-Ya" centers around an estranged Southern mother and playwright daughter and an eccentric circle of aging Southern belles who try to salvage the mother-daughter relationship.

In the way it presents women's relationships, particularly Southern women, the film sporadically makes an emotional connection with the audience. And the talented cast and snappy dialogue soften the high melodrama of the talky film.

But more often than not, it may leave viewers dissatisfied with frugal character development that often crosses the line into caricature. And, unfortunately, "Ya-Ya" is encumbered by confusing flashbacks from two time periods and the use of three different sets of cast members to play the women during different stages in their lives. Yet it's likely to strike a chord with many in its target audience — women — while possibly pulling in a few male viewers along for the ride as it showcases the considerable aptitude these grand dames have for portraying the colorful but shallow characters.

In a magazine interview, successful New York City playwright Sidda Lee Walker (Sandra Bullock) takes a few swipes at her Louisiana mother's parenting skills, unintentionally setting off a bitter feud with her bigger-than-life mother, Vivi (Ellen Burstyn).

Scurrying to the rescue are Vivi's long-time pals: widow Necie (Shirley Knight), who holds the moral compass of the group; Caro (Maggie Smith), who throws back drinks as often as she reaches for her oxygen mask; and Teensy (Fionnula Flanagan), a wealthy Alcoholics Anonymous member who drives a canary-yellow convertible Rolls-Royce. Now elderly members of the secret childhood society, the Ya-Ya Sisterhood (of which Vivi was the ringleader), the trio trot off to the Big Apple and stage an "intervention," Ya-Ya style. They kidnap Sidda and take her back to Louisiana to show her all the things she never knew about her mother — which turns out to be a lot — and possibly to help Sidda understand the fear of commitment that has kept her from marrying her Celtic beau Connor (Angus MacFadyen) of seven years.

The women share with Sidda all their "divine secrets" — as carefully recorded in an old, frilly scrapbook — about their lives, loves and losses. The film rolls out these memories in a series of flashbacks with Ashley Judd conveying the inner demons that the young Vivi suffered. However, the film never probes deeper than the surface to examine Vivi's emotions and frustrations or how her actions impacted Sidda, the oldest of four children, who bore the brunt of Vivi's tantrums. And by the time the film reaches its dramatic climax, revealing the truth behind Vivi's erratic behavior and then the reconciliation between mother and daughter, it is a letdown.

Nonetheless, "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood" does have a few gems to offer. Foremost is the cast, but most surprising is the film's spiritual side. Pained by the guilt over her sins, Vivi confesses to her local priest regularly, and faith seems to have been a constant in her life regardless of the turmoil surrounding her. In her own extravagant way, Vivi prays to the Blessed Virgin asking her to intercede and take her prayer to God and Jesus. And although the spiritual aspects are somewhat downplayed, they do exist and are presented in a confident manner in keeping with the character.

Fans of the book as well as those who never picked up the novel may find that, although screenwriter Khouri tried to cram in as much as possible, so much more is missing, particularly in the background and stories of the characters. However, for those who enjoy down-home, lively female flicks, "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood" just may be fine summer entertainment.

Due to a live-in relationship, a scene of child abuse, mature thematic elements and intermittent profanity and crass language with an instance of rough language, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

*Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*



CNS PHOTO FROM TOUCHSTONE

**Scene from movie 'Bad Company'**
**Anthony Hopkins and Chris Rock star in a scene from the movie "Bad Company" by Touchstone. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

## Movie Capsules

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

**"Elling" (First Look)**

Sympathetic Norwegian tale about two previously institutionalized 40-year-olds (Per Christian Ellefsen and Sven Nordin) sharing an Oslo apartment and struggling to cope with independence as one timidly befriends an elderly poet while the other falls for an abandoned pregnant woman. Directed with equal parts compassion and earthy humor by Petter Naess, the film celebrates the characters' humanity and potential to overcome their fears and frustrations. Subtitles. Some casual rough language, an implied sexual encounter, fleeting nudity and crass expressions. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"The Sum of All Fears" (Paramount)**

Espionage thriller loosely based on the Tom Clancy novel in which rookie CIA analyst Jack Ryan (Ben Affleck) races to prove a nuclear attack on the U.S. was not ordered by Russia while both the American and Russian presidents prepare to initiate a nuclear response. Sleekly directed by Phil Alden Robinson, the frightening visuals of nuclear devastation add up to more than escapist entertainment, yet the narrative glosses over a morally questionable course of action to deliver a pat, romanticized ending. Some catastrophic and recurring violence, the issue of vigilante justice, an implied affair, intermittent profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Pope, at weekly audience, explains mystery of pain, suffering

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While the Bible often views suffering as the result of disobedience or sin, that is not always the case, Pope John Paul II said.

In the biblical vision, the just person "is filled with well-being, joy and long life as a natural consequence of an honest and faithful existence," the 82-year-old pope said June 12 at his weekly general audience.

In the same way, sins are punished with suffering and misfortune, he said, but such a vision is only partially true.

"The reality of human pain is much more complex and cannot be so easily simplified," the pope said. "In fact, human suffering must be considered through the perspective of eternity."

The pope, addressing some 8,000 visitors filling the Paul VI audience hall, spoke about Psalm 92's description of the just person before God.

As the psalm makes clear, he said, "the Lord's love and fidelity must be celebrated through liturgical song, which is conducted artfully. This call is valid for our celebrations as well so that they find splendor not only in the words and rites, but also in the melodies which animate them."

The psalm, while making a clear distinction between the just who are as strong as cedars and the wicked who wither like the grass, "is an optimistic hymn," he said.

"It celebrates trust in God who is the source of serenity and peace, even when one sees the apparent success of the ungodly," the pope said.

As the psalm points out, it is "a peace which is intact even in old age, a season still to be lived with fruitfulness and security," he said.

The psalm also speaks of the oil with which the just are anointed, giving them energy and symbolizing God's protection.

Borrowing the words of Origen, an early church theologian, the pope said, "We pray to the Lord that our old age, all our struggles and all our darkness would be enlightened by the oil of the Lord."

## The Bottom Line



ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

**The nun victims of war's atrocities**

The daily headlines read like constant obituary pages, tallying how many people were killed in the day before by so much hatred in so many parts of our world. I get on my knees as I finish reading, remembering the atrocities of the multiple wars that have taken place in my lifetime, none worse than World War II.

Recently I heard yet another story of Nazi military men gone mad in World War II when they took over the town of Nowogrodek in Poland. To assert their power and, no doubt, to put their hatred for the church into action, they marched the nuns who had long worked in the town, 11 Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, out to a wooded field and shot them point blank to death.

I had never heard of the 11 martyrs of Nowogrodek until a couple of months ago. I had even missed seeing a small item in the paper back in the year 2000 that mentioned them among saintly people that Pope John Paul II was elevating to "blessed" for their bravery, motivated by their love of others. Now that I know their incredible story, these women have become unforgettable heroines to me.

I was introduced to these "Blessed Martyrs" by Sister M. Agnese, the provincial superior of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth based in Monroe, Conn. Sister Agnese had called me and asked me if I would be the guest speaker for their community day of recollection, emphasizing reconciliation and forgiveness.

When I got there, Sister Agnese told me about their foundress, Mother Frances Siedliska, a beautiful woman from Poland, who died at age 60 in 1902. She wanted to found a community that would serve the human family, from children to the old, always remaining a witness of God's love as revealed in the holy family of Nazareth.

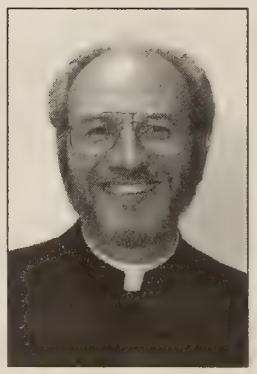
Then Sister Agnese told me about the sisters of Nowogrodek. Though this was a Polish town with much ethnic and religious diversity, the sisters, who came in 1929, had always had great relationships with the people. It was the war, with invaders, first the Belorussians, and then the Nazis, that brought evil and destruction to this place.

Knowing that Polish and Soviet partisans were a threat to them, the Germans first retaliated by executing 60 people, including two Catholic priests, on July 31, 1942. This was followed by intensified Nazi oppression, resulting within a year in a new wave of 120 arrests, mostly fathers and sons torn from their families. The people came to the sisters and it is known that Sister Stella, in charge, literally prayed, "Oh God, if sacrifice of life is needed, accept it from us who are free from family obligations, and spare those who have wives and children in their care. We are praying for this."

Unexpectedly, the Germans approached the sisters, escorted them to Gestapo headquarters and kept them confined that night. At daybreak, on Aug. 1, 1943, they were driven to nearby woods and shot, execution-style.

The community affirms, "God accepted the sacrifice offered on behalf of their brethren." Unbelievably, "all those for whom they sacrificed their lives were saved!"

War is hell, indeed, but meeting these 11 Blessed Martyrs was assurance once again for me that God lets heaven break through in unexplainable ways.



## Economy of Faith

GLENMARY FATHER
JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

**Labor priest spoke from Catholic tradition**

When Msgr. George Higgins died on May 1, 2002, the American church lost a prophetic voice for justice. Nicknamed the "labor priest," Msgr. Higgins spoke out tirelessly promoting the dignity and economic status of all workers, especially those in agriculture, health care, mining, poultry, housekeeping, teaching and steel. He championed the civil rights of minorities and the rights of workers to form trade unions. A humble person maneuvering behind-the-scenes, Msgr. Higgins infused a sense of justice into disputes as he listened and talked to both sides.

Each week for 56 years, Msgr. Higgins wrote a syndicated column, "The Yardstick," that reflected on social justice and challenged Catholics to remember their traditions. While his column spanned a wide range of topics that included abortion and Jewish-Catholic relations, a central focus was labor.

Frequently Msgr. Higgins quoted directly statements of the popes and bishops to teach social justice principles. In "The Yardstick," August 30, 1999, he cites the American bishops' critical questions for evaluating public policy: "How does the policy touch the human person? Does this policy enhance or diminish human dignity and human rights? Does this policy advance the common good.?"

In this same column he uses the National Labor Relations Board as an example — a bad example. The NLRB is not guaranteeing workers their rights to free labor elections, he observes. Management can force workers to attend mandatory meetings to discourage union organizing while denying workers equal time for pro-union rebuttals. It can hire union-busting consultant firms and violate the spirit of labor law by lengthy legalistic challenges and delays. All this hurts the common good by intensifying the adversarial relationship between management and labor through fear, anger and lingering resentment. In another column (August 27, 2001) echoing the American Catholic bishops, Higgins promotes "new experiments in co-management and co-ownership" and a broader role for trade unions beyond their limited role in traditional collective bargaining.

Msgr. Higgins ("The Yardstick," February 14, 2000) counters the trend toward individualistic values "when people prefer to and are expected to shift for themselves." Proponents of individual bargaining over collective action believe the market protects individual workers and negotiates for them according to the dynamic of free competition. Msgr. Higgins' rebuttal: "Catholic social teaching has rejected the notion that wage justice can be left purely to the workings of the free market." He notes that Pope Leo XIII in 1891 taught that the requirements of natural justice supercede an unjust wage agreement even if both worker and employer agree to the terms.

In his last column (September 10, 2001) Msgr. Higgins used the words of the Catholic social reformer, Msgr. John A. Ryan, from the 1930s to summarize his thinking about labor: "Effective labor unions are still by far the most powerful force in society for the protection of the laborer's rights and the improvement of his or her condition. No amount of employer benevolence, no diffusion of a sympathetic attitude on the part of the public, no increase of beneficial legislation can adequately supply for the lack of organization among the workers themselves."

For Msgr. George Higgins the labor movement represented a vehicle for justice and human dignity. "I am convinced that we are not likely to have a fully free or democratic society over the long haul without a strong and effective labor movement" ("The Yardstick," April 10, 2000.) The church will miss the critical voice of its "labor priest" unless his spirit lives in the next generation of advocates for social justice.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Roadside reminders

You see them only briefly, usually out of the corner of your eye. But even in that flash, you recognize that someone died there. I'm speaking of the shrines built by grief-stricken families and friends. They mark our highways and roads with increasing frequency, formed by mounds of flowers, perhaps topped with a homemade wooden cross or a photograph of the person who died on that spot.

Rarely do we slow down to look closely at these tributes to loved ones now gone. There is something just a little off-putting about knowing that we've just passed a place where someone actually died. And yet, that's the reality. People die on our streets by the thousands each year. According to statistics for the year 2000, provided by the U. S. National Highway Safety Administration, 41,821 people died in motor vehicle crashes. About one-fourth of them were aged 16 to 24. Few, if any, expected that ride to be their last. Most presumed that this was just one more ride, no more special or different from any other. But it wasn't. This time, they died.

Young people, no older than sixteen in most states, can't wait to drive. It represents something wonderful for most, the freedom of getting around without depending on others. Cars and trucks are a sort of liberation. They not only get teens to school and work, but to get-togethers with friends, opportunities to be away from parents and others who have authority. Wheels can, in fact, be a wonderful and freeing thing.

But there's more to it than that. These instruments of our freedom have power. They have potential for great good, and a parallel bad. More frightening, perhaps, is the arbitrariness of life. You can be the world's greatest driver, obeying all the rules, looking both ways before you move, and still get killed. It just takes one other driver out there to accomplish this horrible reality. Most cars are made of at least a ton of steel, a force that can save you or destroy you, depending on the circumstances.

Of course, there are some things we can do to improve chances of survival. Deciding every single time you go partying to have one person in the vehicle as a designated driver is vital. And avoiding people who seem to be driving in a questionable way is just good common sense. Knowing roads, lights, curves and blind spots is all part of adequate preparation. And yet, with even the best preparation, people still die in unacceptable numbers. Families still build increasing numbers of roadside memorials to those they have loved and lost in the most commonplace of activities, the drive from one place to another.

When someone we love goes off to war, we know what may well happen. When someone we love has a problem with drugs or alcohol, we know they may not face a happy end. When someone we love lives on the edge, we know they face the real risk of going over that edge. But driving seems so basic, so normal, so unthreatening. Well, it is and it isn't. Because even in the everyday, there are dangers. There are risks.

Rather than avert our eyes, we should slow down and notice those shrines. They remind us of lives now ended. They encourage us to drive more slowly, watch more cautiously, temper our rage and anger, and remember that we're driving in an instrument which can cause death.

We all want to make a difference for good in the world. Sometimes that's accomplished by something as ordinary, as basic as being a careful driver who respects life: your own and others. Those are not just makeshift shrines, after all. They are reminders that caution and concern can be signs of true love.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### What to tell children about the Bible

*Q. I am wondering how to explain some parts of the Bible to our children, especially the description of Adam and Eve. I know the story may be something like a metaphor to help us understand the "fall" of mankind, when they disobeyed the Creator.*

*But what do we say when asked where wives came from to marry Cain (when he was banished by the Lord to the land of Nod), Seth, Adam and Eve's third son, etc.? (Massachusetts)*

A. I think we must start, even with children, to help them understand that the stories of creation in Genesis, as well as many other passages in the Bible, are not meant by God to give us historical "facts" about the beginning of the human race.

They are God's way, through deceptively simple human stories told by the sacred authors, of revealing certain crucial and basic facts about God and ourselves, and about our relationship with him and each other.

Among these are the truths that God created the world out of nothing by simply commanding it to be (Genesis 1 and 2); that this creation was meant to be a blessing and delight for people; that as it came from his hands the earth was very good; that sin and other evils came, not from God or an evil power outside somewhere, but from our own hearts when we became confused and conflicted by wanting to be like God (3 and 4); and that even then God was laying the groundwork for healing and restoring us to intimacy with him.

In other words, the Genesis stories are pretty much the tale of each human being's spiritual journey of sinfulness, hope and reconciliation with God and other people.

We are led to this way of understanding these stories first of all by the sheer number of contradictions encountered when we try to take them absolutely literally.

Cain, supposedly the son of the first man and woman, not only marries a wife and has a son, he actually founds a city, made up of people from somewhere, which he names after that son, Enoch (Gen 4:17).

Just seven or eight generations later (perhaps 200 years?), descendants of Cain and Enoch are described as cattle and sheep raisers, tillers of the soil, and workers in bronze and iron, all of which (especially the last) are occupations we now know human beings only developed after many thousands of years.

Nearly 60 years ago, Pope Pius XII, in his classic encyclical on the Catholic way of interpreting the Scriptures, noted that the Bible uses all the idioms and modes of expression common to the people of the Near East.

It is the scholar's task, he said, to ask where and to whom the sacred authors were writing? What literary forms did they use? Why were they writing, and what were they trying to say?

The answers to these questions leads to the key question of interpretation, says the pope: What was the author really trying to express by his writings? ("Divino Afflante Spiritu," 31-38)

What I said above is the explanation which by far most Scripture scholars give to the creation stories. It will save your children lots of confusion later, and perhaps difficulties of faith, if you begin now to help them interpret the words of the Bible appropriately.

# Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

### Exploration of the "Iceberg Analogy"

To better understand culture and how it affects cultural groups and individuals, educators, sociologists and researchers use the iceberg analogy.

The obvious characteristics—what we see, taste, hear and touch—are at the tip of the iceberg and above the surface. Below the surface are the hidden assumptions, values, patterns, myths and beliefs that make up the much larger mass. The analogy is helpful for intercultural relationships in neighborhoods, workplaces, learning institutions and faith communities. Knowing what's below the surface helps us understand persons different than us.

The iceberg analogy holds true in families as well. When two people marry, their union is a meeting of two cultures. Both families of origin have their own sets of hidden assumptions, values, patterns, myths and beliefs that may impede their harmonious merging of cultures.

It's helpful for each person to explore his or her own iceberg so that they may better understand their feelings and behavior responses to situations with the other's family.

A simple example from our early years of marriage may help clarify what we mean here. Though Andrew was always treated with respect and abundant hospitality with Terri's family, he felt a bit uncomfortable when visiting their family home. Terri's parents were gracious hosts and doted over him. He appreciated their warm hospitality, yet there was something that made him uneasy when visiting them.

Exploring his own family culture, Andrew realized that their families had very different hosting styles. In his family welcomed guests helped themselves. This helped him to understand his own uneasiness with Terri's parents. It also helped him to express his needs to them. To feel "at home" in their home, he needed to help himself sometimes. But, he also gained insights on Terri's family's hosting style and was better able to receive it with the grace it was given.

Understanding what's below the surface in one's own iceberg is a lifetime endeavor. However, it's the place to start. When we are aware of the hidden patterns, myths and beliefs below the surface in our own families of origin, we have more to share with our spouses. When they remain hidden, the iceberg below the surface can be a minefield.

In many other ways we recognize our different cultures from our families of origin. All marriages struggle with the merging of cultures. It's part of the work of two becoming one.

# Indian archbishop speaks on war, church's mission

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

EDEN — After attending an international meeting of the Kopling Society in Mexico City, Mexico, Archbishop Dr. Arul Das James of Madras-Mylapore, India came to visit the priests of his archdiocese whom he had sent to work in the "mission fields" of the United States.

His visit brought him to Father Thomas Selvaraj at St. Joseph of the Hills Church in Eden May 28 to June 2. The trip was made possible by a grant Archbishop James received from the Kopling Society, which was founded to help improve the social and economic status of people around the world and make them more self-sufficient.

"The people are taught to build houses, run small businesses, or to effectively cultivate the land," said Archbishop James. "This is a concept that will continue to grow because the poor in countries like Mexico and India will continue to benefit from this effort."

Archbishop James said the Catholic Church in India does a lot of social work due to the discrimination of the country's caste system.

"The lower caste people today are given a lot of help in the form of education and job placement from the government, if they are non-Christian. Then, should one convert to Christianity, all government assistance stops for him or her," he said. "So, we could say that even though there is no physical persecution going on, economic persecution persists."

The 70-year-old archbishop has been a member of the church hierarchy for 29 years — 20 years as the bishop of the Diocese of Ooty and nine as the archbishop of the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore.

Although the leader of the largest archdiocese in India, with over 1 million Catholics in 170 parishes, Archbishop James has met much resistance on the part of the Indian government. Currently, 85 percent of India's population is Hindu, while 2.5 percent is Christian. Only four-fifths of those Christians are Catholics.

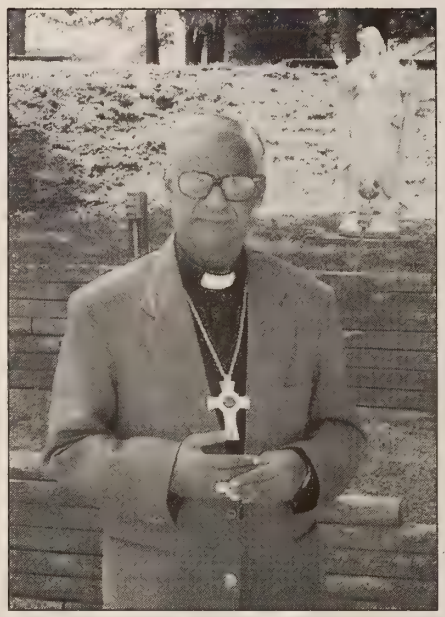


Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**Archbishop Arul Das James, archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, India, came from a meeting in Mexico to visit Father Thomas Selvaraj at St. Joseph of the Hills in Eden. Archbishop James oversees the largest archdiocese in India, with over 1 million Catholics in 170 parishes. He speaks about his work and struggles in a country on the verge of war.**

"In the early days, when the British ruled the country, missionaries from America, France, Germany, Italy and many other countries made many converts," said Archbishop James. "Now, the Indian government, which is primarily Hindu, is very strict on conversions. In spite of this, many of the people are strongly attracted by our religion of love and charity."

Archbishop James believes that those in power in India are afraid that Christians might eventually control the country if conversions continue. "They (the government) want Hinduism to spread. Therefore, they blame the bishops and priests for forcing conversion on the people," said Archbishop James. "This is simply not true, as we explain that a forced conversion is no conversion at all. True conversion must come from the heart."

In the event of a war between India and Pakistan, Archbishop James said that both countries would lose.

"Money diverted to the war effort means that there will be even less money available for development of economic and social structures in both countries," said Archbishop James. "The poor in both countries are going to be hurt the hardest. Because ... both countries are already poor and will only become poorer."

Jamu-Kashmir is the disputed part of India, said Archbishop James. "The government of India wants to settle this dispute amicably, but it would seem that Pakistan is more interested in taking up arms and fighting over it," he said. "Many from the South will be recruited for the army. Many will be killed, and many families will suffer."

Archbishop James is worried about the use of nuclear weapons in a war. He said many innocent people would lose their lives unnecessarily.

"The northern sections of India and Pakistan will be immediately affected. The economy will go down, especially in the effects of the aftermath," said Archbishop James. "Why would they want to destroy these countries and start all over again? A lot of prayer is needed to stop this war before it starts."

Archbishop James is grateful that President George W. Bush is "trying his best to work at achieving peace. We are saying special prayers throughout our diocese that peace and not war will prevail."

*Contact Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*


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# Ecumenical partners express support for Catholic efforts on abuse

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — Eleven ecumenical partners of the Roman Catholic Church have pledged their support for efforts to deal with sexual misconduct by clergy and lay leaders as the Catholic bishops prepared to discuss the issue in Dallas.

"All Christians must work together in seeking to find ways to offer healing to those who have been so wounded and to restore the faithful to the faith that has been taken from them by these actions," said a statement issued after a June 5 meeting at the Episcopal Church Center in New York.

"It was clear from the meeting that the Roman Catholic Church and its bishops do not stand alone in the painful experience of dealing with sexual misconduct among clergy and lay leaders in the church," the statement said. "The Catholic Church shares with the wider ecumenical community deep concern for the victims of sexual abuse, especially children and young people."

The meeting was convened by Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore and included 13 representatives of U.S. Christian denominations with episcopal church structures, as well as three staff members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Cardinal Keeler is a longtime member of the Catholic bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

Participants in the meeting gave their input on the draft text of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," which was to be discussed by the bishops June 13-15 in Dallas, and shared information about the sexual misconduct policies in their own denominations.

"The American bishops of the Catholic Church are going to their semi-annual meeting in Dallas with a determination to provide clear policies in dioceses throughout America that will ensure the protection of children and prevention of abuse," Cardinal Keeler said.

At the New York meeting, "the participants agreed to seek ways in the future to cooperate together in order to take even more dramatic steps on the specific issue of abuse of children and young people in church and society," the statement said.

In addition to the USCCB, church leaders in New York represented the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ; Armenian Orthodox Church in America; Orthodox Church in America; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Episcopal Church; Reformed Church in America; Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church in America; United Methodist Church; Greek Orthodox Archdiocese; United Church of Christ; and Presbyterian Church U.S.A.


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# Sister's life of ministry evolves with the times

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

ROSMAN — Midlife career change is usually associated with the business world, but Charity Sister Irene Mongrandi went from teaching to nursing halfway through her 58 years of religious life.

Irene Mongrandi joined the Sisters of Charity of Convent Station in New Jersey in 1944 when she was 22. "I went to a Catholic school run by the Sisters of Charity and was impressed by them, and I just felt it was something God wanted me to do," she said.



Charity Sister Irene Mongrandi

After high school, she worked for several years for an accounting firm before choosing a religious vocation. She didn't get to decide on her focus area.

"The Sisters of Charity were a teaching order when I entered," Sister Irene said. "Now we have many sisters in various works: social services, pastoral care, business administration, diocesan positions. I was placed in a teaching school in New Jersey. I had thought I would like to be a nurse rather than a teacher, but I already knew that unless you were a nurse when you went in, nurses were few and far between."

For 30 years she taught first, fourth, sixth and seventh grades. It wasn't always easy, although working with the children was rewarding. "The association with the individual children was a good thing," she said, "but I found the discipline aspect difficult." Still, she added, "I found my life at the convent was happy."

Changes in her order began to happen on the eve of the 1960s. The habits that the sisters wore were modified, then disappeared altogether. They had worn a floor-length black dress with a black cape to the waist, a black apron and a square, white, fluted headdress.

"We had a big change in 1959 because the headdress came out (on either side of your head), and you didn't see; we couldn't drive," Sister Irene said. The headdress changed to a simple headband with a veil reaching below the waist. Later, the habit also was simplified. Finally, the sisters could dress as they chose.

An even more momentous change came for Sister Irene in the 1970s when she was able to embrace the profession she had wanted to pursue at the beginning of her religious life 30 years earlier. "The atmosphere was more open to changing your ministry," she said. "I decided that I would like to go into nursing as a licensed practical nurse. What I liked was bedside nursing, not administration. So, after consultation, that happened."

She trained for a year in New Haven, Conn., with five months of classes in Eli Whitney Technical School, then seven months of clinical work at St. Raphael's Hospital. After completing her training, she worked at St. Raphael's for two years before moving to Fort Gay, W.Va. She nursed at a hospital across the river in Louisa, Ky., for 13 years

"I found it very fulfilling and challenging, just being able to assist the different patients with different needs," she said. "I was impressed by the faith of the people. This was primarily Baptist country. People would ask if you were saved, and that was a very different concept for me. I usually just said, 'Yes.' I don't think they would have understood our concept."

A year's sabbatical followed. She spent some of her time volunteering at a clinic in El Paso, Texas, where another Charity Sister was stationed. At a meeting, she ran into fellow Charity Sister Carol Hoban, a nurse working at the Frances Warde Health Center in Rosman.

"She told me that a nurse was planning to leave and would I be interested," Sister Irene said. "So I came for six or eight weeks to see if I liked it and if I would fit in." She did fit, and worked there from 1995 until she retired in 2001.

This past February Sister Irene celebrated her 80th birthday. She continues to live in Rosman with the sisters with whom she worked. On Fridays, she visits the clinic for lunch. She keeps as busy as she can.

"Now I'm puttering," she said. "I try to do little things at home, help with food preparation. It's all in slow motion."

Her advice to women considering the religious life: "I would tell them to try it because now we have programs where there are various steps of living in community and talking to sisters. They also have a chance to see the works that we're engaged in."

For Sister Irene, her most satisfying work, she said, has been "to be able to be of some assistance to people who are in need, which is part of the charism of charity."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

# Catholic school student wins handwriting contest

By GEORGE P. MATYSEK JR.
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) — More than a few doctors, notorious for their illegible scribble, would do well to take Michael Daniel Fairley's advice about good handwriting.

"First, you think of something and write it down — slowly," explained the 7-year-old, who is a first grader at Mother Seton School in Emmitsburg.

"You don't want to rush it," he advised. "Taking your time is the most important thing."

Michael is a young expert when it comes to impeccable penmanship. He has been named the national handwriting champion among first graders by Zaner-Bloser, an Ohio-based publisher of the handwriting textbooks used at Mother Seton School.

Competing against more than 110,000 children, Michael's clear, perfectly spaced manuscript was judged to be the best in the nation among those in his age group.

First and second graders compete in the manuscript category. Second graders also can compete in the cursive category, which has a division for grades 2-4 and one for grades 5-8.

It's no wonder Michael came out on top in his age group. He's an old pro in the handwriting business.

"I started when I was 2," he told The Catholic Review, newspaper of the Baltimore Archdiocese. "It wasn't exactly writing. I liked to draw little pictures. It was a lot of fun."

He credits his parents, Richard and Catharine Fairley, along with teachers Mary Jo Burkell and Donna Gebhart, for showing him the finer points of perfect printing. His father is the headmaster at a Catholic high school in Frederick.

"They told me to practice," Michael said. "I'm proud that I can do it."

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Jesus said to his apostles: "Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

— Matthew 10: 38-39

# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

JUNE 28, 2002 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 11 Nº 38

**Bishops' Meeting Coverage**



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## Clergy discuss priestly spirituality at convocation

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Benedictine Father Noah Casey spoke of accepting who you are so that you can form healthy relationships and be authentic before God and the world.

He addressed 85 Catholic clergymen at the "Convocation of Priests 2002: The Spirituality of the Priesthood" at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort June 10-13 in Asheville. The Diocese of Charlotte holds the convocation every two years, with one-day colloquiums in alternate years.

"We were pleased with the number of men who were able to attend — over half the priests in the diocese," said Father Wilbur Thomas, vicar for priests and pastor of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, who helped plan the event. "It was a good mixture of religious and diocesan priests with great insights from Noah and the guys' response to him. We dealt with issues that are important to us. That's what the convocation is about. The main purpose of the convocation is to bind us together as a presbyterate."

"For me personally, it's been very advantageous because I just got into the diocese," said Redemptorist Father Alvaro Riquelme of St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis. "I came in February. It gave me the opportunity to meet the priests I'll be working with and to have some fellowship with them."

Father Casey of St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana writes on the spirituality

SEE CONVOCATION, PAGE 8

# Used books open new chapters of hope

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Hundreds of paperback books filled tables along the walls in the hallways of St. Joan of Arc Church's parish center. Parishioners browsed June 14-16, taking home reading treasures while giving the gifts of help and hope to Asheville-area AIDS patients.

It was the fifth annual Caring Hearts Book Sale.

This year's event kicked off May 4 with a "Night to Remember," a luau at the church. The kickoff raised money for the Western North Carolina AIDS Project (WNCAP), a nonprofit organization that helps HIV/AIDS victims and educates the community about the disease. For the next few weeks, parishioners brought in loads of used paperbacks to stock the sale.

Twelve St. Joan of Arc parishioners founded Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry (CHAM) in 1994. Since then, more than 100 parishioners, ranging in age from teens to people in their 90s, have participated in the work. And there's plenty of work to do.

CHAM's outreach includes donating money to the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Dorothy Day AIDS ministry to help patients pay household bills. Once a month, CHAM volunteers help Loving Care Food Resources pack boxes for distribution to those with AIDS, and CHAM also sponsors "Tuna Sundays." St. Joan of Arc parishioners donate canned tuna (high in protein and easily digestible) to Loving Care to go into those food boxes.



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

**Brenda Thomas stocks up on books at the Caring Hearts Book Sale, held annually at St. Joan of Arc Church.**

Caring Hearts volunteers also are WNCAP "buddies," helping patients get to doctors' appointments, cleaning their houses, taking care of pets, taking AIDS patients out for lunches and movies and visiting the homebound and those in hospice.

The ministry participates in World AIDS Day interfaith services and has made an eight-panel AIDS quilt, which memorializes those who have died of AIDS. One of the panels was chosen for the 2002 Caring Hearts quilt calendar.

The organization also sponsors healing Masses for anyone who is ill from any disease.

## LIMEX graduates honored at Mass, first class sponsored by diocese

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

HICKORY — Cam Tracy, a parishioner at St. Michael Church in Gastonia, feels that she has grown spiritually and emotionally, as well as academically, through earning a master's degree in pastoral studies with a concentration in spirituality. What makes her graduate program different from others is that it is a distance-learning program requiring the students to apply what they are learning to their own lives and in their various ministries.

Tracy and 22 others are members the first class to graduate from the Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension Program (LIMEX) since the Diocese of Charlotte began sponsoring the opportunity for higher education in 1998. Prior to that, the Oratory in Rock Hill, S.C., was the sponsoring agency for students in the diocese. The graduates were honored with a Mass, celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin, and a reception June 23 at the Catholic Conference Center.

The bishop told the group that they must constantly reflect on God's presence and strive for continuing education. "You have sacrificed so much of your time and energy through the LIMEX program, but you are just beginning," said the bishop. "Though you have graduated, you have to update yourselves constantly. Go further, study more about theology and delve more into Scriptures. You have to advance your education and keep

SEE LIMEX, PAGE 4

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**Third-graders correspond with overseas soldiers**



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**Youth conference helps 'Set Free' students**

...PAGE 7

**Woman religious sees trials, difficulties as blessings from God**

...PAGE 20

### Thousands gather to renew faith at Atlanta Eucharistic Congress

COLLEGE PARK, Ga. (CNS) — Catholics must "perceive in depth" that the Eucharist is the person of Jesus Christ "among us," Cardinal Jozef Tomko told thousands of Catholics gathered for the Archdiocese of Atlanta's Eucharistic Congress. "The Eucharist is not something. The Eucharist is somebody. It is a person," said the cardinal, who is president of the Pontifical Committee for International Eucharistic Congresses. "It is a person and what a person! The Eucharist is Jesus Christ, the Son of God who became man and became bread for our lives. ... Jesus Christ is truly present in our midst." When Jesus performed the miracle of the loaves and fishes to feed the large crowd, he revealed himself as the "living bread" whose flesh and blood would be real food and drink, the cardinal said.

### Latin American youths denied visas to World Youth Day, officials say

QUITO, Ecuador (CNS) — Many Latin American youths intending to attend World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto are being denied Canadian visas. The Ecuadorian bishops' conference reported that about 60 percent of the requests for visas have been rejected by the Canada's Embassy in Quito and its Consulate in Guayaquil. Reasons cited by the embassy include general lack of economic means, lack of economic resources to cover travel expenses and lack of a traveling record, according to Ecuador's World Youth Day commission. "What kind of traveling record can young boys and girls have in Ecuador, even among the middle class?" asked Manuel Sarria, a youth minister leading a group of Ecuadorian youngsters from Guayaquil. "Many of these kids have made tremendous efforts to pay their trip to Toronto, and none of them are trying to hide they are not wealthy people. All they want is to see the pope," Sarria said.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Nuns celebrate Germany's World Cup semifinal win**
**Sisters Gerarda, Sylvia, Sigolena and Gertrudis celebrate as they watch Germany's victory over South Korea in the World Cup soccer semifinals June 25. The nuns cheered on the team while watching the game on TV in a meeting room at their convent in Bad Adelholzen in southern Bavaria.**

### Family preservation is key to containing AIDS, says African doctor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The key to containing AIDS in Africa is by strengthening the family, said an African doctor who specializes in the disease. Dr. Elizabeth Musaba-Mphele, who operates an AIDS education center in rural Eastern Cape Province in South Africa, said the rise in the AIDS crisis mirrored a breakdown in the family structure. "We have a virtual breakdown of the family unit in southern Africa," Musaba told Catholic New Service in Washington. Musaba operates the Empilisweni Woodlands Center for AIDS Prevention in one of the poorest sections of South Africa. The center serves 21 villages and reaches between 400 to 600 people each month. The name of the center comes from a local dialect and means "healing place," she said.

### 'God Squad' hears call to follow Tiger Woods

ROOSEVELT, N.Y. (CNS) — When 26-year-old Tiger Woods walked the course for the final two rounds of the U.S. Open golf championship on the Black Course at Bethpage State Park, he was shadowed by the "God Squad." Msgr. Thomas Hartman, one half of the "God Squad" and director of television and radio for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, carried the scorecard for Woods June 15 at the Farmingdale course. During the final round June 16, the squad's other half, Rabbi Marc Gellman, carried the scorecard for the golfing sensation. Woods, of course, took home the trophy, becoming the first golfer in 30 years to win the Masters tournament and the U.S. Open in the same year. He is halfway toward his goal of becoming the first golfer to win the Grand Slam in the same year. For the priest and the rabbi's part, they were thrilled to be on hand. "I jumped up and down in excitement," Msgr. Hartman said, upon hearing the news he and Rabbi Gellman were invited to participate by David Fay, executive director of the U.S. Golf Association. The organization sponsors the U.S. Open.

### Liturgy not place for theatrics, say speakers at Jesuit conference

ROME (CNS) — Liturgy is a communal form of prayer and not a showplace for the creativity or the piety of any participant, whether celebrant or member of the congregation, said speakers at an international conference in Rome. Belgian Cardinal Godfried Danneels of Mechelen-Brussels told the June 17-22 conference the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council rightfully emphasized the importance of the active participation of everyone at a liturgy. But many attempts to involve people and make the liturgy more relevant have ended up being more a celebration of the creativity of planners and celebrants than of faith in Christ and his saving work, the cardinal said. The International Meeting on Jesuit Liturgy brought together 122 Jesuits from 44 countries as well as Vatican officials and other Catholic and Anglican experts on liturgy.

### Religious women under 50 gather to assess past, look to future

CHICAGO (CNS) — Sister Kristin Matthes sees a new interest in religious life, not a decline. It is an exciting time to be a member of a religious community because it is a period of redefinition, said Sister Matthes, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur. She shared her excitement at a June 13-15 conference for women religious at Loyola University in Chicago. More than 500 people attended the conference, called "Gathering Voices for the Future." "The conference is a vehicle to gather women religious, particularly those under 50," Sister Matthes told The Catholic New World, newspaper of the Chicago Archdiocese. "We need to be more visible and redefine and understand who we are and what we're about." She said the conference offered an opportunity for younger religious women from different congregations to connect with their peers and present their ideas and concerns.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**July 8-11**
Bishops' provincial meeting
Charleston, S.C.

**July 13 — 6 p.m.**
50th anniversary Mass
Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro

**July 16 — 5:30 p.m.**
Catholic Social Services dinner
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

**July 27 — 11 a.m.**
Ordination to the transitional diaconate
St. Patrick, Charlotte

## Diocesan planner

**July**

**7** CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will be gathering today at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 545-8133.

**7** SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**10** CHARLOTTE — Because of the July 4th holiday, the Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will be having a meeting with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. today in the parish activity center. Next month's meeting will be held on the regularly scheduled date of Aug. 7. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**10** CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. in the parish center with lunch and entertainment from Bob Jackson singing country-western tunes. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Bobbe Conlin at (704) 643-1376 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

**11** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be hosting ultreyas on the following dates and times: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. tonight for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1:15-2 p.m. July 21 with a potluck/

### Ruling ending executions of retarded people hailed as a good step

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court's ruling that it is unconstitutional to execute mentally retarded people is an important breakthrough, say death penalty opponents, but some cautioned that the opinion does not mean the court has shifted against capital punishment. The court ruled 6-3 June 20 that executing people who are mentally retarded violates the constitutional prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. In writing for the majority, Justice John Paul Stevens said the fact that a growing number of states have banned such executions is an indication that society's moral standards have shifted sufficiently to reflect that in law. "It is not so much the number of these states that is significant, but the consistency of the direction of change," Stevens wrote. He noted that even in states where it is legal to execute retarded people, the practice is rare. Eighteen of the 38 states with the death penalty ban such executions. Another 12 states have no capital punishment law. "The practice, therefore, has become truly unusual," he wrote, "and it is fair to say that a national consensus has developed against it."

### Making the rounds: Papal stamps have moved the mail for 150 years

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Because even the plainest of Vatican postage stamps can be a collector's item, something really unusual was needed to mark the 150th anniversary of papal stamps. So, in mid-June, the Vatican released its first-ever round stamp, reproducing a round print of Rome's Palazzo Madama, the former headquarters of the post office of the Papal States and current seat of the Italian Senate. The Vatican joined only a handful of countries — most notably New Zealand, which has issued six "Round Kiwi" stamps since 1988 — in printing what is largely recognized as a paper-wasting, difficult-to-detach stamp. However, the Vatican does not expect anyone to punch out the commemorative round stamp, which is set into a larger design on a rectangular sheet of stamp paper known in philatelic circles as a sheetlet. Still, it is valid postage and could get a thick letter from the Vatican to North America by priority post. The Vatican also is marking the anniversary with three regular-format stamps of varying denominations.




CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF VATICAN PHILATELIC AND NUMISMATIC OFFICE

**Vatican issues first round postage stamp**

**A sheetlet of Vatican postage stamps, including a new round stamp, depicts various scenes of 19th-century Rome. The stamps were issued to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Vatican pre-paid postage stamp. In philatelic catalogues, an envelope with an original 1852 Vatican stamp is valued at $50,000 today.**

### Catholic residents impacted by suicide bombing in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Aeid Eid, an Arab-Catholic resident of Jerusalem, was walking his daughter, Yara, 13, to school June 18 when he heard an explosion. "We couldn't believe it was a bomb but a few moments later Rosean, my wife, called to say she heard ambulances," said Eid, a resident of the Muslim neighborhood of Beit Safafa. Twenty people were killed and 70 wounded in the bombing, which took place at a bus stop on a main thoroughfare outside Beit Safafa. Like other Israelis, the Eids switched on the radio to hear the news. Family members began calling to make sure they were all OK. The father and daughter this year have narrowly missed several other suicide bombings, including one which occurred near the girl's school. "My friends and I don't go to the mall to hang out. Usually we just stay home and sometimes we visit each other. I don't feel safe, especially when I want to have fun," she said.

### Vatican confirms pope to visit Guatemala, Mexico after Toronto stop

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican confirmed that Pope John Paul II will make planned stops in Guatemala and Mexico following a July 23-29 visit to Toronto for World Youth Day. The trip schedule, released at the Vatican June 18, reflects one slight scaling back of the 82-year-old pontiff's planned activities: A beatification service in Mexico Aug. 1 — the pope's final day in North America — will be a Liturgy of the Word ceremony, not a Mass. After arriving in Canada July 23, the pope will spend more than half of his time resting at a Basilian-owned retreat center on Strawberry Island in Lake Simcoe, about 90 miles north of Toronto. His appearances at World Youth Day, expected to attract hundreds of thousands of young people, include a welcoming ceremony, a vigil and a closing Mass. In Guatemala July 29-30 and in Mexico July 30-Aug. 1, the pope's activities are limited to canonization and beatification liturgies, with the exception of arrival and departure ceremonies.

Notice something new with this edition of The Catholic News & Herald? It's our new front-page design.

This new look is more than cosmetic; it provides more options for our readers and gives The Catholic News & Herald more flexibility with the newspaper design while we maximize news on page one.

Later this year, we will roll out a full newspaper makeover. In the meantime, let us know what you think of our new look.

Joann S. Keane
Editor
jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Ultreya gathering at 1:15 p.m. with food served at 1:30 p.m. and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3 p.m. July 28 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665.

**13** CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo community will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight and every second Saturday of the month for a school of leaders at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For further information, call Ky Do at (704) 532-9094.

**13** RALEIGH, N.C. — The North Carolina State Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will meet at the Clarion Hotel in downtown Raleigh. All Hibernians are invited to attend. For more information, contact Jack Crosson at (919) 217-0451 or e-mail Tim Lawson at NCAOH@aol.com.

**14** CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

**15** ASHEVILLE — The St. Martin De Porres Pro-Chapter of the Dominican Laity will be meeting tonight and every third Monday at 7 p.m. in St. Justin's Center at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid, OPL, at (828) 253-6676.

**15** CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia will be held today and July 22 from 10-11:30 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., and July 16 at Providence United Methodist Church. With advanced notification, activities for the memory-impaired can be provided. For more information about the support group or the Shining Stars Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday at St. Gabriel from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and every Tuesday and Thursday at Sardis Presbyterian Church from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

**17** BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., will be hosting a Port-a-Pit Chicken fundraiser today during lunch and dinner from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and from 4-7:30 p.m. Meal will include one-half of a chicken, baked beans, Cole slaw and a roll provided by Port-a Pit Chicken of Statesville. Participants may eat in or carry out with drive-thru service available, and orders of eight or more can take advantage of delivery service. Proceeds will benefit the parish nursing program. For further details, call Jennifer Church at (704) 651-9605 or the church office at (704) 825-5277

**17** JEFFERSON — A series of presentations; sponsored by CSS Elder Ministry and facilitated by Richard Von Stamwitz, a national certified gerontological counselor; are being continued throughout the diocese. Today's presentation will be given at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 326 Main St., from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Brown bag lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. The topic, "Creative Aging/Making a Difference in Later Life," will be presented in two sessions and will focus on taking an "observe-judge-act" approach to faith, society and aging issues with reflections, prayers and exercises. For preregistration and other information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Marlo Wallace at (704) 370-3228.

**19** CHARLOTTE — Thank God It's Friday (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets tonight at 7 p.m. in the St. Matthew Church parish center, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., with its monthly potluck dinner with a guest speaker from the community. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Trish Wilson at (704) 543-8986.

# LIMEX, from page 1

developing and furthering your relationship with God so that you don't lose sight of him."

Father James Hawker, diocesan vicar for education and pastor of St. Luke Church in Charlotte, concelebrated the Mass along with Father Anthony Marcaccio, vice chancellor and pastor of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro. Father Hawker expressed his admiration of the students and his gratitude to all who have helped the graduates through their four years of study and sacrifice. He made a special mention of the late Joanna Case, who worked to bring LIMEX to the diocese and served as the LIMEX liaison until her death in 2001.

The LIMEX program offers master's degrees and non-credit, continuing education certificates in religious education and pastoral studies from Loyola University of New Orleans. Founded in 1983, the 36-hour program offers a total of 12 classes for the non-traditional student, a person who works a full-time job or has a family and cannot attend classes on a college campus. Since the diocese does not offer a master's level program in those areas, people who wish to continue their educations can take advantage of LIMEX.

"Students meet approximately once a week for 10 weeks and do three courses a year. A learning group is formed with students who are going to focus on different types of materials," explained Connie Milligan, director of religious education at St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte and the interim LIMEX liaison. "Students commit to the learning process early on and do the preparation work before they come to class and meet for three hours during that period. This is unique in that the student becomes a part of a learning group, and a sense of community is formed."

The students gather with a Loyola-trained facilitator and discuss what they have read for the class and have videos and audiotapes as supplements to their own study. Each class can require from one to four papers with up to 20 hours of preparation per week. The 10 core courses consist of subjects such as practical theology; pastoral leadership and organization; church, sacraments, and ethics and other classes. The two focus classes include youth ministry, Hispanic ministry, religious education and other areas of concentration.

Tracy, who also completed facilitator training and will be serving on her parish council, said that she appreciates the program because of the way they learn the material by integrating it into their ministries. They gain practical information that will be applicable to their current and future work.

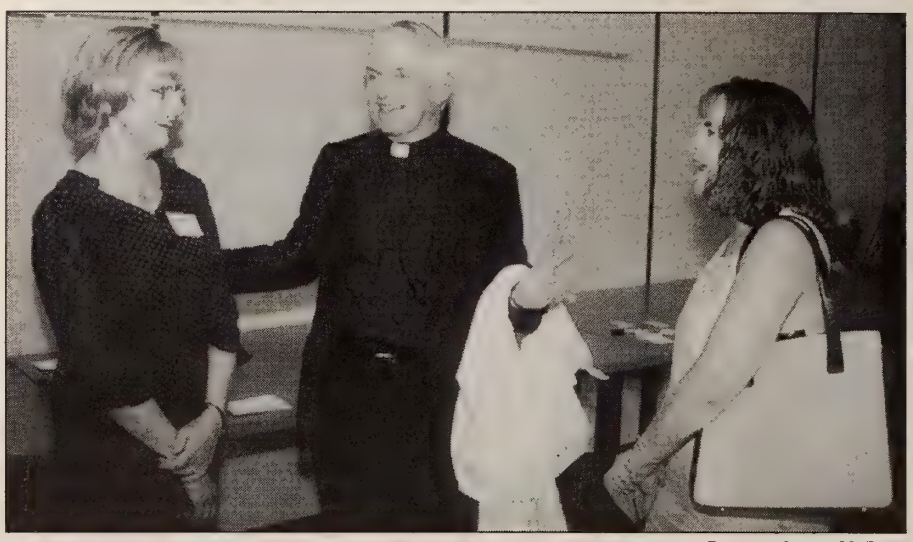


PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

**Pictured from left to right at the LIMEX graduation Mass June 23 are Connie Milligan, interim LIMEX liaison and director of religious education at St. John Neumann; Father James Hawker, diocesan vicar for education and pastor of St. Luke Church in Charlotte and Peg Ruble, central regional faith formation coordinator and LIMEX facilitator. The gathering, held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, was in honor of the 2002 LIMEX graduates.**

"The process has been a real catalyst for my own spiritual growth, and (I have enjoyed) learning about myself, the richness of the Catholic tradition and the Catholic faith," said Tracy. "Our subjective human experience is so important. It's not just the doctrine that we're being fed; it's takes our human experience and the doctrine and blends them together. It is so wonderful to take what I learned and apply it as a minister. I learned how to be a better minister, and ministry is who you are and who you become."

Mike Stout from St. Barnabas Church in Arden feels that the interaction in their sharing groups was most beneficial to him especially because he earned a master's degree in pastoral studies with a concentration in small Christian communities. He ended the two-year diocesan lay ministry program and wanted to learn more, and LIMEX provided that for him.

"I really appreciated working with my fellow students. (With the) LIMEX program, you do the readings with videos, but it is not one-sided. You have time to talk about what you studied and how it speaks to you, and you get to hear from other students and how it impacts them," said Stout. "You have the opportunity to dialogue about your faith, talk about Scripture and the church's teachings. You can talk to one another and have the opportunity for growth."

Currently, two learning groups are halfway through the program in Wilkesboro and Charlotte, and additional groups will be beginning in the next six months in Charlotte, Western N.C. and Greensboro.

*For further information about the LIMEX program, call Connie Milligan at (704) 364-3344 or visit the Web site at www.loyno.edu/lim.*

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

**The 2002 LIMEX graduates are as follows:**

From the Arden learning group with Linda Schlensker of Mars Hill as the facilitator: Tiffany Gallozzi of Hendersonville, Elizabeth Girton of Asheville, Barbara McGrattan of Weaverville, Ann McKeown of Maggie Valley, Joanita Nellenbach of Clyde, Lucy Nordlund of Hendersonville, Mark Silar of Asheville and Ann Stowe of Asheville;

From the Asheville learning group with Mary Ann Poli of Asheville as the facilitator: Mary Ann DeMeify of Fairview, Linda Elrod of Asheville, Gloria Schweizer of Webster and Mike Stout of Arden;

From the Clemmons learning group with Clarence Fox of Davidson and Connie Milligan of Charlotte as facilitators: Alberta Hairston of Greensboro, Joanna Jackson of Mocksville, Pat Millar of Winston-Salem, Peggy Schumacher of King and Sheri Wilson of Winston-Salem;

From the Charlotte learning group with Bryna Bozart-Barnes of Charlotte and Roger Hull of China Grove as facilitators: Richard Hanners of Charlotte, Sandy Holland of Gastonia, Lois Lyons of Waxhaw, Paula Pueschel of Monroe, Cam Tracy of Gastonia and Julie Whichard of Wingate.


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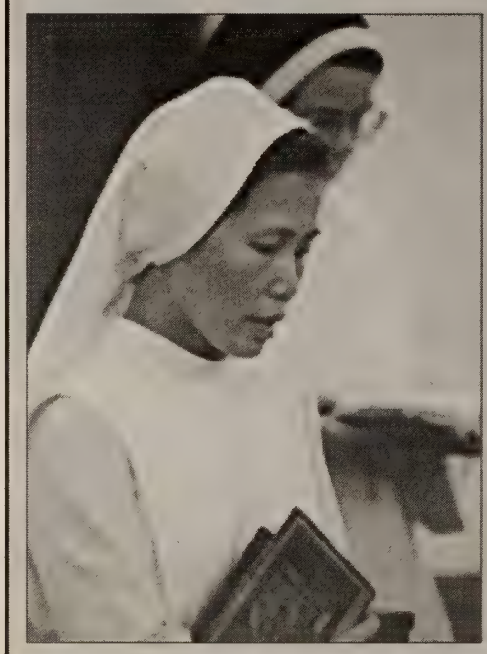


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# Third-graders correspond with overseas soldiers

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — A few Catholic students made new pen pals toward the end of their school year.

Jennifer Mitra's third-grade class at Our Lady of the Assumption School wrote letters of friendship and gratitude to five servicemen currently serving in Afghanistan. The men, U.S. Air Force intelligence officers, were quick to write back to their newfound friends.

"The kids absolutely loved the idea of writing letters, and they were excited that I knew someone over there (in Afghanistan)," said Mitra.

That someone was her cousin's husband, who had recently been shipped out as a part of Operation: Enduring Freedom to fight the war on terrorism. Since the couple was married less than a year, Mitra offered to have her class send letters of encouragement to her cousin-in-law.

"We thought it would be a neat way to cheer him up," said Mitra.

"Capt. John" (his last name is not used at the request of the military) eagerly sent back the names of four of his friends — men under his command — when his wife told him of the idea.

The entire school had participated in Operation Valentine during Catholic Schools Week. Each student sent a valentine to anonymous solider overseas, but Mitra said her class felt privileged to write letters to specific soldiers.

"They knew to whom they were sending the letters," said Mitra. "It was exciting for them to have a name."

It took about the entire month of April for the young students to write their letters, said Mitra, as each child wrote a letter to each of the five servicemen. The children wrote about what they were learning in school, what the weather was like, pets they owned and hobbies they enjoyed.

"I asked how they were doing and told them about my science project," said third-grader Kayla Lemke.

"I asked if they were OK and if any of them were injured, and asked when they were coming home," said fellow student Natalia Sztandarowski.

"All of the students' letters were very touching and from the heart. They thanked the soldiers for keeping us safe and said they were praying for them," said Mitra.

While crafting their letters, the students put the names of the servicemen on their class prayer board.

"Parents were amazed at the work of the kids," said Mitra. "Many said they were praying for John and his fellow servicemen from home."

When the letters and photographs arrived a month later from Afghanistan, the students were thrilled. Each of the five servicemen took the time to write back to every student and answer all of his or her questions.

"When they got the responses, that boosted them higher than anything else could have," said Mitra. "They felt so special."




Photo by Kevin E. Murray

**Students in Jennifer Mitra's third-grade class at Our Lady of the Assumption School corresponded with with U.S. Air Force servicemen stationed in Afghanistan as a part of Operation: Enduring Freedom.**

"I would like to say thank you for all of your letters and support," wrote Captain John to the students. "It might seem like a small thing to you, but it really means a lot to myself and all of the other soldiers, sailors and airmen deployed all over the world."

"I thought it was really nice," said Sztandarowksi. "We wrote to someone far away, and they took the time to write back."

"I was wondering if they would write back," said student Steven Trombello. "I felt shocked (when the letters arrived). It was pretty nice."

"The soldier thanked me for writing and hoped I had a great summer," said Lemke.

The servicemen also discussed in their letters the importance of their jobs in Afghanistan.

"We're over here so you can have a better life and not have to worry about the bad guys causing trouble," wrote Captain John.

Although Capt. John won't be in Afghanistan next year, Mitra plans to have her new class send letters to servicemen due to the positive impact it had on her current students. Every time Mitra erased the servicemen's names from the prayer board for summer recess, a student would write them back in.

"I think the students are still praying for them on their own," she said.

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334, or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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### Bill Moyers to receive Humanitas Prize's first Kieser Award

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Television journalist Bill Moyers has been named the first recipient of the Kieser Award, named after Father Ellwood Kieser, the Paulist priest who founded the Humanitas Prizes. Moyers will receive the special Humanitas Prize at a June 25 luncheon. During his career, Moyers has won three Humanitas Prizes, plus more than 30 Emmy Awards and the Charles Frankel Prize, now the National Humanities Medal. He "represents the very best that television offers its viewers," said Paulist Father Frank Desiderio in a June 13 statement. "Bill Moyers has based his career on providing intelligent, informative programs that serve as a benchmark for television journalism." The Kieser Award is given to a person or group whose work has helped to promote a greater appreciation for the dignity of each member of the human family, and challenged others to examine the role they play in the search for meaning, freedom and love.

### Pope gave scholarship to Sept. 11 orphan, money to care for victims

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's charitable donations in recent months have included a scholarship for an orphan of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and $50,000 for medical care of the terrorist victims in New York. In an annual report released June 18, the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum," the Vatican's coordinating agency for charitable donations, also said that in 2001 the pope gave about $6.2 million in disaster relief and development projects. Citing privacy concerns, a council official told Catholic News Service he could not release details about the scholarship donation or the Sept. 11 orphan who received it. He said it was not a large amount of money, but was meant as a sign of the pope's closeness to the United States in its moment of suffering.

### Soap for Hope program collects thousands of bars for Haitian poor

WILMINGTON, Del. (CNS) — Most Americans take the soap in their soap dish for granted, knowing when it melts away a new one will appear. But in Haiti, a bar of soap can save a life. That's why Margot Zarella founded Soap for Hope for a country where poor hygiene and a lack of health care cause the spread of serious disease. Zarella, a Catholic, was inspired by a talk by the Haitian Health Foundation's Karen Kohl and started collecting bars of soap from classmates during her junior year in high school. She continued the soap drive when she arrived at the University of Delaware in Newark four years ago. The Haitian Health Foundation provides free bars of soap and a wash cloth to anyone who brings their child into a clinic for the routine vaccinations that can keep many diseases at bay. This year, she solicited donations from colleges across the country through the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and set the "bar" at 20,000. At the end of May, before her graduation, the count was 23,553, with several uncounted boxes still sitting in her apartment.



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL FINCH, CATHOLIC SUN

**Students plant principal at end of reading challenge**

**Students dump soil on principal Andrea Polcaro of Blessed Sacrament School in Syracuse, N.Y., June 17. The event marked the successful close of her reading challenge, during which students read more than 30,000 books in the school year. Top readers in each class got the honor of pouring dirt over Polcaro's head as she sat in an acrylic box.**

### Vatican official brings pope's prayers to ground zero

NEW YORK (CNS) — Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, a top Vatican official, brought the prayers of Pope John Paul II and his message of hope to ground zero June 20. The archbishop, a native of Argentina who is one of the two principal deputies to the Vatican secretary of state, said in an interview the following day that the pope had expressed a desire to pray at the site of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack ever since it occurred. "He always was thinking about whether it would be possible," Archbishop Sandri said. But he said the other extensive travels in the pope's schedule last year, along with the increasing difficulty of travel for him, made it appear that there would be no possibility for such a visit.

### Ursuline superior marks 275th anniversary of order in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Although it's been 275 years since an adventurous band of 12 religious women set sail for New Orleans from France, Ursuline Mother General Colette Lignon still has the greatest admiration for her predecessors. Mother Colette has another tie to those nuns and postulants — they sailed from the Brittany port of L'Orient, not 10 kilometers from her family home. "I have always felt a kinship with that group of sisters," she said. Mother Colette was in New Orleans this spring to help mark the anniversary of the sisters' arrival in 1727, and to speak at graduation ceremonies at Ursuline Academy, the oldest continuously operating Catholic girls' school in the nation. "How valiant they were," Mother Colette told the Clarion Herald, newspaper of the New Orleans Archdiocese. "They had such faith in the love of God and wanted to share that love."

### Nun hopes 250,000 buttons will get her vocations message across

SPOKANE, Wash. (CNS) — A cloistered nun in a religious community in Spokane says she has come up with a way to reach 250,000 people around the world. She plans to do this through an unlikely means: buttons. Sister Patricia Proctor of the Poor Clare Monastery came up with the button idea to tap into a common World Youth Day practice — pilgrims trading pins and buttons with each other. She hopes that by getting traded and passed around, her 250,000 buttons will spark an interest in religious vocations, Catholic devotion and Christian fellowship. She met with a local advertising executive who came up with the button idea and the design. Its red letters on a black background say, "Spread the love." Below the message, in white, is her Web address: www.catholic-cards.com. The site features free electronic greeting cards and Scriptural passages on various topics. The site plans to contain rotating advertisements for various religious communities and vocations offices.




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# Youth conference helps 'Set Free' students

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

CHARLESTON, S.C. — In a time when the word "freedom" is so misunderstood, Steubenville Charleston 2002, the first Franciscan University Catholic High School Youth Conference in Charleston, S.C., attempted to set the record straight for over 1,100 youth. Held at the Charleston Convention Center, youth from all over the Southeast and beyond gathered June 21-23 to be "Set Free," the theme of this conference.

"I pray that each of you deeply experience the liberating power and healing love of our Lord Jesus Christ," greeted Bishop Robert J. Baker, bishop of the Diocese of Charleston, who participated in the event.

The Diocese of Charlotte was well represented by a number of youth groups throughout North Carolina. St. Mark Church in Huntersville, for example, brought 75 youth to Charleston. Three years ago, only three teens went to Steubenville Atlanta from St. Mark's youth group, but the word has spread quickly and the interest has grown exponentially.

"The only agenda at a Steubenville conference is God," said St. Mark's youth leader Kathleen Lewis. "There is a consistent level of spirituality and Catholic identity found at each conference. A youth leader can trust that it will be a prayerful, spiritual experience with quality music and speakers who are on fire about their faith."

Torukpa Agbegha from Our Lady of Assumption Church in Charlotte attended the conference for the first time and was impressed by how relevant the message was for her. "The talks related to what we as teens face in our personal lives," she said.

One of the speakers, Franciscan Father Stan Fortuna, is a familiar face at many youth events. He incorporated his contemporary musical talent with his experience serving the poor to convey the message of being ransomed.

"PRIDE (Pathetic Reasons Interrupting Divine Experience) keeps you from taking up your cross, following the path of love and truth, which is the blood and guts of freedom," said Father Fortuna, explaining how Christ suffered so that "we could be ransomed." He also invited the youth to imitate Christ by giving their sufferings to God so that they could live according to their destiny.

"Jesus has been waiting. How long are you going to let him wait? He has a lot of patience; he will wait forever, but let's make him happy and not make him wait too long," said Father Fortuna after singing a rap song called "Everybody's Gotta Suffer" from his new CD. The catchy tune brought the youth to their feet in an explosive applause.

Bob Rice, the Northeastern area director of LIFE TEEN and a popular speaker and singer, reinforced the words of Father Fortuna. Rice invited the youth to make that commitment to Christ and not be discouraged or distracted by the chains of anger, sex and pride that can enslave them.

"Your love of the Father does not restrict but sets you free," he said, reminding them that God's love never waivers no matter what a person does. "The letters above the cross, INRI, can also stand for 'I Never Regretted It.'"



Photo by Kathy Schmugge

**Pictured are a group of youths from Our Lady of Assumption Church in Charlotte who attended the "Set Free" Steubenville Catholic High School Youth Conference in Charleston, S.C., June 21-23.**

Beside the music, talks and skits, the conference had confession, Mass and eucharistic adoration. There was also time for the youth to process all the information and emotions that flowed through the events.

Eucharistic adoration moved Amy Taylor, director of religious education at Corpus Christi Church in Lexington, S.C. "I have gone to adoration before with a handful of people but never experienced it as a community. When you have 1,100 people silently praying at the same time, you know what you are there for and why everyone else is there too."

The conference seemingly left no one unchanged, and it will be the challenge of the church community to help the youth continue to make a daily commitment to their faith. Fortunately, these young people will be able to look back on the powerful memories of the conference that Lewis described as "a beautiful moment where God swept them off their feet."

# Partnerships to combat domestic violence in Western N.C.

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

WESTERN N.C. — In the last two years, the REACH offices in North Carolina's seven westernmost counties have handled more than 3,500 domestic abuse situations. Multiplying those numbers across the nation means a majority of people in the United States know a domestic violence victim, whether they are aware of it or not.

Domestic violence is no stranger to any locale or economic class.

"A few years ago, when the North Carolina Council for Women was tracking figures per county, Mecklenburg County was number one; Haywood County was number two, which just proves what we've always known, that domestic violence crosses all socioeconomic boundaries," said Julia Freeman, director of REACH of Haywood County, which provides emergency help to domestic violence victims.

The 30th Judicial District Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Alliance Inc. is trying, with help from Catholics and other faith communities, to reduce domestic violence by establishing Partnership for Peace (PFP). According to the grant application submitted to the Duke Endowment and Z. Smith Reynolds foundations, PFP's goal is to "build partnerships between the faith community and domestic violence programs to better understand the range of issues domestic violence victims may be experiencing, better protect them and enhance the resources available to them."

PFP will concentrate on the seven western counties — Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain — that comprise the 30th Judicial District as well as the Diocese of Charlotte's Smoky Mountain Vicariate.

These counties, the grant proposal noted, "are sandwiched between the Smoky Mountains, Tennessee and Georgia. They are geographically isolated .... They share many challenges such as low tax revenues due to large amounts of federal lands, high unemployment and low wages, and cultural and socio-economic disadvantages that prevent victims of domestic violence from accessing needed services and supports.

"These counties have, perhaps more than anywhere else in the state, learned to put aside their county-borders and join together to address common problems and secure funding for expanded services."

Z. Smith Reynolds and Duke contributed $25,000 and $15,000, respectively. The 12 parishes of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate gave $4,000, matching $4,000 from the Ministry Fund of the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, whose friars staff St. Margaret Church and Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley.

"We wanted to make a statement that we stand for the dignity and for the rights and safety of women and children," said Augustinian Father Francis Doyle, St. Margaret's pastor, chair of the Haywood County Domestic Violence Task Force and a REACH board member.

The money will fund an interfaith domestic violence coordinator and the PFP's education and outreach activities, including a conference on faith and domestic violence issues scheduled for April 26, 2003. Patricia Gaddis, the Alliance's former sexual assault specialist and the author of "Battered but Not Broken: Help for Abused Wives and Their Church Families" (Judson Press, 1996), will serve as the domestic violence coordinator. Clergy from Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Episcopal churches in the judicial district will serve on PFP's advisory committee.

Why target the churches rather than civil authorities to end such abuse?

"We have seen members of the faith community victimized by domestic violence," according to the grant proposal. "Because our rural Appalachian culture greatly emphasizes church and family, we have also seen church leaders ignore or minimize family violence. These leaders discourage victims from leaving abusive partners, as preservation of the family unit is a priority.

"Other leaders do not understand the dynamics of domestic violence and try to counsel victim and perpetrator as a couple or encourage the family to 'pray more.' Some church leaders do not even believe domestic violence exists among their congregants. They say, 'Well, no one ever comes to me with this problem.' But statistics tell us that one of every three members of a church or synagogue is a victim or survivor of domestic abuse or sexual assault.

"On the other hand, our domestic violence service providers face the dilemma of how to address the spiritual and theological questions that trouble battered women of faith who do seek support and safety from their programs. They want the assistance of their local religious communities to help them better understand and deal with the religious issues of their program participants."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

# Girl gets all she wants for her 6th birthday: food for the poor

By MARYLYNN G. HEWITT
Catholic News Service

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (CNS) — Chloe Langlois got everything she wanted for her 6th birthday — cans, boxes and cases of food for the poor.

"It was the happiest I've ever been in my life," she told The Michigan Catholic, newspaper of the Detroit Archdiocese.

She had planned a circus-themed party for months, her mother, Laura Langlois, said. "It was all her idea" that the June 15 celebration be one to help others, she added.

"The response has been amazing," she said. "We keep getting food on our doorstep that people have left after hearing about Chloe's party."

And, unbeknown to her mom and dad, Jim, when neighbors and friends asked about the party, Chloe told them she wanted "the big cans" of food.

Her party ended up filling 13 boxes and five bags that will go to the Robert Matchem Nutrition Center, housed at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Pontiac, and to the food pantry at St. Michael Parish, also in Pontiac.

Maria Jimenez, pastoral associate at St. Vincent de Paul, said she was "totally taken aback and we had tears in our eyes listening to this little girl telling us what she did."


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# CONVOCATION, from page 1

of the priesthood and helped draft "The Basic Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests" for the United States Conference Conference of Catholic Bishops. He spoke on "The Spheres of Priestly Ministry and Spirituality," "Experiencing the Current Church Environment," "Transition in Priestly Life: Celebrating the Paschal Mystery" and "Developing Patterns for Healthy and Holy Relationships."

He said that developing those patterns includes authentic prayer — "Pray as you can, not as you can't"— even though the person may not have perfect order in his life. "Without intimacy with God, we live a life of drivenness, of urgency," Father Casey said, adding that intimacy with God must be based on who one really is.

"Don't predicate (praying) on the attitudes of those around you," he said. "Take where you are at that moment, and speak to God out of who you are. It's like cleaning the house before the housekeeper gets there: If we try to tidy everything up, we miss the moment."

To illustrate how complicated prayer can be versus how simple it should be, Father Casey described the paralytic at Bethseda (John 5: 2-9), who explains why he can't enter the pool. "Jesus," he said, "asks, 'Do you want to be healed?' and the man tells him how the pool works."

Authentically accepting one's true self is necessary to establishing and keeping healthy relationships with others. This includes self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-fulfillment, being confident and enjoying appropriate intimacy, which embraces "the web of relationships," Father Casey said. "Avoid exclusivity. Intimacy needs to be shared with others. Sacraments, spiritual direction and Eucharist help build that watchfulness to healthy intimacy.

"Celibacy isn't the issue; chastity (moral sexual conduct) is the issue. What's at stake is chastity in the whole culture — the culture of looking at sex as a gift from God that we are called to be stewards of. We must pray out of who we are. God thought it up. I doubt that he's going to be embarrassed (by what we pray)."

Healthy relationships also depend on how well individuals take care of and respect themselves, which leads to constant renewal.



Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**Discussing points made during a talk by Benedictine Father Noah Casey at the Convocation of Priests 2002: The Spirituality of the Priesthood", held June 10-13, from left are Father Tien Duong, St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte; Father Joseph Dinh, Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury; Father Joseph Ayathupadam, Holy Spirit Church, Denver; Father Richard Hanson, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte; Father Bernard Manley, retired, Asheville; Monsignor Anthony Kovacic, retired, diocesan director of missionary societies.**

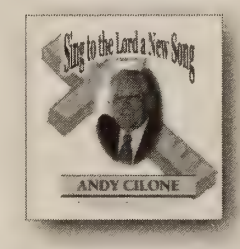
"I think priests are notorious for not treating themselves well — in the rest we get or don't get, balance or lack of balance," Father Casey said. "It's the kind of self-respect that happens in Jesus' encounter with Zacheus. Zacheus is just nosey. God uses Zacheus' nosiness to bring him to new life. Jesus says, 'Get out of that tree; I'm coming to your house for dinner.' And what does Zacheus do? He repays everybody. He has a whole new sense of himself."

Father William M. Evans, sacramental minister at Our Lady of the Mountains Church in Highlands and St. Jude Church in Sapphire Valley, agreed with that: "This whole business that we're so busy that we don't take time for ourselves. The point is that to be a good servant of others you must first serve yourself. If you do not know how to love yourself, you do not know how to love others. You burn out too quickly because you have not enjoyed your own life."

The Priestly Life and Ministry Committee of the Diocese of Charlotte's Presbyteral Council planned the convocation. Committee members are Father George M. Kloster, chair, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville; Father Wilbur Thomas; Father Carl Del Giudice, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard; Father James Hawker, vicar for education and pastor of St. Luke Church in Charlotte; Father Richard Hokanson, pastor of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont; Augustinian Father Terence Hyland of Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley; Father Matthew Kauth, parochial vicar of St. Matthew in Charlotte; Father James Solari of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro.

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# A letter from Bishop Curlin

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As you all know, this has been a trying and critical time for our church. The sexual abuse of children and young people by some priests and bishops, and the ways in which Church leaders have sometimes dealt with these terrible acts, have caused anger, confusion and pain among many in our faith community. I hope that this message may relieve some of that anger and confusion, and help begin to heal the pain.

As these abuses have occurred in past years and the revelations have come forth in recent months, the bonds of trust that should unite us as Christians have been strained. Indeed, the abuse of a child stands in complete contradiction to everything Our Lord teaches us and everything the Church is called to be. Let there now be no doubt or confusion that we clearly understand that our obligation to protect the young and our duty to prevent sexual abuse flow from the mission and example given to us by Jesus Christ Himself, in whose name we serve.

From the depths of my heart, as bishop of Charlotte, I express great sorrow and profound regret for the suffering of the victims of this abuse, their families and our Catholic community.

As our Holy Father has reminded us in his Address to the Cardinals of the United States and our conference officers earlier this year, the sexual abuse of children is "by every standard wrong and rightly considered a crime by society; it is also an appalling sin in the eyes of God."

My fellow bishops and I have been humbled by our deeper understanding of the terrible pain inflicted on some of our most vulnerable parishioners by some of our fellow clergy. The sinful and criminal acts of a few among us certainly diminish us all. At the same time, as St. Paul reminds us, "where sin has increased, grace has far surpassed it" [Romans 5:20].

Therefore, I would be remiss if I did not also acknowledge that the Lord's work is being done every day by thousands of dedicated lay people and faithful clergy and religious in our diocese. Their devoted and tireless service to Jesus Christ and the Church should not be lost in our righteous efforts to bring offenders to justice and prevent these terrible acts.

The bishops in the United States have been working to prevent the scourge of abuse for nearly twenty years, in part through the creation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse in 1993. But as we have candidly examined the issues, most recently at our national meeting in Dallas, it has become clear to us that our response to these abuses in the past has not been equal to the task. We have failed in part by what we have done and by what we have left undone. While we have made considerable efforts in the past, the current focus on the errors and omissions of the past is appropriate. It is in examining our mistakes — painful as that process may be for all of us — that we are led to gain the wisdom we now need to heal the families of those victimized by a small number of clergy in our Church.

It is my sincere hope that with our agreement in Dallas on the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, we can now begin anew — with faith in the future and a renewed commitment to combat these abuses with our entire collective might. In sum, the Charter calls for the permanent removal from ministry of any cleric who ´— in the past, present or future — sexually abuses a minor. In our prayers and deliberations on this matter, we recall the words of the Holy Father that "there is no place in the priesthood or religious life for those who would harm the young."

Through the Charter, we renew our determination to provide safety and protection for children and young people in our church ministries and institutions. We pledge ourselves to act in a way that manifests our accountability to God's people and to one another in this grave matter; we commit ourselves to heal the wound that the whole Church has suffered, and we acknowledge our need to be in dialogue with all Catholics, especially victims and parents, around this issue.

A full text of the Charter is contained in this issue; others may visit our diocesan Web site, www.charlottediocese.org, or the bishops' conference Web site at www.usccb.org to obtain a copy. However, I would like to highlight the primary goals we intend to achieve through the Charter:

- To Protect our Children
- To Promote Healing and Reconciliation with Victims
- To Guarantee an Effective Response to Allegations
- To Restore Trust in the Priesthood
- To Ensure Our Own Accountability

With God's help and a firm intention to resolve this crisis, we believe that the Church we love will ultimately be strengthened by this adversity. Our determination is bolstered by the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Romans: "Knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" [Romans 5:3-5].

I clearly understand that the words of the Charter alone cannot do it. The restoration of trust and fellowship will result from our actions, and I pledge to you actions worthy of our words. Asking a kind remembrance in your prayers and a daily remembrance in my own, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

William G. Curlin

The Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

# Quick look at charter to protect minors

**By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE**

DALLAS (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at its June 13-15 meeting in Dallas adopted a 3,500-word "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" as a binding policy for all U.S. dioceses and eparchies (dioceses of Eastern Catholic churches). Here is a brief overview of what the charter says:

All dioceses will reach out to victims and their families, including provision of counseling, spiritual assistance, support groups and other social services. The bishop or his representative will meet with the victim and family members.

- Each diocese will have a "competent assistance coordinator to aid in immediate pastoral care" of alleged victims and a predominantly lay review board to assess claims and review diocesan policies and procedures.
- No more confidentiality agreements unless the victim seeks one "for grave and substantial reasons."
- Any allegation by one who is still a minor is to be reported to civil authorities; if the claimant is no longer a minor, the diocese is to cooperate with civil authorities and encourage the claimant to report the allegation to civil authorities.
- "For even a single act of sexual abuse ... of a minor — past, present or future — the offending priest or deacon will be permanently removed from ministry."
- If the offending priest or deacon does not request removal from the clerical state, a bishop may initiate dismissal proceedings without the offender's consent; if dismissal is not sought for reasons such as "advanced age or infirmity," the offender is to live a life of prayer and penance and have no assignment, and he cannot wear clerical garb, publicly present himself as a priest or celebrate Mass publicly.
- Dioceses will publish clear standards of behavior for all church personnel who work with children.
- Communications policy on sexual abuse issues is to be marked by "transparency and openness."
- The USCCB is to form an Office for Child and Youth Protection to assist and oversee diocesan implementation of the charter and to report annually on diocesan compliance with the charter.
- An independent National Review Board is to assist and monitor the new USCCB office and review its annual report before publication.
- The USCCB Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse is to be expanded to include a bishop from each of the 14 USCCB regions.
- All dioceses are to establish "safe environment" programs to educate children, parents, employees and others on sex abuse prevention and detection.
- Diocesan and parish personnel who have contact with children are to undergo background checks; all seminarians are to be screened.
- If a cleric is moved for any reason from one diocese to another, the responsible bishop or religious superior is to notify the bishop of the new place of residence if there is anything in the cleric's background "that would raise questions about his fitness for ministry."
- Bishops and religious superiors are to consult on implementing the charter and meet periodically to coordinate their roles in the event of an allegation against a religious order priest.
- Church authorities will cooperate with other churches and institutions in society to work against sexual abuse of minors.
- The bishops will cooperate in a new apostolic visitation of all U.S. seminaries, with "human formation for celibate chastity" as the main focus of study.
- Sexual abuse of minors is defined in terms of church law, not civil law. A footnote to the charter describes it as covering "contacts or interactions between a child and an adult when the child is being used as an object of sexual gratification for the adult."

# Text of U.S. bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People

*DALLAS (CNS) — Outlined below is the text of the U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" approved June 14 at the bishops' general meeting in Dallas*

**PREAMBLE**

The church in the United States is experiencing a crisis without precedent in our times. The sexual abuse of children and young people by some priests and bishops, and the ways in which we bishops addressed these crimes and sins, have caused enormous pain, anger, and confusion. Innocent victims and their families have suffered terribly. In the past, secrecy has created an atmosphere that has inhibited the healing process and, in some cases, enabled sexually abusive behavior to be repeated. As bishops, we acknowledge our mistakes and our role in that suffering, and we apologize and take responsibility for too often failing victims and our people in the past. We also take responsibility for dealing with this problem strongly, consistently, and effectively in the future. From the depths of our hearts, we bishops express great sorrow and profound regret for what the Catholic people are enduring.

We, who have been given the responsibility of shepherding God's people, will, with God's help and in full collaboration with our people, continue to work to restore the bonds of trust that unite us. Words alone cannot accomplish this goal. It will begin with the actions we take here in our General Assembly and at home in our dioceses/eparchies.

The damage caused by sexual abuse of minors is devastating and long-lasting. We reach out to those who suffer, but especially to the victims of sexual abuse and their families. We apologize to them for the grave harm that has been inflicted upon them, and we offer them our help for the future. In the light of so much suffering, healing and reconciliation are beyond human capacity alone. Only God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness can lead us forward, trusting Christ's promise: "for God all things are possible" (Mt 19:26).

The loss of trust becomes even more tragic when its consequence is a loss of the faith that we have a sacred duty to foster. We make our own the words of our Holy Father: that sexual abuse of young people is "by every standard wrong and rightly considered a crime by society; it is also an appalling sin in the eyes of God" (Address to the Cardinals of the United States and Conference Officers, April 23, 2002).

The conference of bishops has been addressing the evil of sexual abuse of minors by a priest and, at its June 1992 meeting, established five principles to be followed (cf. Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse, National Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Restoring Trust," November 1993). We also need to recognize that many dioceses and eparchies did implement in a responsible and timely fashion policies and procedures that have safeguarded children and young people. Many bishops did take appropriate steps to address clergy who were guilty of sexual misconduct.

Let there now be no doubt or confusion on anyone's part: For us, your bishops, our obligation to protect children and young people and to prevent sexual abuse flows from the mission and example given to us by Jesus Christ himself, in whose name we serve.

Jesus showed constant care for the vulnerable. He inaugurated his ministry with these words of the Prophet Isaiah:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,*
*because he has anointed me*
*to bring glad tidings to the poor.*
*He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives*
*and recovery of sight to the blind,*
*to let the oppressed go free,*
*and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.*
(Lk 4:18)

In Matthew 25, the Lord made this part of his commission to his apostles and disciples when he told them that whenever they showed mercy and compassion to the least ones, they showed it to him.

Jesus extended this care in a tender and urgent way to children, rebuking his disciples for keeping them away from him: "Let the children come to me" (Mt 19:14). And he uttered the grave warning about anyone who would lead the little ones astray, saying that it would be better for such a person "to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea" (Mt 18:6).

We hear these words of the Lord as prophetic for this moment. With a firm determination to resolve this crisis, we bishops commit ourselves to a pastoral outreach to repair the breach with those who have suffered sexual abuse and with all the people of the church. We renew our determination to provide safety and protection for children and young people in our church ministries and institutions. We pledge ourselves to act in a way that manifests our accountability to God, to his people, and to one another in this grave matter. We commit ourselves to do all we can to heal the trauma that victims/survivors and their families are suffering and the wound that the whole church is experiencing. We acknowledge our need to be in dialogue with all Catholics, especially victims and parents, around this issue. By these actions, we want to demonstrate to the wider community that we comprehend the gravity of the sexual abuse of minors.

To fulfill these goals, our dioceses/eparchies and our national conference, in a spirit of repentance and renewal, will adopt and implement policies based upon the following.

## TO PROMOTE HEALING AND RECONCILIATION WITH VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS

**ARTICLE 1.** Dioceses/eparchies will reach out to victims/survivors and their families and demonstrate a sincere commitment to their spiritual and emotional well-being. The first obligation of the church with regard to the victims is for healing and reconciliation. Where such outreach is not already in place and operative, each diocese/eparchy is to develop an outreach to every person who has been the victim of sexual abuse(1) as a minor by anyone acting in the name of the church, whether the abuse was recent or occurred many years in the past. This outreach will include provision of counseling, spiritual assistance, support groups, and other social services agreed upon by the victim and the diocese/eparchy. In cooperation with social service agencies and other churches, support groups for victims/survivors and others affected by abuse should be fostered and encouraged in every diocese/eparchy and in local parish communities.

Through pastoral outreach to victims and their families, the diocesan/eparchial bishop or his representative will offer to meet with them, to listen with patience and compassion to their experiences and concerns, and to share the "profound sense of solidarity and concern" expressed by our Holy Father in his address to the cardinals of the United States and conference officers. This pastoral outreach by the bishop or his delegate will also be directed to faith communities in which the sexual abuse occurred.

**ARTICLE 2.** Dioceses/eparchies will have mechanisms in place to respond promptly to any allegation where there is reason to believe that sexual abuse of a minor has occurred. Dioceses/eparchies will have a competent assistance coordinator to aid in the immediate pastoral care of persons who claim to have been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other church personnel. Dioceses/eparchies will also have a review board, the majority of whose members will be lay persons not in the employ of the diocese/eparchy. This board will assist the diocesan/eparchial bishop in assessing allegations and fitness for ministry, and will regularly review diocesan/eparchial policies and procedures for dealing with sexual abuse of minors. Also, the board can act both retrospectively and prospectively on these matters and give advice on all aspects of responses required in connection with these cases. The procedures for those making a complaint will be readily available in printed form and will be the subject of periodic public announcements.

**ARTICLE 3.** Dioceses/eparchies will not enter into confidentiality agreements except for grave and substantial reasons brought forward by the victim/survivor and noted in the text of the agreement.

## TO GUARANTEE AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS

**ARTICLE 4.** Dioceses/eparchies will report an allegation of sexual abuse of a person who is a minor to the public authorities. They will cooperate in their investigation in accord with the law of the jurisdiction in question.

Dioceses/eparchies will cooperate with public authorities about reporting in cases when the person is no longer a minor.

In every instance, dioceses/eparchies will advise victims of their right to make a report to public authorities and will support this right.

**ARTICLE 5.** We repeat the words of our Holy Father in his address to the cardinals of the United States and conference officers: "There is no place in the priesthood or religious life for those who would harm the young."

When the preliminary investigation of a complaint (cc. 1717-1719) against a priest or deacon so indicates, the diocesan/eparchial bishop will relieve the alleged offender promptly of his ministerial duties (cf. c. 1722). The alleged offender will be referred for appropriate medical and psychological evaluation, so long as this does not interfere with the investigation by civil authorities. When the accusation has proved to be unfounded, every step possible will be taken to restore the good name of the priest or deacon.

Where sexual abuse by a priest or a deacon is admitted or is established after an appropriate investigation in accord with canon law, the following will pertain:

— Diocesan/eparchial policy will provide that for even a single act of sexual abuse (see Article 1 footnote) of a minor — past, present, or future — the offending priest or deacon will be permanently removed from ministry. In keeping with the stated purpose of this charter, an offending priest or deacon will be offered professional assistance for his own healing and well-being, as well as for the purpose of prevention.

— In every case, the processes provided for in canon law must be observed, and the various provisions of canon law must be considered (cf. "Canonical Delicts Involving Sexual Misconduct and Dismissal from the Clerical State," 1995; cf. Letter from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, May 18, 2001). These provisions may include a request by the priest or deacon for dispensation from the

obligation of holy orders and the loss of the clerical state, or a request by the bishop for dismissal from the clerical state even without the consent of the priest or deacon. For the sake of due process, the accused is to be encouraged to retain the assistance of civil and canonical counsel. When necessary, the diocese/eparchy will supply canonical counsel to a priest or deacon.

— If the penalty of dismissal from the clerical state has not been applied (e.g., for reasons of advanced age or infirmity), the offender is to lead a life of prayer and penance. He will not be permitted to celebrate Mass publicly, to wear clerical garb, or to present himself publicly as a priest.

**ARTICLE 6.** While the priestly commitment to the virtue of chastity and the gift of celibacy is well known, there will be clear and well-publicized diocesan/eparchial standards of ministerial behavior and appropriate boundaries for clergy and for any other church personnel in positions of trust who have regular contact with children and young people.

**ARTICLE 7.** Each diocese/eparchy will develop a communications policy that reflects a commitment to transparency and openness. Within the confines of respect for the privacy and the reputation of the individuals involved, dioceses/eparchies will deal as openly as possible with members of the community. This is especially so with regard to assisting and supporting parish communities directly affected by ministerial misconduct involving minors.

## TO ENSURE THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF OUR PROCEDURES

**ARTICLE 8.** To assist in the consistent application of these principles and to provide a vehicle of accountability and assistance to dioceses/eparchies in this matter, we authorize the establishment of an Office for Child and Youth Protection at our national headquarters. The tasks of this Office will include (1) assisting individual dioceses/eparchies in the implementation of "safe environment" programs (see Article 12 below), (2) assisting provinces and regions in the development of appropriate mechanisms to audit adherence to policies, and (3) producing an annual public report on the progress made in implementing the standards in this Charter. This public report shall include the names of those dioceses/eparchies which, in the judgment of this office, are not in compliance with the provisions and expectations of this charter. This office will have staffing sufficient to fulfill its basic purpose. Staff will consist of persons who are expert in the protection of minors; they will be appointed by the general secretary of the conference.

**ARTICLE 9.** The work of the Office for Child and Youth Protection will be assisted and monitored by a Review Board, including parents, appointed by the conference president and reporting directly to him. The board will approve the annual report of the implementation of this charter in each of our dioceses/eparchies, as well as any recommendations that emerge from this review, before the report is submitted to the president of the conference and published. To understand the problem more fully and to enhance the effectiveness of our future response, the National Review Board will commission a comprehensive study of the causes and context of the current crisis. The board will also commission a descriptive study, with the full cooperation of our dioceses/eparchies, of the nature and scope of the problem within the Catholic Church in the United States, including such data as statistics on perpetrators and victims.

**ARTICLE 10.** The membership of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse will be reconstituted to include representation from all the episcopal regions of the country.

**ARTICLE 11.** The president of the conference will inform the Holy See of this charter to indicate the manner in which we, the Catholic bishops, together with the entire church in the United States, intend to address this present crisis.

## TO PROTECT THE FAITHFUL IN THE FUTURE

**ARTICLE 12.** Dioceses/eparchies will establish "safe environment" programs. They will cooperate with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children. Dioceses/eparchies will make clear to clergy and all members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons in positions of trust with regard to sexual abuse.

**ARTICLE 13.** Dioceses/eparchies will evaluate the background of all diocesan/eparchial and parish personnel who have regular contact with minors. Specifically, they will utilize the resources of law enforcement and other community agencies. In addition, they will employ adequate screening and evaluative techniques in deciding the fitness of candidates for ordination (cf. National Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Program of Priestly Formation," 1993, no. 513).

**ARTICLE 14.** When a cleric is proposed for a new assignment, transfer, residence in another diocese/eparchy or diocese/eparchy in a country other than the United States, or residence in the local community of a religious institute, the sending bishop or major superior will forward and the receiving bishop or major superior will review — before assignment — an accurate and complete description of the cleric's record, including whether there is anything in his background or service that would raise questions about his fitness for ministry (cf. National Conference of Catholic Bishops and Conference of Major Superiors of Men, "Proposed Guidelines on the Transfer or Assignment of Clergy and Religious," 1993).

**ARTICLE 15.** The Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse and the Officers of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men will meet to determine how this charter will be conveyed and established in the communities of religious men in the United States. Diocesan/eparchial bishops and major superiors of clerical institutes or their delegates will meet periodically to coordinate their roles concerning the issue of allegations made against a cleric member of a religious institute ministering in a diocese/eparchy.

**ARTICLE 16.** Given the extent of the problem of the sexual abuse of minors in our society, we are willing to cooperate with other churches and ecclesial communities, other religious bodies, institutions of learning, and other interested organizations in conducting research in this area.

**ARTICLE 17.** We pledge our complete cooperation with the apostolic visitation of our diocesan/eparchial seminaries and religious houses of formation recommended in the interdicasterial meeting with the cardinals of the United States and the conference officers in April 2002. Unlike the previous visitation, these new visits will focus on the question of human formation for celibate chastity based on the criteria found in "Pastores Dabo Vobis." We look forward to this opportunity to strengthen our priestly formation programs so that they may provide God's people with mature and holy priests. Dioceses/eparchies will develop systematic ongoing formation programs in keeping with the recent conference document "Basic Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests" (2001) so as to assist priests in their living out of their vocation.

## CONCLUSION

In the midst of this terrible crisis of sexual abuse of young people by priests and bishops and how it has been dealt with by bishops, many other issues have been raised. In this charter we focus specifically on the painful issue at hand. However, in this matter, we do wish to affirm our concern especially with regard to issues related to effective consultation of the laity and the participation of God's people in decision making that affects their well-being.

We must increase our vigilance to prevent those few who might exploit the priesthood for their own immoral and criminal purposes from doing so. At the same time, we know that the sexual abuse of young people is not a problem inherent in the priesthood, nor are priests the only ones guilty of it. The vast majority of our priests are faithful in their ministry and happy in their vocation. Their people are enormously appreciative of the ministry provided by their priests. In the midst of trial, this remains a cause for rejoicing. We deeply regret that any of our decisions have obscured the good work of our priests, for which their people hold them in such respect.

It is within this context of the essential soundness of the priesthood and of the deep faith of our brothers and sisters in the church that we know that we can meet and resolve this crisis for now and the future.

An essential means of dealing with the crisis is prayer for healing and reconciliation, and acts of reparation for the grave offense to God and the deep wound inflicted upon his holy people. Closely connected to prayer and acts of reparation is the call to holiness of life and the care of the diocesan/eparchial bishop to ensure that he and his priests avail themselves of the proven ways of avoiding sin and growing in holiness of life.

By what we have begun here today and by what we have stated and agreed to,

— We pledge most solemnly to one another and to you, God's people, that we will work to our utmost for the protection of children and youth.

— We pledge that we will devote to this goal the resources and personnel necessary to accomplish it.

— We pledge that we will do our best to ordain to the priesthood and put into positions of trust only those who share this commitment to protecting children and youth.

— We pledge that we will work toward healing and reconciliation for those sexually abused by clerics.

We make these pledges with a humbling sense of our own limitations, relying on the help of God and the support of his faithful priests and people to work with us to fulfill them.

Above all we believe, in the words of St. Paul as cited by Pope John Paul II in April 2002, that "where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more" (Rm 5:20). This is faith's message. With this faith, we are confident that we will not be conquered by evil but overcome evil with good (cf. Rm 12:21).

This charter is published for the dioceses/eparchies of the United States, and we bishops commit ourselves to its immediate implementation. It is to be reviewed in two years by the conference of bishops with the advice of the National Review Board created in Article 9 to ensure its effectiveness in resolving the problems of sexual abuse of minors by priests.

### *FOOTNOTE*

(1) Cf. c. 1395, 2. Notice that a sexual offense violative of 2 need not be a complete act of intercourse, nor should the term necessarily be equated with the definitions of sexual abuse or other crimes in civil law. "Sexual abuse (includes) contacts or interactions between a child and an adult when the child is being used as an object of sexual gratification for the adult. A child is abused whether or not this activity involves explicit force, whether or not it involves genital or physical contact, whether or not it is initiated by the child, and whether or not there is discernible harmful outcome" (Canadian Conference of Bishops, "From Pain to Hope," 1992, p. 20). If there is any doubt about whether a specific act fulfills this definition, the writings of recognized moral theologians should be consulted and, if necessary, the opinion of a recognized expert be obtained ("Canonical Delicts Involving Sexual Misconduct and Dismissal from the Clerical State," 1995, p. 6). We also note that diocesan/eparchial policies must be in accord with the civil law.

# Text of Bishop Gregory's statement at final press conference

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DALLAS (CNS) — *Here is the text of an opening statement that Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., president of the U.S. bishops' conference, delivered at a press conference June 14 at the conclusion of the bishops' meeting in Dallas.*

Today the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has taken a profound step in a long and sorrowful journey for the entire church. With the approval of this charter, bishops agreed to bind ourselves in a mandatory charter, to protect children and minors from sexual abuse from priests and deacons; to acknowledge and reach out to victims and their families; to ensure that all priests are worthy of the trust of their people; and to ensure that bishops are answerable and that the actions they take are transparent and consistent.

Our actions today are not a panacea. The charter is not perfect. More work needs to be done. As the victim/survivors told us, "Listening is easy. Talk is cheap. Action is priceless." That is our challenge. Ultimately, that is how we will be judged.

But let there be no doubt. This charter, which we have bound ourselves to implement, is a solid foundation to build upon. It sets out the values, the culture and the mechanisms to end the scourge of sexual abuse within the Catholic Church in America.

It is unprecedented in our history. It is rigorous in its application. It is wide in its scope. And it is mandatory, once approved by the Holy See.

It removes the secrecy and the uncertainty which has undermined the confidence and trust of the laity. It eliminates the barriers to full disclosure.

And it has teeth. As of today, this charter binds all bishops to a rigorous, mandatory policy to protect children and stamp out child sexual abuse by priests and deacons in every diocese across the country.

**What this charter has achieved:**

— A strong definition of what constitutes sexual abuse, so that such an act is not merely limited to forcible acts, nor is it limited even to physical or genital contact. Nor does a discernible harmful outcome to the child have to be proven. It must, in all cases, however, comply with the civil law requirements of the state.

— The formal acknowledgment in the charter of our mistakes and our role in allowing sexual abuse to have occurred to the extent that it has. We take responsibility for this sad situation.

— A review of the charter in its entirety in two years by the conference of bishops, to determine what aspects, if any, need to be adjusted, based on experience in implementing it.

In specific terms, the charter mandates the following actions:

— Any allegation of sexual abuse against a minor must be turned over to the civil authorities for investigation.

— Any priest, who engages in even a single act of child sexual abuse — past, present or future — will be removed from ministry and will not receive a future assignment. Furthermore, the bishop may request dispensation from the obligations of holy orders and the loss of the clerical state; or the bishop may request dismissal from the clerical state.

— In any event, if the penalty of dismissal from the clerical state (for example, for reasons of advanced age or infirmity) has not been applied, the offender is to lead a life of prayer and penance. He will not be permitted to celebrate Mass publicly or to wear clerical garb, or to present himself publicly as a priest.

The sum total of those actions means that bishops will not tolerate even one act of sexual abuse of a minor. There will be severe consequences for any act of sexual abuse. No free pass. No second chances. No free strike. For those who think or say that this is not zero tolerance, then they have not read it carefully. We have voted to take every step possible, as bishops, within our canon laws and our powers, to eliminate any loophole that an abuser could try to use. This charter says to abusive priests or deacons, "If you abuse a child, you will be stripped of your ministry, forever. This charter says, you do not deserve to present yourself as a priest. This charter says, if you abuse a child, you will never be given another chance, through our church, to do it again. And finally, this charter says, in concert with the Holy Father, "There is no place in the priesthood, or religious life, for anyone who would abuse a child."

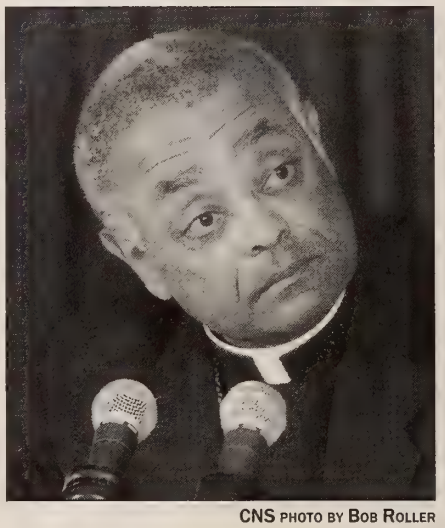
As Catholics, we do believe in forgiveness. We do believe in the power of conversion. An abuser, who recognizes the profound harm he has committed, and who has shown remorse, can indeed be forgiven for his sins. He just doesn't get a second chance to do it again. Period.

**How this charter will protect children:**

At the diocesan level:

— Every diocese will have a review board, the majority of whose members will be lay persons, not in the employ of the diocese.

— The review board will assist the diocesan bishop to assess allegations, to make recommendations on the fitness for ministry of priests or deacons. I will also regularly review diocesan policies and procedures for dealing with sexual abuse of minors both for past cases and for the future.



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

**Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, listens to a reporter's question at a press conference following the first day of the bishops' meeting June 13 in Dallas.**

**How this charter will support victims:**

Among other measures:

— Every diocese will have a competent assistance coordinator to aid in the immediate pastoral care of persons who claim to have been sexually abused as minors by clergy or church personnel.

— The elimination of confidentiality agreements except for grave and substantial reasons brought forward by the victim/survivor.

At the national level:

— The creation of the Office for Child and Youth Protection at our national headquarters, which will consist of experts in the protection of minors, to assist individual dioceses in the implementation of "safe environment" programs. As well, the office will assist provinces and regions in the development of appropriate mechanisms to audit adherence to policies. The Office for Child and Youth Protection will publish an annual public report on the progress made in implementing the standards in this charter. This public report will also point out those dioceses, which may not be in compliance with the charter requirements.

— The creation of a national review board, including parents, appointed by the conference president and reporting directly to him.

— The national review board will oversee the work of the protection office.

— The board will approve the annual report of how this charter is implemented in each of our dioceses. It will also make recommendations to dioceses for compliance.

— The board will also commission a descriptive study and an historical study of the nature and scope of the problem within the Catholic Church in the United States, including statistics on perpetrators and victims.

— A few minutes ago I announced the names of several members of that national review board who have kindly agreed to serve. Gov. Frank Keating (R-Okla.), Bob Bennett, a partner with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meager and Flom, LLP, and Illinois Appellate Court Justice Anne Burke. The nucleus of the board, in turn, will develop a fuller roster of members and present that to me as the president.

**And finally, to the issue of the accountability of bishops:**

— This charter ensures that bishops will be consistently answerable to civil authorities through the immediate referral of allegations and the full cooperation with those civil authorities in investigations.

— Through the creation of diocesan review boards, every diocesan bishop must engage the board in decisions affecting assessment, issues surrounding fitness to ministry and are answerable to the board for how they handle all aspects of sexual abuse cases within the diocese.

— At the national level, the creation of the National Office for Child and Youth Protection and the national review board, bishops must account for their actions or any failure to act or to comply with the charter.

— And, to the Catholic laity, we bishops will be answerable to you for what we do or what we fail to do, to protect your children. Answerability begins with openness. This will be accomplished through involving the review boards and by the publishing of an annual report which will tell it like it is.

— This charter removes the shroud of secrecy which has undermined your trust in us. We intend to earn back that trust by our actions.

By the overwhelming vote of 239 to 13, bishops have sent a clear message that they are strongly behind the charter and that they are committed to its implementation in fact and in spirit.

I am very proud of my fellow bishops for their hard work, their openness, and their dedication to the principles of justice, fairness and compassion. The discussions, as you witnessed, were spirited, deeply felt, and honorably debated.

Finally, my heart is with our children, who are truly a gift from God and whose trust and innocence we vow to protect.

And the deep feelings remain in our hearts, for those whose lives have been so tragically affected by the sins, the crimes and the omissions, of those acting in the name of the church. Your pain will not be forgotten and your experiences, which you have so eloquently shared with us at this conference, will serve to guide us as we share in your journey to justice.




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# Medical mission becomes spiritual, life-altering experience

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — The trip only lasted a week, but its impact will last a lifetime.

Father Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Jefferson, and Rev. Mr. Mark Nash of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte joined a medical mission to the Dominican Republic April 13-April 20. They were part of a team of 18 doctors, nurses, translators and general volunteers from North Carolina, Florida and Texas to visit the small island country.

In addition to working as chaplains, Father Lawlor served as a translator for the medical staff while Rev. Mr. Nash, a former Navy Corpsman, assisted in various capacities at the mission clinic in Guayabal, a small mountain town in the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana.

"It was my first experience in a third world country," said Rev. Mr. Nash. "It was almost like stepping back in time."

With an estimated 7.8 million inhabitants, many of whom are Catholic, the Dominican Republic is the second largest nation in the Caribbean, according to the Dominican Republic's U.S. Embassy Web site.

"I've been to Mexico and Guatemala, so I'm kind of used to seeing this kind of stark poverty," said Father Lawlor.

Father Lawlor and Rev. Mr. Nash stayed with a local family in "one of the more modern homes," said Rev. Mr. Nash, "meaning it had electricity and occasional running water."

"The people we served were very poor in the material sense, but they taught me a lot in the ways of peacefulness, patience, faith and hospitality," said Father Lawlor. "I know that I received much more than I gave."



Courtesy Photo

**Father Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Jefferson, sings along with the schoolchildren of Guayabal in the Dominican Republic. Father Lawlor and Rev. Mr. Nash of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte joined a mission team of 18 doctors, nurses, translators and general volunteers from North Carolina, Florida and Texas in the Dominican Republic April 13-April 20.**

The missionaries were overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness of the Dominicans. "They gave you all they had. You felt like you were a part of their family," said Dr. Nick Passero, a family practitioner and member of Holy Family Church in Clemmons.

"It's his (Nick's) sixth mission trip and his second to the Dominican Republic," said Father Lawlor. "He sees it as a way of giving something back."

"You get to share your faith with them (the Dominicans)," said Passero. "When you share the Gospel with them, it impacts them, but it impacts you more."

The patients came from miles around to the clinic, which was setup in a former disco. Many patients walked or rode burrows for hours, only to have to wait in line to be seen by a doctor.

"They came to the clinic in their best Sunday clothes, sat for hours, and none complained," said Rev. Mr. Nash.

The mission group also set up a one-day clinic in the nearby town of La Segual.

"The town was as primitive as it gets. The houses were made of sticks with dirt floors and had no water or electricity," said Rev. Mr. Nash. "It was the first time a medical group had visited the town. The people were delighted to have us there."

Within a four-day period, the missionaries saw over 400 patients, many who had serious medical conditions requiring immediate attention.

"There were some people we could do nothing for," said Rev. Mr. Nash. "You just prayed for them and with them and told them that God loved them."

In addition to administering sacraments such as anointing of the sick to the seriously ill and the dying, Father Lawlor and Rev. Mr. Nash baptized a young mother's baby suffering from malnutrition and parasites, which could be felt moving within the baby's stomach.

"That child was basically saved from dying," said Passero. "She's going to be fine."

The Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana is a sister diocese of the Diocese of Orlando. Ursuline Sister Bernadette Mackay, who runs the diocese Mission Office, regularly organizes medical and surgical missions to the Dominican Republic.

"Sister Bernadette is like the Mother Teresa of the Dominican Republic," said Passero, who explained her philosophy that nothing is given away — Dominicans must pay one peso or offer work to be seen at the clinic.

"They're a poor but proud people. Having them work or pay for the services helps preserve their dignity, and helps them to help themselves," said Passero.

Passero helped assemble this year's group of 12 volunteers from North Carolina. He invited Father Lawlor because of his ability to speak Spanish. Father Stan Kobel of St. Thomas Aquinas Church went last year but was unable to go this year; he asked his staff, and Rev. Mr. Nash — coincidentally from the Diocese of Orlando — eagerly accepted.

"Everyone on that team was a divine appointment. God wanted each one of them to be there," said Passero, indicating each person brought unique talents to the mission.

Through Passero's initiative, Holy Family Church helped sponsor the North Carolina volunteers as an outreach project. "When I brought this before the church, I didn't know how it would be perceived. I was overwhelmed by their response," he said.

The trip and the people they helped left lasting impressions on both Father Lawlor and Rev. Mr. Nash.

"Serving the poor and the sick helps to keep things in perspective and reminds us of how much we have to be thankful for," said Father Lawlor.

"You come back with a different appreciation for life," said Rev. Mr. Nash. "You see people who are struggling, but you also see such love in their hearts. I can't wait to go back."

"Everyone I've talked to (on the mission) wants to go back," said Passero.

Rev. Mr. Nash said his experience in the Dominican Republic called him to be even more involved — and get others involved — with those in need here in the Diocese of Charlotte. "Christ challenges us to help the poor," he said.

"I believe that many people would get a great spiritual boost from this type of trip," said Father Lawlor.

"You feel more comfortable sharing your faith when you come home," said Passero. "You'll realize how important your faith is and how much you want to share it."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*


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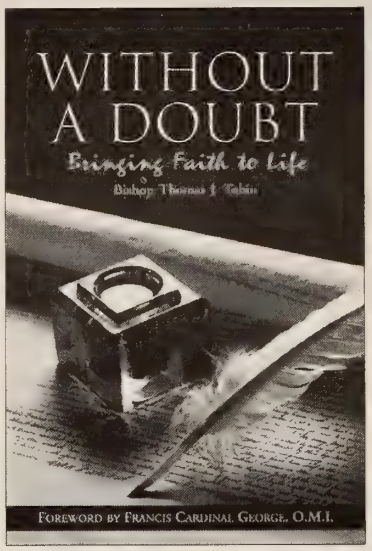
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**Book Review**

# Bishop brings Gospel's lessons to modern life

REVIEWED BY FATHER JAMES MASSA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

If the 16th-century Council of Trent succeeded in making bishops better pastors to their flocks, the Second Vatican Council had as one of its primary objectives making them better teachers. Nearly 40 years after the commencement of Vatican II, many bishops have given "pride of place" to their role as preachers of the Gospel. The current bishop of Youngstown, Ohio, Thomas J. Tobin, brings to this episcopal function not only an elegant writing style, but also a creative imagination for bridging the truths of faith with lived experience.




"Without a Doubt: Bringing Faith to Life," Bishop Tobin's collection of short monographs, demonstrates the power of the Catholic Gospel to make sense of modern life. Comprised of columns written for the Catholic Exponent, the newspaper of the Diocese of Youngstown, the book is an extended conversation between a shepherd and his flock.

Like the Good Shepherd of the Gospel, this bishop "knows" his sheep and advises them in a manner that blends realism and evangelical hope. He offers wise counsel to young couples planning their wedding celebrations, urging them to "resist social pressure and strive for simplicity." To working parents who suffer with chronic fatigue he makes a compelling case for rest, recreation and prayerful solitude. In an open letter to college students he holds out the value of diversity with respect to persons and ideas, while also inviting adherence to those unchangeable truths that guide moral decision-making in these relativistic times.

In order to address today's moral and spiritual problems as a Catholic teacher, one needs a sense of irony. The chasm that exists today between contemporary realities and Catholic ideals is enough to weary the most ardent saint.

Yet for Bishop Tobin, core Catholic convictions are rooted not in human wisdom but in the divine plan that often gets revealed in ironic ways. "For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom," St. Paul warns us. History is on God's watch, and while Catholics may not always appreciate the church's stance on issues like the death penalty, divorce and the practice of ordaining only men to the priesthood, they have reason to trust that Catholic wisdom ultimately prevails over any one of its rivals.

The author of these mediations is "without a doubt" about the urgency of sharing authoritative Catholic teaching, and yet he does so with warmth and gentle humor. As an adviser to Catholics United for the Faith — which serves as the book's publisher — Bishop Tobin views obedience to such teaching not as a threat to moral or intellectual freedom, but as the truest condition for their exercise. Drawing on a favorite image of Pope John Paul II, he insists that faith and reason belong to one another "like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth."

Near the end of a chapter that treats the theme of "sacrifice," the author invites the reader to make of his or her life a total act of self-giving after the pattern of the Good Shepherd and all who minister in his name. All of the faithful — priests, religious, and laity — are called "to offer something precious to God," namely, the gift of their very own selves in service to their brothers and sisters in faith. Without a doubt, the current bishop of Youngstown has done just that in sharing with us his graceful and wise counsel.

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings: June 30, 2002*

**Cycle A Readings:**

June 30, Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1) 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a
Psalm 89:2-3, 16-19
2) Romans 6:3-4, 8-11
3) Gospel: Matthew 10:37-42

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

One winter morning I awoke to the sound of wind rattling loose windows and making a sorrowful sound that can only be experienced on the windswept Colorado prairie. I was an only and often-lonely child in a world of adults, watching the light, sifting snow accumulate in the interior corners of my windowsill. As this particular day progressed, I realized that the storm I was observing was unlike any I had witnessed in my young life.

My mother and grandfather carried in load after load of snow-covered firewood, coal and canned goods from the cellar. "God only knows when I'll be able to get out to the barn to feed again," said my grandfather, closing the kitchen door behind him. I remember scraping frost from the windowpane and trying to catch a glimpse of him fighting his way through swirling snow on his way to the barn and henhouse. After what seemed hours to me, he burst through the kitchen door, cursing all snowstorms present and past while at the same time thanking God for being able to find the house in the blizzard that now raged against every living thing in its path.

After supper that evening we sat close to the gigantic brown heating stove. My mother had just begun the next chapter of the book she was reading to us when above the shrieking storm we heard a muffled knocking. I watched my mother and grandfather exchange perplexed looks. My mother resumed her reading. Then the knocking started again, this time at our front door.

I peered around his long legs as my grandfather opened the door. "In the name of God," he shouted over the wind, "come in here and get warm!" Outside our front door in the sea of snow huddled a clump of people that turned out to be two snowbound couples and their exhausted, hungry children and young baby. I could not believe my good fortune. Children my own age had arrived and a baby besides. I would have playmates for more than a week until the thaw began. Life was good indeed.

Years later I understood that my grandfather really was welcoming our guests in the name of God. He and my mother would have extended the same life-saving hospitality to people in need on a warm spring day as they had during the winter of the deadly blizzard.

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of June 30 - July 6**

**Sunday (Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** 2 Kings 4:8-11; 14-16, Romans 6:3-4, 8-11, Matthew 10:37-42; **Monday (Bl. Junipero Serra),** Amos 2:6-10, 13-16, Matthew 8:18-22; **Tuesday,** Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12, Matthew 8:23-27; **Wednesday,** Ephesians 2:19-22, John 20:24-29; **Thursday (St. Elizabeth of Portugal),** Amos 7:10-17, Matthew 9:1-8; **Friday (St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria),** Amos 8:4-6, 9-12, Matthew 9:9-13; **Saturday,** Amos 9:11-15, Matthew 9:14-17

**Scripture for the week of July 7 - July 13**

**Sunday (Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Zechariah 9:9-10, Romans 8:9, 11-13, Matthew 11:25-30; **Monday,** Hosea 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22, Matthew 9:18-26; **Tuesday,** Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:32-38; **Wednesday,** Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12, Matthew 10:1-7; **Thursday (St. Benedict),** Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9, Matthew 10:7-15; **Friday,** Hosea 14:2-10, Matthew 10:16-23; **Saturday (St. Henry),** Isaiah 6:1-8, Matthew 10:24-33

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## Movie Capsules

By Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — *The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

**"The Emperor's New Clothes" (Paramount Classics)**

Pleasing historical comedy that has Napoleon Bonaparte (Ian Holm), exiled on St. Helena, sneak off, leaving a double (Holm again) in his place to reclaim the throne of France, but upon his arrival in Paris he discovers the sentiments for the emperor have changed and ends up falling in love with a poor widow (Iben Hjejle). Holm's superb performance makes the slender what-if premise in director Alan Taylor's film enjoyable, although the opportunities for humor are mostly squandered. An implied live-in relationship and fleeting crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

**"Juwanna Mann" (Warner Bros.)**

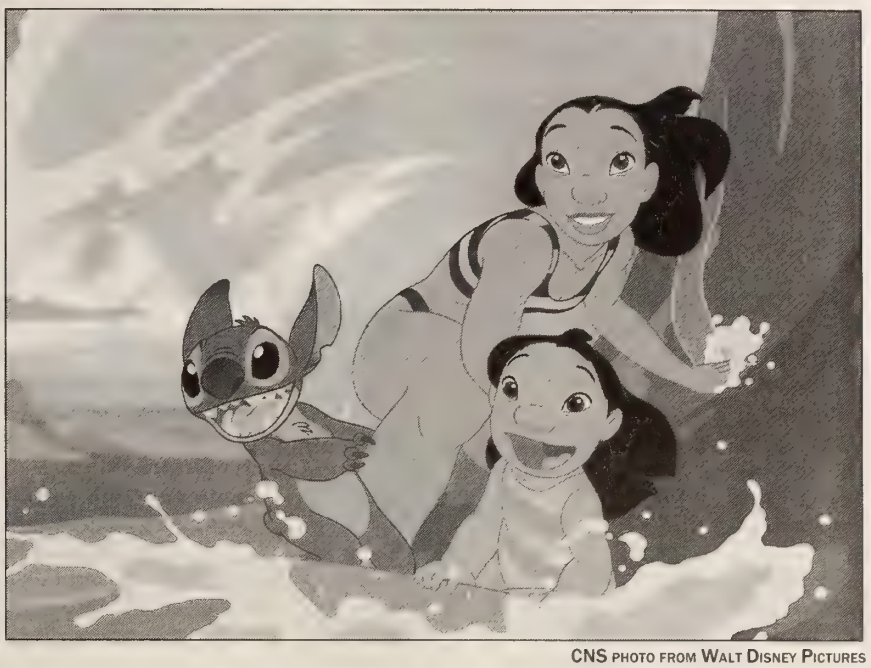
Weak comedy in which a cocky professional basketball player (Miguel A. Nunez) is thrown out of the NBA for his repeated obnoxious antics on court, so he pretends to be a woman to play for the women's league, where he develops a romantic crush on a fellow teammate (Vivica A. Fox). As directed by Jesse Vaughan, the film feebly inserts a message about teamwork, but the stale jokes don't score and the sappy ending can't compensate for the sexually suggestive poses, clothing and language. Several crude expressions and language and brief rear nudity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

**"Lilo and Stitch" (Disney)**

Sassy animated comedy in which a lonely orphaned Hawaiian girl (voiced by Daveigh Chase) who lives with her older sister and guardian (voiced by Tia Carrere) adopts what she thinks is a dog (voiced by Christopher Michael Sanders), but turns out to be an alien genetic experiment gone wrong whose only instinct is to destroy. Lessons on the importance of family and caring about others are lightly woven into writer-director Chris Sanders' bold story with offbeat characters, but the cheeky dialogue, rambunctious behavior and discussion of genetics seems inappropriate for the younger set at which the film is aimed. Several scary moments and some slightly irreverent expressions. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

**"Minority Report" (20th Century Fox)**

Engrossing murder mystery set in 2054, when future crimes can be detected before they are committed, in which a pre-crime police detective (Tom Cruise) is accused of an imminent murder and, in attempting to prove his innocence, discovers a flaw in the system. Seeped in futuristic atmospherics, director Steven Spielberg combines thrilling action sequences with a thought-provoking narrative which confronts the issue of personal freedom versus national safety as well as the value of each human life. Recurring stylized sci-fi violence, brief substance abuse, fleeting sexual situations, occasional profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



CNS photo from Walt Disney Pictures

**Scene from Disney's 'Lilo & Stitch'**

**Hawaiian sisters Lilo and Nani, with their pet Stitch, catch a wave in a scene from Disney's "Lilo & Stitch." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is P G-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

**"Sunshine State" (Sony Classics)**

Tale of two women, one of whom has never left the small Florida island she grew up on (Edie Falco) and the other who is returning for the first time in 25 years (Angela Bassett), who are confronting the past and preparing for the future as real estate developers swoop down to buy out the island's beachfront property. Flawed yet moving, writer-director John Sayles' slice-of-life drama moves at an unhurried pace as it tackles racism and the inevitable changes brought with so-called progress in a very human portrait of two women at a crossroads. An implied sexual encounter, an attempted suicide and some crass language and profanity with an instance of rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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For more information, contact Gina Rhodes, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203, gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org



## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Do not abuse dominion over creation, pope tells weekly audience

By John Norton
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said human beings are endowed by God with nearly divine dignity but too often abuse their stewardship over creation by damaging the environment and treating each other unjustly.

Speaking to pilgrims at his weekly general audience June 26, the pope said Christ asks his followers to exercise "their royal dominion over creation in justice, freedom and selfless love."

The pope illustrated his message with Psalm 8, which he called a hymn "giving thanks for the sublime dignity bestowed upon man." He recalled that Pope Paul VI quoted the psalm's text in July 1969 as U.S. astronauts left for the first moon landing.

"The entire spectrum of creatures," Pope John Paul said, "is entrusted to the fragile and often egoistic hands of man in order that he preserves its harmony and beauty; uses, not abuses it; and makes its secrets emerge and develops its potential."

The psalm text says God made humans "little less than angels," a phrase the pope said also could be translated from the original Hebrew as "little less than a god."

Despite humanity's moments of grandeur, the pope said, stewardship over creation "can be misunderstood and deformed by egoistic man, who is often shown to be more of a crazy tyrant than a wise and intelligent governor."

"History documents the evil that human freedom spreads in the world with environmental disasters and with the most clamorous social injustices," he said.

The pope said Christ, a king who came "not to be served but to serve," provides the ultimate example of how humans should treat each other and creation.

"In this christological light, Psalm 8 reveals all the power of its message and hope, inviting us to exercise our sovereignty over creation not in domination but in love," he said.

## Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist



### The trouble with forbidden fruit

My oldest son, now almost 20, approached his 17th birthday with a sense of triumph.

Over me, naturally.

"You know, Mom, when I turn 17 I can go to R-rated movies," he crowed, and added before I could say what he knew I was going to say, "If I pay for them with my own money."

True enough. He had a car. He had a job. He could do that.

About four months later he finally got around to it — and thought the movie was really lousy, by the way.

My middle son recently journeyed through the same birthday and made the same claim in the same triumphant tone of voice. And a couple of months later, he's still not made it either.

It's funny how that works, isn't it?

If it's forbidden, there's nothing more attractive. Once it's permitted, who cares?

I guess that's why they call it forbidden fruit. It looks luscious from a distance, but up close, who knows for sure? Maybe, or maybe not.

Life is funny that way. What we're not able to do seems so much more fun than what we can do. The goals we haven't reached seem so much more exciting than the boring place we're in right now.

You've probably experienced both sides of this. Nothing seemed more exciting than being able to drive on your own — until three months later when you'd had your fill of driving to the grocery store for Mom or taking your brother to soccer practice.

I vividly remember being in fourth grade and thinking that the eighth grade girls were the most glamorous, mature beings on planet Earth, scarcely able to imagine that one day I, too, would be in their number. But, no sooner than I knew it, I was in ninth grade, and eighth-graders looked like pipsqueaks, while seniors were our idols; we couldn't imagine that we ever thought being in eighth grade was cool, even for a second.

Don't worry. Adults experience this too. They're always looking at other people's lives with envy or imagining that they'll be happy when the weekend comes, or vacation comes, or they get a new job, or they retire.

And before they know it, they "are" retired, with only one final — really final — goal in front of them, and a lifetime of thinking about the other side of the fence and its greener grass behind them.

It's exciting and fun to work toward goals. The anticipation of the future is what keeps us going. But the sometimes less-than-shiny reality of a goal that's met can depress us.

Don't let it. Learn a lesson from it instead — maybe a couple of lessons.

First, it's really important to live in the present. A wise person once said to me that if you spend your life wishing for the good things in the future, you'll end up wishing your life away.

Second, knowing this about life might help you make tough moral decisions. After all, most of our difficult choices are difficult because what's on the other side is so enticing.

If you're faced with that kind of choice, it might help you to remember all the times in the past you've finally been allowed to pick some formerly forbidden fruit and found it tasted not sweet but rather ordinary instead, and maybe not worth the trouble it took to pick it in the first place.



## Working Matters

JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Guest Columnist

### LIMEX means ministry

I'm not throwing in the towel. I've been given a towel.

Like all graduating students, I've received a diploma. But, like all LIMEX graduates, I got something more — that towel.

The diploma states that I've been awarded a "degree of master of pastoral studies" from Loyola University New Orleans.

On June 23, we 23 graduates from the Diocese of Charlotte were honored at a Mass and reception at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory. In his homily, Bishop William G. Curlin said that the diploma was not the end; we must continue our education, go further. That's what the towel — printed with a picture of Jesus washing a disciple's feet — is for; it reminds me to do more than bask in the diploma glow.

I admit that when I signed up for LIMEX (Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension Program), I ignored the word "ministry." I wanted to write on church-related issues, so I needed to update my catholic knowledge. Just reading a lot of books seemed too random, and I couldn't take off for a few years to study theology on campus.

LIMEX seemed the perfect program. I'd keep my news editor job, go to class once a week and in a few years, I'd be stuffed with new knowledge.

Course No. 1 was "Introduction to Practical Theology." Practical theology? The answer came in the course book's first chapter. (LIMEX's course books are the texts of what would be lectures if I were sitting in a classroom at a campus.)

Many consider ministry as for the ordained and others working for the church. However, the course book said that, "The whole church, designated pastoral ministers and all the baptized, are called to carry out the mission of Christ, proclaiming, enacting and ushering in the reign of God in all relationships throughout the earth.

Every week, our eight-member group and our facilitator met in Asheville. Each student had spent six to 10 hours reading a course-book chapter plus other texts and journaling on the questions provided in the course syllabus to prepare us for the three-hour class. Then, there was a paper or papers to write at the end of the course and which were sent to a LIMEX grader.

We had nine core courses, plus two courses in our focus areas: religious education, small Christian communities, spirituality, ecology, or marketplace ministry. We met four times during Core Course 10, spending most of our time writing the 35 to 40 page final paper.

My focus courses in marketplace ministry were "Spirituality and the Theology of Work" and "Ministry in the Marketplace."

People ask me: What are you going to do with your degree?

Writing for The Catholic News & Herald — ministering to people's right and need to know what is going on their faith community, the Diocese of Charlotte — became a ministry for me. LIMEX helps me perform that ministry because I know more about Catholicism than I did before I started the program.

Which is not to say that I know everything. As the bishop said, I have to keep learning. The 12 disciples learned a lot from Jesus, and they thought they were going to be the privileged few who got the goodies. Jesus put on a towel and washed their feet, asking them, "Do you realize what I have done to you?" (John 13:12). He was saying that they had to serve others.

By giving each graduate a towel, LIMEX is reminding us that we must do the same.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Dominick Dunne: Giving back

In 1982, author Dominick Dunne, the father of two sons and a daughter, received the phone call every parent dreads. The call informed him that his daughter, Dominique, had been strangled by her jealous boyfriend.

She was on life support and in a coma from which she would never recover. Dominick left New York immediately for her bedside in Los Angeles. Dominique was only 22, an up-and-coming actress enjoying success after the release of the popular film "Poltergeist." The Dunne family stayed with her until the end. Then, family members turned their attention to the trial of her killer, John Sweeney. A possessive boyfriend, he had been unable to deal with the breakup of their relationship. If he couldn't have Dominique, no one would.

The trial should have been a simple affair, but it wasn't. Sweeney's defense attorney decided the best way to win was to destroy the reputation of the victim. When Sweeney was given a relatively light sentence for his vile crime, Dominick Dunne determined that he would shine a light on how often people literally "get away with murder."

Dunne had already had a long and successful career in Hollywood, and had also written a number of best-selling novels. All that changed after the trial. Dunne decided that from this point on he would write non-fiction, and his focus would be criminal justice. In 1984, he was invited by Vanity Fair magazine to write of his experience at the trial of his daughter's murderer. The resulting piece, "Justice: A Father's Account of the Trial of his Daughter's Killer," was a stunning eye-opener for many readers.

The loss of a child is always an awful reality for parents. Death by murder is a particularly burdensome cross, and many parents turn inward to protect themselves from the pain. But Dunne determined that he would use his skill and the inspiration of the justice denied his daughter to challenge America to create a more just, balanced and fair-minded society.

Dunne became a constant presence at some of the most noted trials in recent times. He followed the case of Claus von Bulow, accused of the attempted murder of his wife, Sunny. He chronicled the tragic circumstances of the Menendez brothers' killing of their parents. He brought some sense of insight into the circus of O. J. Simpson's trial. Recently he has looked at the case of Michael Skakel, the Kennedy relative accused of murdering a young neighbor in the 1970s.

As a guest on a recent edition of the television program Christopher Closeup, Dunne talked about his book, "Justice: Crimes, Trials and Punishments," and its attempt to both explain and challenge our criminal justice system. I asked him why he is so insistent on devoting himself to the exhausting and frustrating world of these trials. His answer gave great insight into the man. "My daughter never received justice. Her death was, in itself, completely senseless. A sense of fairly accomplished justice would not bring her back. But it would give us a sense that all had been done to see that the crime was not accomplished without consequence. But when justice is not done, the hurt becomes even more lacerating."

# Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

### Memories shape experiences

It's time again for our annual father-son Lake Michigan perch fishing trip in South Haven, Mich. This has been an annual excursion for the last four years. Though we don't have to travel 118 miles for Lake Michigan yellow perch, the trip to South Haven is worth the distance. It reenacts memorable bonding experiences between father and son.

Author James Carroll said, "Memory is the human faculty that gives shape to experience. Memory provides the narrative structure by which we uncover meaning. Memory is the source of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. Memory imparts compassion." This annual event is simply a way of remembering special family moments while adding new chapters to our family memoirs.

The first time Marty and I (Andrew) boarded the Captain Nichols fishing boat our family was vacationing in the South Haven area. Marty was twelve and an avid fisherman who had tried his luck at just about every dock and bank in the area. His begging to go out on a boat had eventually wore me down. Indifferent to fishing, I relented to taking my son the next morning for a few hours on the Captain Nichols, if for no other reason than to end Marty's incessant begging. It turned out to be a wonderful, fun, bonding experience for the two of us — and a pretty good catch.

The following year we convinced the ladies, Terri and our daughter Andréa, to go with us. Again Marty and I had a wonderful time. The ladies — well, let's say that it was a one-time experience for them.

Tomorrow morning Marty, my 12-year-old nephew Austin and I will embark on our predawn trek northward to South Haven to revisit the setting of graced moments on the Captain Nichols.

James Carroll said, "Memory makes visible what is otherwise unseen. Thus memory is the fountain of biblical belief. For, as the form of the Scriptures themselves attest, God leaves traces of history that can be recognized as such only after the fact."

We have learned not to expect too much other than good time together, and to get a little closer to each other and little closer to God. There have been times when we had large catches; there have been times when we caught little more than some sun on our faces. Perhaps we will have new experiences that will add to our memory banks — our body of evidence that God lives in South Haven, on the Captain Nichols, on Lake Michigan, in the catching of yellow perch-sacred memories!

**Questions for Reflection:**

**a.** What recurring family event provides sacred memories?

**b.** Do you recognize traces of God in your family history?

**c.** Is there a place and/or a time that you remember a bonding experience with a family member? Retrace through your memories and discover God.

### The Dollar Bill and the Masons

*Q. Is it true that the seeing eye on the $1 bill is a Masonic symbol, put there by several Masons, including George Washington (whose picture is on the other side), who was a Mason?*

*We have been told that other parts of the dollar bill, including the Latin mottos, come from Masonic beliefs. Is this true? (California)*

A. The two major symbols on the "back" side of the dollar bill are the obverse (eagle) and reverse (pyramid) sides of the great seal of the United States, created originally in 1782.

Your question has been raised often, because several elements of the seal, the eye with the radiant triangle around it, for example, were said to have Masonic origins. It seems unlikely, however, that this is so. Many details interpreted to have Masonic origins were added in later revisions of the seal.

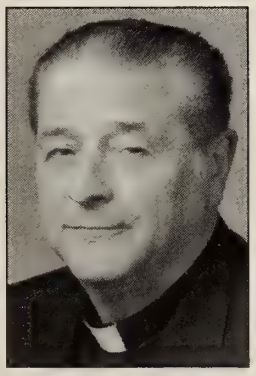
First, of the 14 men who participated in designing the seal, only one, Benjamin Franklin, was definitely a Freemason. Two, including John Adams, were definitely not.

No firm evidence exists that any of the others were connected to the Masons. George Washington was a Mason, but was not involved directly in the design of the great seal.

It is true that the pyramid, the eye above it and the resplendent triangle around the eye are found in Masonic tradition. The eye was common, however, in art forms of that period as a symbol for the all-knowing and all-present divinity. Its appearance on the seal apparently originated with the artist Pierre du Simitiere, for whom no link with Freemasonry has been found.

Similarly, people in the 18th century had a widespread interest in Egypt and ancient Egyptian lore. In the Library Company in Philadelphia at the time was a volume called "Pyramidographia." It contained a drawing of the "first pyramid," which did not come to a complete point, and had an entrance on the ground level.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

This work would have been available to Francis Hopkinson and William Barton, members of the design team, who were major contributors for this part of the seal design. These, rather than Masonic sources, seem to explain the presence of the symbols on the great seal.

The Latin phrase "annuit coeptis" on the reverse side of the seal means: (God, or divine providence, symbolized by the eye) has favored our undertakings; "novus ordo saeclorum" means: a new order of the ages. Both have their origin in works of the pre-Christian Latin poet Virgil.

The more familiar "E Pluribus Unum" (one out of many) apparently also originated in Virgil or possibly another Latin poet, Horace. In any event, there is no evidence of a direct Masonic connection.

The great seal, in its present form, was placed on the $1 bill in 1935, at the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

For those interested, a major detailed history of the background and design of the great seal of the United States, "The Eagle and the Shield," is published by the Department of State. It is available at all Federal Depository libraries.

*A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about annulments is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

# Father Clarke dies at age 72

CHILDS, Md. — Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father Gerald R. Clarke, a Catholic priest who served in the Diocese of Charlotte, died of heart failure complicated by diabetes Friday, June 14, 2002 at Annecy Hall in Childs, Md.



Father Clarke was born Dec. 28, 1929 in Summer Point, N.J., to the late Roy W. and Joan Mannix Clarke. He was educated Catholic schools in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and received a bachelor's in Spanish from Niagara University in Niagara, N.Y., in 1953, a masters in Spanish from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., in 1958 and a doctorate in Spanish from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1968.

He entered the Oblates in July 1947 and was ordained to the priesthood June 8, 1957, in St. Anthony of Padua Church in Wilmington, Del.

He served as a high school and college Spanish teacher in various schools in Pennsylvania but had always wanted to work in South American missions. After many years of requesting, Father Clarke was assigned as associate pastor of Parroquia Immaculada Concepcion in Montevideo, Uruguay from 1988 to 1989. Within a year of his arrival, he contracted a disease that damaged his heart and he had to return to the United States.

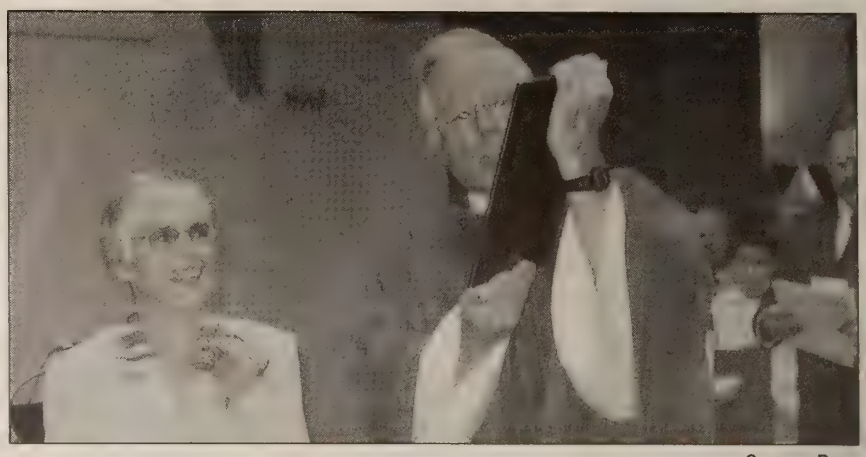
He spent the next 10 years in the Diocese of Charlotte and became an advocate for the rights of migrant workers. From 1989 to 1990, he served as chaplain to Hispanics at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, N.C., and then spent seven years as the founding pastor of Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe, N.C. From 1997 to 1999, he was associate pastor at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, N.C.

Father Clarke spent his remaining years at Annecy Hall at De Sales Centre, an assisted living retirement facility, in Childs, Md.

This year, Father Clarke was celebrating his 45th anniversary of ordination and had planned to celebrate Mass of Thanksgiving with his former parishioners at Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe June 9.

Father Clarke has no surviving family members. Interment was to take place in the Oblate Cemetery located on the grounds of the De Sales Centre. The Oblates request that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be sent to:

Oblate Retirement Fund, 2200
2200 Kentmere Parkway
Wilmington, Del. 19806



COURTESY PHOTO

**Woman honored for dedication and community**

**Father Edward Sheridan, pastor of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, holds up the 2002 Mother Teresa Memorial Award presented June 15 to Kay Cuzzone. The award, created by the Knights of Columbus of North Carolina, is presented to a Catholic man or woman who exhibits humility and dedication to the Catholic Church, community and family. Nominations were submitted by pastors around the dioceses.**


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**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY:** Full-time position,1500-family Catholic parish near Charlotte. Responsible for five weekend liturgies plus holy days, weddings, and funerals. Adult choir, contemporary choir, cantors, instrumentalists, and handbell choirs. Rogers electronic organ, Yamaha upright piano, and Clavinova digital pianos, two-octave set of Malmark handbells. Ideal candidate is a practicing Catholic with music degree and experience, music performance skill (organ/piano/voice), choral and cantor skills, knowledge of Catholic liturgical music. Salary commensurate with experience. Full benefits. Send resumes to Music Search, Saint Therese Parish, 217 Brawley School Road, Mooresville, NC 28117. Phone: (704) 664-3992; Fax: (704) 660-6321; email: jbarnes@saintthere se.net

**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Master's or undergraduate degree in theology or religious studies required. Teaching experience a plus. 1,300-family parish. Salary range $30-35K. Projected start date July 2002. Resume and cover letter to: The Cathedral of St. Patrick, Attn: Cindy Woodlief, Education Commission Chairman, 1621 Dilworth Road East, Charlotte, NC 28203; or fax (704)377-6403; or e-mail cindy_woodlief@msn.com

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Part-time. Sacred Heart Church in Savannah is seeking a qualified musician to plan and oversee its liturgical music programs, and to direct its choirs at Masses on weekends and Holy Days and for other special celebrations. Requirements: Strong educational and/or experiential musical background, choral directing experience, knowledge of Catholic liturgy and liturgical music, strong leadership and communication skills. Direct inquiries or send resume to Rev. Francis Higgins, Pastor, Sacred Heart Church, 1707 Bull St., Savannah, GA 31401.

**MUSIC MINISTER:** For Saint Peter's Catholic Church, a growing 1300-family parish in Greenville, NC. Primary responsibility: planning and coordination of the music ministry as a means to facilitate active congregational participation within the liturgical life of our parish. Proficient skills in adult and children choral development and conducting; keyboard excellence with organ experience preferred; cantor and vocal development. Strong knowledge of Catholic liturgy and proven ability to work within various liturgical styles for weekend, holy day, school and youth masses. Demonstrable interpersonal and organizational skills. Music degree preferred. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefit package included. University setting with School of Music, K-8 parish school, vibrant community, coastal amenities. Position available July 1, 2002. Submit resume to Music Ministry Search Committee, St. Peter's Catholic Church, 2700 East 4th Street, Greenville, NC 27858. Fax:(252)752-1499, e-mail: nps@vol.com.

**PRINCIPAL:** Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School (Greenville, SC) seeks Principal for the 2002-2003 school year, grades K-5 to 8. Minimum qualifications: master's in school administration, five years' teaching experience, eligible for South Carolina Principal's certificate, and practicing Catholic. Submit resume by mail, fax, or e-mail to: OLR Selection Committee, P O Box 8396, Greenville, SC 29604; fax (864)277-5969; jhschrank@charter.net

**TEACHER:** Full-Time Middle School Science/ Math Teacher needed at Immaculate Heart of Mary School for the 2002 - 2003 academic year. Send resume and cover letter: Attn: Principal, IHM School, 605 Barbee Ave., High Point, NC, 27262

**TEACHERS:** Energetic teachers needed. St. Michael's School in Gastonia, NC is accepting applications for a certified 5th grade teacher, and a certified middle school language arts or math teacher. Come be a part of a 60-year tradition teaching in a small, caring environment. Contact our office at (704)865-4382 for an application and more information.

**TEACHERS:** Our Lady of Grace School, Greensboro, is presently accepting applications for Middle School Language Arts and Grade One teaching positions. Please call the school office to receive a teacher application at (336)275-1522. All interested applicants must have a teaching certificate or be in the process of becoming certified.

**YOUTH MINISTER:** Full-time. Experience required. Responsibilities include middle/high school groups and Confirmation. BA in Religious Ed. or Theology a plus. Send resume/salary requirements to: YM Search Committee, St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Charlotte, NC 28210 by July 26, 2002.

## VACATIONS

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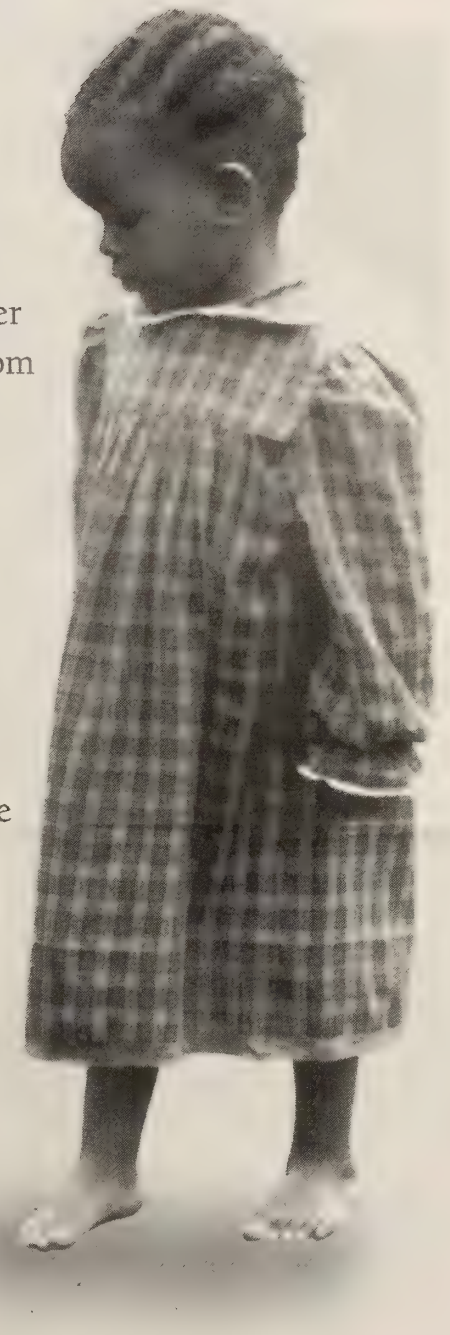
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# Woman religious sees trials, difficulties as blessings from God

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Dominican Sister Bernardita Dandoy's fondest memories happened in the Philippines during the hottest months of the year. In the midst of drought and nearly unbearable temperatures, her devoutly religious family would invite friends and neighbors to their house on the feast of St. Joseph in March to celebrate the family structure in honor of the Holy Family. In May, Mary would be their focus as they prayed group rosaries daily.



**Dominican Sister Bernardita Dandoy**

"I was influenced by my environment even as a kid; I learned my prayers," said Sister Bernardita. "I developed a love of praying the rosary, and in May, I brought flowers to the statue of Mary."

She was the second oldest of nine children growing up on her father's farm in Mindanao, the southernmost island in the Philippines. She walked over an hour to elementary school until she began attending the nearby Catholic school staffed by the Dominican sisters. She enjoyed her high school experience and developed an interest in the women religious.

"I met the sisters during my first year of high school, and they were very present in our town. I admired how they trained us in our classes. We prayed the rosary every day in school," she said.

After graduation in 1968, she wanted to continue her education in a Catholic setting, so she enrolled in Notre Dame College in her country. Her admiration for teaching prompted her to major in elementary education, and she graduated from college in 1973.

Although she was a teacher for seven years before entering the convent, the sisterhood appealed to her in a specific way. She immersed herself into teaching and reveled in the "simplicity and honesty" of her students but was ever-conscious of her calling.

"I had a principal, a woman religious, who saw something in me and gave me encouragement. I would stay during some weekends and would observe the sisters in the convent. I was very impressed," said Sister Bernardita. "I guess I already had it in me, but I was searching if it was for me. I wanted to enjoy my life, but it is all in God's time. You cannot resist when the call is there."

She decided to join the Dominican sisters in 1980 but with some reservations. She felt that her decision was prompted by God's call to her, so she would adjust to religious life. Acceptance and adjustment became the foundation of her life in many instances.

After teaching elementary school for so many years, she had to shift to educating high school students during her years of formation, which were outlined with a strict schedule of household chores and school. She found that there were major differences between children and teens. Secondary education was difficult, but she grew to appreciate the tenacity and challenge of older children.

Sister Bernardita professed her final vows in 1988 and was sent to New Jersey to teach kindergarten. She was like a fish out of the water that surrounds her home. During the harsh winters, shoveling snow was a task that she had never had to undertake. "I was homesick at first. I didn't think I would make it through the first year, but I received the support of our sisters. I was new to the community, and they tried to help me," she said.

Several years later, she asked for a transfer and was assigned to Rome in 1995. She wondered what she would do and found out that she would be assisting another woman religious in preparing and serving meals for priests and seminarians. She described her job preparing salad and fruit for the Oblate Fathers as her simplest assignment but one that "came from God."

"This is the life of a religious. Because of your vow of obedience, you accept whatever assignment you are given. We were told at formation that our assignments came from God," said Sister Bernardita of her almost three years in Italy. "Everything is not for me; it is for God, and I looked at it as my mission to serve God through the simple work that I was assigned."

She taught at St. Anthony of Padua School after being sent back to the United States. A year later, she was assigned to St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte to become Dominican Sister Anastacia Pagulayan's assistant in the faith formation program. Working with children has always been Sister Bernardita's first love, and she is happy with her latest assignment. She coordinates the second-grade teaching program, which includes Communion preparation, and also teaches pre-kindergarteners four days a week.

"(The parishioners at) St. Thomas are warm, and I really feel welcomed. We (she and Sister Anastacia) have to really help one another because we are only two. I am grateful that she worked in administration, and she is always there to guide," said Sister Bernardita. "I have enjoyed growing as a religious and all of the opportunity it gives you. I never dreamed of coming to the United States. If I hadn't been a woman religious, I wouldn't have come here."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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Thus says the LORD: Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11


# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

JULY 12, 2002 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 11 Nº 39


**These kids have HEART: Teens gather in Charlotte for national program**

...PAGE 9

## Priestly anniversaries celebrated, retirees honored at jubilee Mass

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Clergy and religious from around the Diocese of Charlotte gathered to pay tribute to their own.

Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated the jubilee of priestly ordination Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral June 27. The celebration also recognized those retiring from active ministry.

Concelebrants were Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor; Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, spiritual and administrative leader of Belmont Abbey and chancellor of Belmont Abbey College; and Father Paul Gary, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral.

Retiring priest Father James Cahill, former pastor of St. Mary Church in Sylva, gave the homily. He shared an emotional reflection upon his 16 years of ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte as well as encouraging words to his fellow priests.



Photo by Joann S. Keane

**Retiring priest Father James Cahill gave the homily at the jubilee priestly ordination Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral June 27. The celebration also recognized those retiring from active ministry.**

"There are things that I, and I'm sure you as well, have wanted to bring to the people," said Father Cahill to the priests. "They are the gifts of God — they are peace, joy and love. If I can take God's peace and his love, and the joy of being with Christ, and convey that to another human being, I feel that my life as a priest is doing something remarkable."

God is love, said Father Cahill. "These are troubled times. There have been troubled times before, and there will be troubled times again," he said. "But one thing I know is that God is good, and God loves people. I hope every one of us is aware of that. That knowledge is incredible, and it is so overwhelming and true.

"And if we can understand that, just one little bit about God's love for us, I think we've got it made," said Father Cahill.

Bishop Curlin commended the celebrants and retirees for their devotion and service to the priesthood. He also thanked the priests in attendance for helping pay tribute to their priestly brothers.

Jubilee anniversaries were: 60 years for Father Edward Sullivan; 55 years for Msgr. Anthony Kovacic; 50 years for Vincentian Father Joseph Elzi; 45 years for Bishop Curlin and Msgr. Joseph Kerin; 40 years for retired Abbot Oscar Burnett, OSB (unable to attend); 35 years for Oblate Father Joseph Tustin; 30 years for Father Carlos Tarasi; and 25 years for Father Roger Arnsparger.

Retiring from pastoral ministry were Father Cahill and Msgr. Joseph Showfety.

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

## Drawing conclusions about faith and leadership

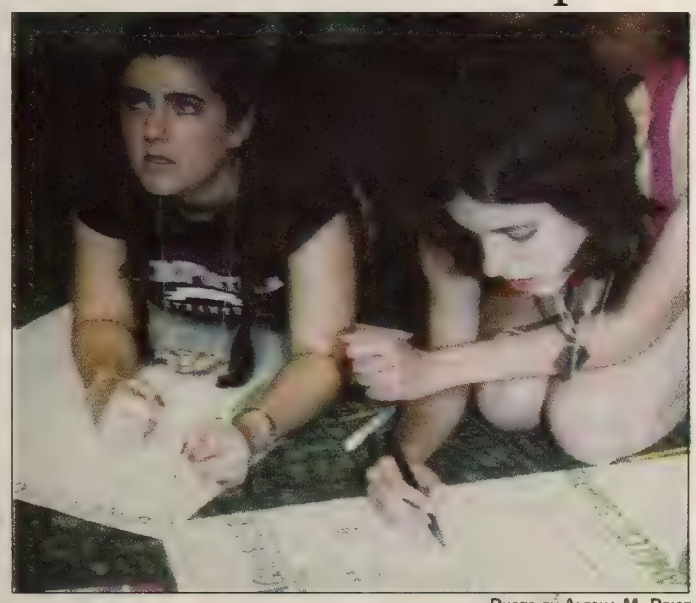


Photo by Alesha M. Price

**Pictured left to right, Kerri-Lynn Flynn from Good Shepherd Church in Hope Mills, N.C., and Katie Graf from St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Apex, N.C., work on their newspaper project during a morning presentation on the resurrection at Faithful Servant June 23 through 28 at Davidson College. They were two of over 90 participants from the dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh at the weeklong program dedicated to teaching teens and adults leadership skills rooted in their faith. See story page 5.**

## Diocesan grant offers much for Hispanic Catholics

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

CHEROKEE — For rural Mexican Catholics, moving to Western North Carolina, Catholicism is a whole new faith experience. Back home, it wasn't so complicated.

In rural Mexico, said Eduardo Bernal, Hispanic ministry worker for the Asheville and Smoky Mountain vicariates, "They know they have to get ready for their town's patron's feast. They know they have to support the priest. They know they have to get water to their village, and the priest and the church will support them. That's how they live their faith."

A $5,000 grant from the Foundation for the Diocese of Charlotte will help Hispanic Catholics in Western North Carolina learn more about their faith and become better stewards of the church through leadership roles in the

See GRANT, page 15

## Diocese adopts program to protect children

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Aaron Lundburg stood before 50 priests of the diocese gathered to discuss and listen to a difficult topic. During the afternoon of June 27, the priests watched and listened to a video presentation that shared the often-graphic words of pedophiles. In their own recantations, the sex offenders described their crimes. The words cut like a knife.

Lundburg was in Charlotte to lead a four-hour workshop designed to help priests focus on their roles as leaders in the crusade to eradicate child sexual misconduct. Armed with information on how to protect children from abuse within the diocese, Lundburg outlined ways the priests can recognize and respond to concerns regarding sexual misconduct.

It was the fulfillment of a promise made by Bishop William G. Curlin. This past April, he announced the upcoming implementation of a nationally recognized program designed to train all diocesan employees and volunteers to identify and correctly address aspects of sexual misconduct.

The Diocese of Charlotte contacted VIRTUS, a company affiliated with the National Catholic Retention Group, an insured, not-for-profit insurance company of which the diocese is a shareholder. VIRTUS' program, *Protecting God's Children*, is a course designed to strengthen

See VIRTUS, page 7


Three college graduates embark on serving God, others ...PAGE 4

Parish center groundbreaking unearths new life for church ...PAGE 5

RCIA encourages fellowship, continuous faith sharing ...PAGE 8



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### Council officials stress Catholic dimension of Hispanic identity

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Hispanics must keep their Catholic identity in the forefront as their influence grows in U.S. society, said two officials of the National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry. The officials expressed their views as the council prepared for its Aug. 1-4 national meeting to study political, labor, business and media issues of interest to Hispanic Catholics. The time is ripe for the rapidly growing Hispanic community to leave "its indelible mark on this nation," said Auxiliary Bishop Jose H. Gomez of Denver, council treasurer, in a column. "We must not forget a fundamental characteristic of our identity: our being Catholic." The bishop's column appeared in the June 26 Denver Catholic Register, archdiocesan newspaper, and was posted on the Phoenix-based Hispanic ministry council's Web site. Armando Contreras, council executive director, said issues affecting Hispanics — such as immigration policy, legal protection of workers and how Hispanics are portrayed in the media — need to be addressed within the church.

### Bishop warns of blending INS functions with Homeland Security

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Bush administration proposal to move all functions of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to a new Department of Homeland Security could cause grave damage to both domestic security and immigration, according to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. In testimony presented to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Miami Auxiliary Bishop Thomas G. Wenski warned that proposals to put all immigration functions under Homeland Security would be a mistake for the new agency and for how immigrants are treated. Bishop Wenski's testimony was presented to the subcommittee by the director of migration and refugee policy for the USCCB, Kevin Appleby. The same testimony also was delivered to the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration. Both committees held hearings on the subject in late June. The U.S. bishops have no objection to the creation of the new department, Bishop Wenski wrote, but moving all immigration functions there would cause more problems than it would solve.




**Milwaukee church receives statue of Juan Diego**
**Gianfranco Tassara, owner of Inspired Artisans Ltd., attaches an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe to a life-size wooden statue of Juan Diego at St. Anthony Church in Milwaukee July 3. Juan Diego, the Indian peasant to whom Mary appeared on a hilltop in Mexico, will be canonized by Pope John Paul II in Mexico City July 31.**

### Panel of experts discusses relationship between religion and media

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The media have a difficult time reporting on religion because, as Rabbi Jack Moline explained at a July 1 panel held at the National Press Club, "journalists are professional skeptics, while the religious community are professional believers." Mix that dichotomy with events as severe as the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America, the clergy sex abuse scandal in the Catholic Church, and the warring and upheaval in the Middle-East, and the result is a recipe for conflict. That topic was explored by the rabbi and four other panelists at a discussion on "Reporting Religion," sponsored by the Freedom Forum's Newseum and the press club. Rabbi Moline was joined by Ibrahim Hooper, communications director at the Council on American-Islamic Relations, and Msgr. Francis J. Maniscalco, secretary for communications at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, as well as journalists Hanna Rosin, national enterprise reporter at The Washington Post, and Larry Witham, religion reporter for The Washington Times. They critiqued the national media's coverage of terrorist attacks, the sex abuse scandal and the crisis in the Mideast and came to some conclusions regarding what is an oftentimes harried relationship between religion and the media.

### Vatican attributes budget deficit to downturn in world's economy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican posted its first budget deficit in nine years, attributing the $3 million shortfall mainly to a downturn in the world's economy aggravated by the Sept. 11 terror attacks. Other negative factors included increasing expenses from opening and maintaining Vatican embassies and a "general sluggishness" in the Vatican's publishing and broadcast enterprises after the jubilee year, said Cardinal Sergio Sebastiani, head of the Vatican's budget planning office. He presented the Vatican's annual financial statement at a July 5 press conference. According to the figures, the Vatican spent about $177 million and took in about $174 million in 2001. Cardinal Sebastiani said "the unfavorable course of the world economy during the year, heavily aggravated by the attacks of Sept. 11," took a heavy toll on the Holy See's books, reducing 2001 investment income by 50 percent in comparison with the previous year.

### Pope evokes John XXIII's encyclical for 2003 World Peace Day theme

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In his message for World Day of Peace 2003, Pope John Paul II will draw on Blessed John XXIII's famous Cold War peace appeal to press for peace in a world newly shaken by international terrorism. The theme for the Jan. 1 day of prayer for peace is: "'Pacem in Terris' (Peace on Earth): A Permanent Commitment," evoking the Latin name of Pope John's 1963 encyclical on the need for global justice and peace. The Vatican announced the theme in a July 4 statement. The papal message is expected to be published and sent to heads of state around the world in December. "Taking account of the concerns arising from the worsening of terrorism and other forms of fratricidal conflict," the Vatican said, the pope will underscore "the perennial timeliness of fundamental values and will issue an appeal for a new and courageous commitment for peace."

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**August 4-8**
Knights of Columbus National Convention
Anaheim, Calif.

**August 17 — 4 p.m.**
Knights and Dames of Malta picnic for Lourdes pilgrims
Charlotte

**August 18 — 3 p.m.**
Blessing of new parish center
St. Jude, Sapphire Valley

**August 20 — 9-11 a.m.**
Orientation meeting for new priests
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

**August 25 — noon**
25th anniversary Mass and reception
St. John Neumann, Charlotte

## Diocesan planner

**July**

**17** BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., will be hosting a Port-a-Pit Chicken fundraiser today during lunch and dinner from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and from 4-7:30 p.m. Meal will include one-half of a chicken, baked beans, Cole slaw and a roll provided by Port-a Pit Chicken of Statesville. Participants may eat in or carry out with drive-thru service available, and orders of eight or more can take advantage of delivery service. Proceeds will benefit the parish nursing program. For further details, call Jennifer Church at (704) 651-9605 or the church office at (704) 825-5277

**17** JEFFERSON — A series of presentations; sponsored by CSS Elder Ministry and facilitated by Richard Von Stamwitz, a national certified gerontological counselor; are being presented throughout the diocese. Today's presentation will be given at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 326 Main St., from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Parish-provided lunchtime will begin at noon after Mass. The topic, "Creative Aging/Making a Difference in Later Life," will be presented in two sessions and will focus on taking an "observe-judge-act" approach to faith, society and aging issues with reflections, prayers and exercises. For pre-registration and other information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Marlo Wallace at (704) 370-3228.

**19** CHARLOTTE — Thank God It's Friday (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets tonight at 7 p.m. in the St. Matthew Church parish center, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., for its monthly potluck dinner with a guest speaker from the community. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Trish Wilson at (704) 543-8986.

### Vatican backs new International Criminal Court

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Vatican declared its support for the new International Criminal Court by making a symbolic gift on the day it opened, July 1. A press release issued the following day by the Vatican's U.N. mission in New York called the entry into force of the agreement setting up the court a historic day. "The Holy See has offered a symbolic contribution to the trust fund set up by the secretary-general of the United Nations to support the establishment of the International Criminal Court," the release said. Kofi Annan, U.N. secretary-general, expressed hope that the court would "deter future war criminals and bring nearer the day when no ruler, no state, no junta and no army anywhere will be able to abuse human rights with impunity." Archbishop Renato R. Martino, nuncio to the United Nations, said in an interview that the Vatican's contribution was $3,000.

### Anti-Catholic billboard on Oregon highway finally taken down

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — A controversial billboard calling the pope the Antichrist finally has been removed after being up for a year along Interstate 5 in southern Oregon. Mary Jo Tully, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Portland, said that "the message of derision on the billboard," which was sponsored by a splinter group of Seventh-day Adventists, "was a source of pain for many." She added, "We are very grateful to all those whose efforts are responsible for having it removed. The support of non-Catholics and the wider religious community was very encouraging." Even after the contract for the sign ran out in early May, Medford-based Outdoor Media Dimensions had left up the billboard, which was paid for by the Rogue Valley Historic Seventh-day Adventists. The splinter group teaches that the Vatican is an agent of Satan.

### Supreme Court ruling on vouchers praised, decried by educators

WASHINGTON (CNS ) — The Supreme Court's June 27 ruling that upheld Cleveland's school voucher program was hailed as a victory for low-income parents by Catholic educators and other church leaders but decried by public school educators for validating a system that does not address the problem of inferior public schools. The Supreme Court upheld the Cleveland voucher program in a 5-4 ruling in the case of Zelman vs. Harris, saying the program is "entirely neutral with respect to religion." A majority of the students who receive the vouchers use them to attend Catholic schools, which led opponents of the program to charge that it constitutes state support of religion. The majority of the court disagreed, however, siding with Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who said the system is "a program of true private choice" and does not violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. Dominican Sister Glenn Anne McPhee, secretary of education of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the decision "reinforces the basic right of all parents to choose the school they believe best serves the educational needs of their children."



CNS PHOTO BY BILL WITTMAN

**WYD cross continues to travel to Toronto**

**Young people carry the World Youth Day cross near the CN Tower in Toronto June 27 as it continues a journey to various public centers prior to the celebration of the international youth event July 23-28. The tower, rising just more than 1,815 feet high, is the world's tallest free-standing structure. The cross has traveled more than 16,000 miles since Pope John Paul II entrusted it to the world's young people in 1984.**

### 'Pledge of Allegiance' ruling reverses 1950s initiative by Knights

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A federal appeals court decision declaring unconstitutional the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance when recited in public schools negated a major legislative initiative sponsored nearly 50 years ago by the Knights of Columbus. The Knights, a Catholic fraternal order, successfully campaigned in the early 1950s to get Congress to include "under God" in the pledge. "The Knights will support efforts to overturn the ruling," said Paul Devin, Knights executive vice president for legal affairs. The group is very proud of helping get "under God" in the pledge, he told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview June 27. The 2-1 decision by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals June 26 said that use of "under God" in the pledge, as well as public school policies on students reciting the pledge, violated constitutional provisions against government establishment of religion. The case involved an atheist parent who said it was a violation of the Constitution for his daughter to have to listen to her classmates recite the pledge.

### Black Catholic congress to focus on evangelizing communities

CHICAGO (CNS) — When hundreds of African-American Catholics arrive in Chicago at the end of August, they will find a celebration of their faith and culture as well as inspiration to carry that faith to the world. From Aug. 29-Sept. 1, the ninth National Black Catholic Congress will focus on action, prayer, resources and commitment. Presenters from around the nation, Mass in the African Ge'ez rite, a black composer's music and double the number of 1997 exhibitors are some highlights for those committed to evangelizing people of African descent. The upcoming congress is not a conference or a workshop but is "long-range planning," said congress regional director Sheila Adams, who also is director of African-American ministry in the Chicago Archdiocese. When the delegates return to their dioceses, they are to begin one-, three- and five-year plans for evangelization.

**20** CHARLOTTE — The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., will be hosting a guest choir tonight at 6:30 p.m. The First AME Church Gospel Choir of Manassas, Va., will be performing the free concert. All are invited to attend the ecumenical event. For further information, call Robin Landingham at (704) 386-1374.

**27** BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., will be hosting a day of retreat and reflection centering on mystagogia, the final process in RCIA, for the newly initiated and all other interested Catholics. The event will take place today from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the family center with lunch provided. For further information and reservations, call Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, Ext. 26.

**28** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**28** HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome; for more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

**29** MAGGIE VALLEY — Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, will be hosting two upcoming retreats for all to attend. The first, entitled "Nature Retreat: Mountains and Hills, Bless the Lord," will be held today through Aug. 4 with facilitators Augustinian Father Terry Hyland, center director; Charity Sister Fran Grady, spiritual director; and Freeman Owie, professional storyteller and Cherokee instructor. The retreat will focus on the union between God and nature and how one can tap into that bond. The second retreat, entitled "Gospel Living: New Vision, New Grace," with Franciscan Father Dan Havron, coordinator of evangelization for the Archdiocese of Detroit, will be held Aug. 5 through Aug. 11. Participants will be able to develop a more personal relationship with Jesus through intense study of the Gospels. For registration and other information, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

**August**

**3** GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., will be hosting a quarterly program on the first Saturday of the month. "Bridges for Women" will include Mass, breakfast and a program. This month's presentation will focus on Medjugorje. All women are invited to bring a friend for the morning gathering from 9-11:30 a.m. Childcare is available upon request, and a love offering will be taken during the event. For July 31 reservations and further details, call Sue Perez at (336) 643-6199 or e-mail WPerez4@aol.com.

**Ongoing**

BRYSON CITY — The St. Joseph Church thrift shop is open every Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information, call the shop, located at 316 Main St., at (828) 488-2266 or Katherine Kelly at (828) 488-2519.

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*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the publication date.*

# Three college graduates embark on serving God, others

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

WINSTON-SALEM — Unlike many college seniors, three Wake Forest University graduates aren't rushing into the corporate world.

Maura Proulx, Kristin Zipple and Jackie Shock have chosen to do volunteer work with Catholic service organizations after graduation. Proulx and Zipple will each spend a year working for the Colorado Vincentian Volunteers and the FrancisCorps in Colorado and New York, respectively. Shock will spend two years with Jesuit Volunteers International in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

All close friends, Proulx, Zipple and Shock were a part of the Wake Forest Catholic Community. Their post-college convictions will mean moving far from their families, living with strangers and working with the poor.

"I've always dreamed of doing a volunteer program," said Proulx, an English major from Atlanta, Ga. "I think it's a great way to step out of my comfort zone, to live and rely on my faith, and to challenge myself to grow."

In August, Proulx will leave her comfort zone for inner-city Denver, where she will live with eight to 12 volunteers while working at The Gathering Place, a day shelter for women and children.

While sharing a home with a group of strangers will be a challenge, Proulx is looking forward to it.

"I'll be living in solidarity with people and gaining compassion and empathy — not just sympathy — for the people I'm serving," she said. "My faith calls and drives me to do it and will help me get through it."

Zipple, a psychology major from Hattiesburg, Miss., and former Catholic Community president, initiated the group's Costa Rica service project and twice participated in the university's annual service trip to Honduras. She said she is now ready to do more and immerse herself in yearlong service to others.

"I'm so excited about next year," said Zipple, who, beginning in August, will be living with eight others while working at the Dorothy Day House, a woman's shelter sponsored by the Diocese of Syracuse. Living in community with the other volunteers and serving the needy attracted Zipple to the FrancisCorps.



Courtesy Photo

**Jackie Shock, Maura Proulx and Kristin Zipple are three Wake Forest University graduates who have chosen to do volunteer work with Catholic service organizations. Proulx and Zipple will each spend a year working for the Colorado Vincentian Volunteers and the FrancisCorps in New York, respectively. Shock will spend two years with Jesuit Volunteers International in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.**

"I'll live in a house with other young people who have made a commitment to community," she said. "We'll make a journey together with the needy as the priority. It's a unique opportunity to do something that's good."

Shock, a sociology major from Pittsburgh, Penn., has already returned from Calcutta, India, where she worked for Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. After two to three weeks of training, she will leave early August for the Jesuit Volunteers International community on Majuro, the atoll capital of the Marshall Islands in the Central Pacific, to teach sixth grade.

"My faith is an integral part of who I am and of my calling, which is why I have chosen to serve with a faith-based organization," said Shock, who is looking forward to immersing herself in a foreign culture. "To know what other people in the world go through everyday will give me a new perspective."

The organizations will each provide room and board and a small stipend to the volunteers.

"Some of my friends think I'm crazy to go into a situation where I'm not making a lot of money," said Proulx. "Some are not surprised at all."

"Most of my friends think along the same lines as I do," said Shock. "Some are a little worried (about the location), but most are really supportive."

"My close friends are similarly motivated and understand why I'm doing this," said Zipple. "Others have a hard time seeing the merit in it. The merit is obvious to me."

Zipple said those other friends earned decent salaries but weren't passionate about their jobs or working long hours. "My hard work will be more meaningful and fulfilling," she said.

The women are grateful for the support of their families — and each other.

"I think it's awesome that I have close friends like Jackie and Maura who are doing this," said Zipple. "We'll be apart but on similar journeys."

"Even though we'll all be far away from each other, we'll still be close," said Shock. "I'll be in the Marshall Islands, but I'll be in New York and Colorado with them."

The three friends hope to share their faith with those they are serving. Yet they believe the real impact of their service will be on them.

"I hope I can contribute something to the women and children at Dorothy Day House," said Zipple. "But I think the people I serve will give me more than I could ever give to them."

"I hope I make an impact. I think I will," said Shock. "But I think I'll take away more than I give. Knowing what other people in the world go through on a daily basis will help give me a new perspective on life."

"I know I'll receive 100 times more than I can give," said Proulx. "But I'm doing it because I feel called to give. What I get back is a blessing and an added bonus."

And after their service is done?

"Social work," said Zipple. "I think I'll be involved with contributing to the greater good, being able to work and be in relationships with mentors and living the life I think I am called to live."

"I hope to go to Boston College and get a joint master's in social work and pastoral ministry," said Proulx.

"When I come back, I'll most likely go to graduate school and take it from there," said Shock.

As far as her friends go, Shock said, "Kristin and Maura are fantastic people. I know they'll do wonderful things."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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# Parish center groundbreaking unearths new life for Church



Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**Participants in the June 23 parish center groundbreaking ceremony at St. Mary Church in Greensboro are (from left) Lewis Dunlap, construction chairman; Vincentian Father Mahn Nguyro; Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor; and Vincentian Father Robert Prior, pastor.**

By Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — The parishioners of St. Mary Church broke ground for their new parish center June 23.

"It has become necessary to build a new facility rather than repair the old one until futility," said Vincentian Father Robert J. Prior, pastor of St. Mary Church.

Father Prior said Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, a four-room middle school that went out of use in 1972, has been used for parish functions such as meetings and social events. He explained the inadequacies of using the school: It is impossible to get more than 100 people together at any one time, and the cost and effort to repair and upgrade the structure would be excessive.

"This new parish center will serve to bring our multicultural community together for both the celebration of Mass and healthy socialization. (It) will be a means of expanding our services to our parishioners and bringing unity through socialization," said Father Prior.

On hand for the ceremony was Father Mauricio West, chancellor and vicar general of the Diocese of Charlotte. During his homily, Father West told the parishioners that, "This is the opportunity for us to look at what we are all about as the people of God."

Longtime parishioner Virginia Smith said, "I think it's wonderful that we are building anew. But, I'm going to miss the old. It's like claiming my squatter's rights of 60 years here. I am glad that we are making progress, and I know that progress can't be made without change."

The new parish center will have the availability to seat 350 comfortably for Mass or 250 for a sit-down dinner. In addition, there will be eight classrooms, three offices and a full-sized kitchen.

"The center will enable us to cut at least one Mass from our weekend load of six," said church organist and long-time parishioner Carl Foster. "Even though many of us have our attachments to the old buildings, it is for the betterment of the parish that we give way to progress."

"We are looking at open-ended expansions," said Father Prior, noting the parish would like to one day build a school with an auditorium. "When that time arrives, the facility we are building today can be modified and turned into a full-sized church," said Father Prior

"I am quite proud that we were able to reach our first financial goal through our parishioners," said Foster.

That first financial goal was $400,000 of a total cost of $1.3 million. To help the success of their fund drive, the parish prays at the close of every Mass to St. Joseph, the carpenter and husband of Mary to intercede with Jesus for the parish.

It is hoped that the construction phase of the parish center will be completed in time for the yearlong 75th anniversary celebration of the founding of the parish, which commences in January 2003.

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

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# North Carolina youth gather tools for church leadership

By Alesha M. Price
Staff Writer

DAVIDSON — Teens from the Dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh immersed themselves in the college experience at Davidson College June 23 through June 28. Over 90 participants majored in leadership with courses in evangelization, Christian identity, the Eucharist, the paschal mystery and other subjects, and they earned not degrees but some of the knowledge and skills necessary to be a proactive leader in the church.

"Faithful Servant: Tools for Christ-Centered Leadership" has brought youth together from the next-door neighbor dioceses in North Carolina for the past five years, and teens have had the opportunity to share ideas, interact with other Catholic teens and learn leadership skills. Peer leaders, young adult mentors and diocesan officials guided the teen and adult attendants through the weeklong schedule of skits, large- and small-group discussions, prayer, interactive games and presentations.

Previously, each of the dioceses held its own version of Faithful Servant for many years before combining the programs into a six-day, five-night mini-summer institute for teens across the state. Paul Kotlowski, director of youth ministry from the Diocese of Charlotte, explained that while the focus of Faithful Servant has changed, the outcome will hopefully remain the same.

"What we had (before) was a leadership institute that had secular skills with a Christian veneer, and we really wanted to invert that. So, we really focused on Christian theology and purpose and introduced secular skills as they apply," said Kotlowski. "One of the things that really appeals to the kids is that we are very intentional about making a Christian community one of prayer, acceptance and love. Like all of us, they are really hungry for that, and they respond wonderfully to that because it is what we are called to do."

The Christian leadership skills were demonstrated and illustrated through presentations from the adult leaders. On the last full day of the retreat during the morning presentation, the students were given a premise — resurrection. Using various communication mediums, such as newspapers, radio, television and word of mouth, the groups had to create inventive and effective ways of "spreading the Good News" to their peers. Similar skits and activities were conducted to show the teens that communication and other skills like consensus seeking, surrender, community and establishing the church are necessary for leadership in any capacity.

"This is a leadership training based on Christian principles and beliefs; not just secular teaching and leadership, but the skills that Jesus used. (We discuss) how we can use those (skills) in our everyday youth groups," said Leo Moreda, Faithful Servant coordinator in the Diocese of Raleigh and youth minister at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Raleigh. "The core of it is that we are hopefully teaching the youth, and really modeling for the youth, Jesus' example of a what a leader is."

The week is filled with varied activities so that the youth gain the opportunity to learn in an interactive way. Much to some of the teens' dismay, those from different churches and cities are mixed up into small groups with teens from both dioceses; however, many of them learn that this serves to expose them to cities and small towns to which they would otherwise not travel.

"We have different perspectives being from different parts of the state, and our churches are somewhat different even though we are all one Catholic Church," said 17-year-old Gregory Richmond from Holy Infant Church in Durham. "Some of our attitudes and the way we understand our beliefs and certain points in our faith are so different. It's kind of cool to share that faith among everyone and share the differences."

Time to develop lasting friendships and the significant impact of what he learned was a large part of Carlos Marra's appreciation of the week of activities and sessions. "This was a big group, but we saw each other a lot. We had small communities, and as we spent our time together, everybody got a little closer. At most retreats, you don't get to know everybody, but we had more time to pray and meet everybody. It was a different experience, not like anything like I've experienced. I had a great time because I was able to make more friends and grow a lot closer to God."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

**Curfews disrupt Palestinian student's entrance exams**
**Linda Bader, a student of the Latin Patriarchate school, sits with study materials as she prepares for college entrance exams at her home in Beit Jalla in the West Bank July 3. Her college entrance exams have been disrupted because of Israeli army curfews.**

### Veteran religion writer Jim Castelli dies at age 55

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jim Castelli, a longtime journalist, author, researcher and consultant on religion and public policy issues, died unexpectedly of an apparent heart attack July 6. He was 55. Among his books were two on religion in America co-written with George Gallup Jr., "The American Catholic People" in 1987 and "The People's Religion" in 1989. He also wrote "The Bishops and the Bomb" in 1983, on the development of the U.S. bishops' 1983 peace pastoral; "I'm Too Young to Have a Heart Attack" in 1990, reflecting on his life-changing 1985 heart attack; and "How I Pray" in 1994, interviewing 26 Americans on their spirituality and prayer life. With Msgr. Joseph Gremillion he co-wrote "The Emerging Parish" in 1988, a report on the massive Notre Dame study of U.S. Catholic parish life. In the 1970s his name was among the most widely recognized bylines in the U.S. Catholic press.

### Pope praises Mother Cabrini as model of caring for immigrants

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II praised St. Frances Cabrini, the first U.S. saint to be canonized, as a model of caring for immigrants amid the growing phenomenon of human mobility. In a message to members of the religious order Mother Cabrini founded, he said the Italian-born woman lived her life "completely dedicated to carrying Christ's love to those who, far from homeland and family, also risked distancing themselves from God." The pope's message was released at the Vatican July 4. The order, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, was holding a monthlong general chapter meeting in Rome. The pope said Mother Cabrini's nuns were called to welcome and care for "the immigrants of our time, who — together with a burden of suffering, solitude and poverty — also often carry with them a rich baggage of humanity, values and hopes."

### Woman's testimony on post-abortion syndrome comes from the heart

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — When Vera Faith Ford speaks about post-abortion syndrome, she speaks from the heart and personal experience. "I was 21 weeks pregnant when I had my abortion," Ford said. "I was married and in a very dysfunctional, abusive marriage. I was literally the poster child for the pro-choice industry." Ford conducted a workshop, "Through the Looking Glass: The Land Beyond Abortion," at the National Right to Life Committee's annual convention, held June 27-29 in Pittsburgh. She is the executive director of Alpha Omega Life, the pro-life arm of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Pittsburgh, and operates the Vera Faith Ford Pro-Life Outreach based in Bethel Park.

### Brazilian cardinal says World Cup left good examples to follow

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (CNS) — Retired Cardinal Eugenio de Araujo Sales of Rio de Janeiro said the 2002 FIFA World Cup, which ended with Brazil's 2-0 win over Germany, resulted not only in temporary joy but also good examples to follow. "Many nations have been witnesses to fair play and exemplary attitudes," said Cardinal Sales. "Distant nations, with so different cultures, were able to share together in a spirit of sportsmanship, which is based in the effort for victory, self-control and true respect for the rival. To the dark side of some excesses in celebrations, there was the bright side of a tournament in which rivals, after struggling for victory, were able to greet each other and exchange gestures of friendship and mutual respect," the cardinal said.

### Writers for 'The Practice,' 'The West Wing' receive Humanitas Prize

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Writers for two highly-acclaimed television dramas, ABC's "The Practice" and "The West Wing" on NBC, were among 12 award-winning entertainment writers honored during the 28th annual Humanitas Prize luncheon June 25. Held at the Hilton Universal Hotel in Universal City, the 2002 Humanitas Prize conferred a total of $145,000 in prizes in eight television and feature film categories on writers whose work "not only entertains, but also enriches the viewing public." In addition, the first Kieser Award — named in honor of the late Paulist Father Ellwood "Bud" Kieser, who launched Humanitas in 1974 — was presented to television journalist Bill Moyers in recognition of his successful 30-year career. In memory of deceased "Frasier" writer and producer David Angell and his wife, Lynn, who perished together Sept. 11 when their hijacked plane crashed into one of the World Trade Center towers, the Humanitas Prize also announced the establishment of the "David and Lynn Angell Humanitas Fellowship in Comedy Writing."


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# VIRTUS, from page 1

communities through awareness, education and training.

Bishop Curlin has long been an outspoken proponent of zero tolerance for sexual misconduct. In 1995, as an allegation against a now-deceased priest was brought to his attention, he promptly traveled to the Asheville parish, and during each Mass that March weekend, he addressed the parish declaring zero tolerance for child sexual misconduct. Since that time, across the country, zero tolerance has become the oft-used, unequivocal avowal of crimes against children.

"We help them (workshop participants) reduce the risk of their clientele of being abused by either a staff member or another peer," said Lundburg, whose company also helps staff members falsely accused of abuse. "We provide training, what we are doing here today." Further, VIRTUS does risk assessments and provides recommendations of how to reduce the risks of children being abused and their staff being falsely accused of abuse.

"This is one of the best abuse prevention programs," said Lundburg. It gives factual, correct and true information. It provides concrete ways — not solutions — but ways to help prevent abuse from occurring.

"Recently, it has been very difficult for the Catholic community," said Lundburg. "None of you, none of us, have been able to open a newspaper, turn on a TV, listen to the radio, without hearing 'sexual abuse, child molestation, Catholic church, priest, celibacy' or any combination of those words," he said.



PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

**Aaron Lundburg conducted the four-hour VIRTUS workshop *Protecting God's Children*, a course designed to help diocesan employees and volunteers to identify and correctly address aspects of sexual misconduct, for 50 diocesan priests at St. Patrick School June 27.**

"And it has been especially difficult for you," said Lundburg to the priests.

Moreover, he acknowledged the difficulties for parishioners, volunteers and employees. "While it has been awful, I think there is a silver lining to it all, because the Catholic Church has now been put in a very unique position to take on an issue that no other child-serving organization has been able to take on. And that is protecting our most vulnerable children from abuse," he said.

The priests were the second group to participate in the VIRTUS workshop. On June 12, principals in the diocese were the first to attend the diocesan sponsored training session.

Next month, a selected group will attend a session to "train the trainer." From there, VIRTUS certified trainers will disperse throughout the diocese.

"Our goal is to educate every priest, religious, employee and volunteer in the 46-county diocese," said Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor. "Ultimately, the diocese will share this information with its 1,900 employees, 3,500 volunteers, all priests, permanent deacons and women religious."

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.*

# Russia returns stained-glass windows taken from Germany after WWII

BY JONATHAN LUXMOORE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A German Catholic official praised a Russian government decision to return to a Protestant church more than 100 stained-glass windows taken after World War II.

"This is a sign that the Cold War is finally over, and relations are gaining a new quality," said Andreas Herzig, spokesman for Germany's Berlin Archdiocese. "This move will benefit all of us."

The spokesman was reacting to the late-June handover in St. Petersburg of 111 windows to German Culture Minister Julian Nida-Ruemelin, for reinstallation in the Evangelical St. Mary's Church in Frankfurt an der Oder.

Herzig told Catholic News Service the Catholic Church had lost fewer objects to the Soviet Army during its occupation of eastern Germany and was not pursuing restitution claims against Russia.

"However, we're very pleased to see these confiscated items being given back to our Evangelical brethren," Herzig said.

The 14th-century windows were taken by invading Soviet troops in 1946, three years after being dismantled during Allied bombing and stored for safekeeping in Potsdam.

Evangelical church leaders have negotiated for their return since the early 1990s, following rebuilding work on the war-damaged Frankfurt an der Oder church.

A resolution allowing the restitution, approved April 5 by the Russian Parliament's lower house, stated that the windows had not "served the interests of militarism or fascism."

A final agreement was signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder during the Russian head of state's May visit to Germany.

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# RCIA session encourages fellowship, continuous faith sharing

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — People come into the Catholic Church for various reasons. Some want to further develop their spirituality, while some people feel an inexplicable pull toward Catholicism. Whatever the reason, those born into other faith traditions or those with no specific religious background have found their home in Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA. The RCIA allows people to have the opportunity to share in faith with others.

Those who converted to Catholicism through the RCIA and those who have worked in the ministry gathered at Our Lady of Consolation Church (OLC) June 23 for an RCIA grand reunion. The day; which included Mass, a testimony from a former candidate, a panel discussion and a meal; was designed to bring people together in faith and fellowship. Nearly 40 people involved with the parish RCIA attended the session

"RCIA is a process that is a continuing cycle; this is something in terms of their faith journeys that goes forward and doesn't end with confirmation or baptism," said Dale Brown, OLC pastoral associate and RCIA coordinator. "We came here to bond, grow closer together and address any concerns we might have. We want to encourage continued dialogue among all of us — the coordinator, the sponsors and those who have gone through the process."

RCIA includes the steps that adults must take to become initiated into the Catholic Church through inquiry, prayer, study and liturgical celebrations of the sacraments of initiation — baptism, Eucharist and confirmation.

"The Catholic Church is all about evangelization, and the way to do that is to bring people into the church. In order to do that we must have some type of process in place, and RCIA is that process," said Brown.

Sterling and Saronda Easter, OLC parishioners and session participants, have a special interest in the RCIA process. Mrs. Easter, a cradle Catholic, sponsored her husband through the process, and they shared a special bond as husband and wife and sponsor and candidate. Easter said that a desire to receive the Eucharist with his family and to be a family of faith with his wife and two daughters were some of the reasons he decided to join the Catholic Church.

"RCIA gave me a real sense that there is a God. I always knew there was, but through the process, I grew closer to God and developed a one-on-one relationship with him," said Easter.

Toni Cowsette, OLC parishioner, was baptized and raised Catholic but had left the church. She felt a need to return to her childhood faith and brought her two children into Catholicism with her. "As a child, you hear about Jesus and have the Bible read to you, but you don't get a chance to understand what you are hearing," said Larry Cowsette, now 22, who came into the church as a child with his mother. "RCIA gave me a chance to ask questions that I was curious about and to help me better build my faith in the Lord."

In speaking with RCIA coordinators in other parishes, Brown found that one of their shared concerns was that some of the people who had gone through the process seemed to slowly disengage themselves from parish life and Mass. Brown was interested in discovering why some people fall away from the church after undergoing the nearly yearlong process of the RCIA. She feels that increased dialogue will help to keep some of the parishioners attending Mass and ministering in the church.

"I was curious with RCIA if the people continued coming to church and continued in their faith, and I was gratified today to see that everyone that was here today still attends church. But, I don't know how many yet still practice their faith that have gone through the process perhaps before I came here three years ago," said Capuchin Father Jude Duffy, pastor of OLC. "We have to do more programs like this to reach out to those who don't feel like they are a part of the parish and make sure they are welcome."

Brown agreed, "I heard some suggestions from some of the participants today that we can improve upon in terms of trying to help people become more comfortable in the church once they go through the process. This is a start, and it will take a while to catch on. We want to hear the concerns of people who have fallen away from the church, and we want to get them back. We hope that people who attended today will help those who have left the church."

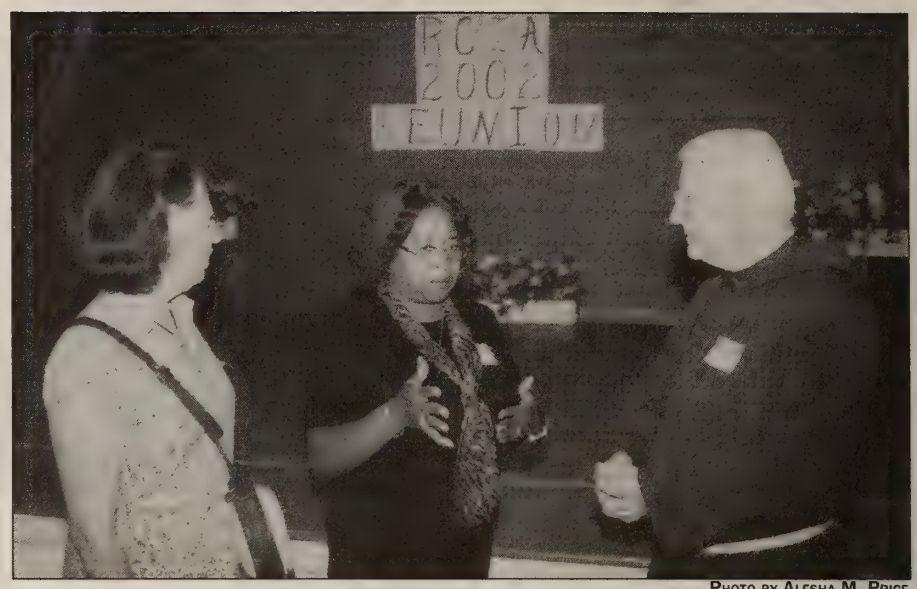



Photo by Alesha M. Price

**Pictured from left, Tish Steward, session panelist; Dale Brown, OLC pastoral associate and RCIA coordinator and Capuchin Father Jude Duffy, OLC pastor, discuss ministry at the RCIA grand reunion held at OLC June 23.**

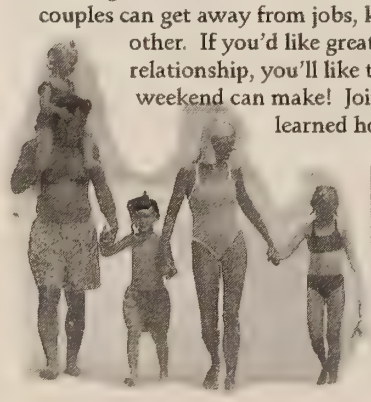
The Easters expressed their concern having recently gone through the RCIA. They said that they are in search of the answer to the "where-do-we-go-from-here" question but feel compelled to do what they can to encourage increased fellowship at their parish and to become involved with various ministries.

"There were some key issues brought up today about follow-up. I think the majority of people that go through the RCIA process think that when they get to the end of it, it's over. We must worship the Lord each and every day of our lives," said Easter. "Someone asked me 'are you glad it (RCIA) is over?' I said 'it is not over, it's just the beginning.'"

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*


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# Teens gather in Charlotte for national program

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Chris Belch thought that church was boring. In fact, before he traveled to Charlotte from St. John Vianney Church in Philadelphia for the Charlotte HEART Workcamp, he hardly ever attended. However, after a couple of days of painting, scrubbing, cleaning and scraping an elderly woman's home as a part of the week of activities of the national teen work camp established in 1993, he has a different view of his faith and ministry.

"The first day we came here, I went to church twice, and the enthusiasm of the kids changed all of the views I had before. It has completely shifted my idea of religion, and I have gone through such a mental change about the Lord," said 17-year-old Belch, who will try to start a youth group at his church. "They have made church fun, and I can't stay away anymore. It is such a good idea, and everybody should come."

Even though the school year does not begin until August, Charlotte Catholic High School's (CCHS) halls reverberated with the sounds of music, young voices and chatter from 330 teens and adult chaperones from around the country the week of June 30 through July 6. Groups traveled from as far as Minnesota and from as near as Greensboro to participate in the third year that the diocese has hosted the Catholic HEART Workcamp (CHWC). Based in Orlando, Fla., the camps, held June through August, have popped up in over 20 states with between 200 and 400 teens at each camp.

"We feel like this is something that God has created; we are just doing his work, and we look at ourselves as stewards," said Lisa Walker, co-founder with her husband, Steve, who began the camp in their hometown of Orlando.

The idea came to the former youth ministers after they attended nondenominational work camps with their youth group. They missed the "Catholic characteristics" like daily Mass and reconciliation, so they decided to create their camp with these ideals in mind. The CHWC has grown since then, and the couple travel to each campsite every year, working full-time with the local coordinators to make sure the camps run smoothly. Each of the camps follows a schedule including daytime community work provided by local organizations and evening worship and praise activities like songs, skits, team reports and others.







Photos by Alesha M. Price

**From left to right; pictured foreground, Eva Fiastro, 18, from the Church of the Nativity in Baltimore, Md., concentrates as she paints bathroom trim at the home of Virginia Reese during the Catholic HEART Workcamp June 30 through July 6. Pictured background is 16-year-old Nikki Cuck from Holy Trinity Church in Pittsburgh, Pa. Beth Walger, 16, from the Church of the Nativity in Baltimore, Md., paints outside trim at a home in the Cherry Community. Pictured far right, 15-year-old Jessica Field, a parishioner at St. Mary Church in Marion, Ohio, rakes leaves in the yard of a Cherry Community home. She said that the work makes her feel good because it is nice to know that she has helped someone who is disadvantaged.**

In the Charlotte location, the youth slept in gender-designated classrooms and ate meals served by CCHS students and other volunteers. The groups came from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Illinois, Minnesota and parts of North Carolina and worked with sponsor organizations like the Cherry Community Organization; Love, Inc.; Catholic Social Services; Holy Angels, Inc.; Catherine's House and other agencies. All of the diocesan groups — some of whom said they traveled to Charlotte simply because they had never been to the state or because they went where there was a need — were separated into 50 teams with adult chaperones that were assigned work in and around Charlotte.

The teams worked in the mornings, broke for lunch onsite and worked in the afternoons. They then drove back to CCHS for evening reflection, dinner and recreation. On one of the final nights of the camp, Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated Mass for the group.

For many of the teens, this was their first exposure to community work and their first trip out of their home states.

Belch and 15 others worked at 90-year-old Virginia Reese's home sponsored by Love, Inc. and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Senior Center Friendly Visitor Program. The students cleaned, primed and painted walls, organized photos dating back to the 1800s and cleaned rooms while keeping Reese company during the week.

"They say it's fun, and they love it. It's the camp experience but taking it to that next level," said Marty Kelly, adult chaperone from St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, who also worked at Reese's home. "These kids believe in the love of God and Jesus Christ, and they want it to show in their lives."

Residents in the Cherry Community welcomed their workers with open arms, supplying tools and bringing refreshments to the teen and adult workers. Two groups refurbished several homes in the historic Charlotte neighborhood, and 16-year-old Beth Walger from the Church of the Nativity in Baltimore, Md., was perched atop a ladder painting trim for much of the time. From her precarious position, she felt she had an angel watching over her.

"My mom, who passed away in April, was really into community service. After her death, that got me motivated. I love meeting people, and it has been so much fun," said Walger. "It makes me feel good because I am meeting people and because my mom was all for service. I really love helping other people, and they love it, too."

Walker says that through the CHWC, the youth see themselves enacting change and that they are not helpless. "By their service, they see how valuable they are, and they become hope, especially right now within our church and within our world with what's going on. It's such a positive thing. What's really neat about the CHWC is that it's a whole retreat built into it. They think they are coming here just to work, then at night, we share the Gospel and church teaching about what it means to serve and what Jesus challenges us to do. To me, that's the level of Christianity that God desires for all of us."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*

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**Book Review**

# Books reveal U2's climb to fame, activism

REVIEWED BY KATHERINE NUSS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In these first years of the new millennium, few rock bands have had the success and media exposure of the Irish group U2. Most recently, U2's lead singer and songwriter Bono toured Africa with U.S. Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill with the goal of educating and influencing policymakers to increase U.S. aid. Bono uses his fame to attract world attention to the need to alleviate poverty in Africa through development, investment, increased aid and reduced debt.

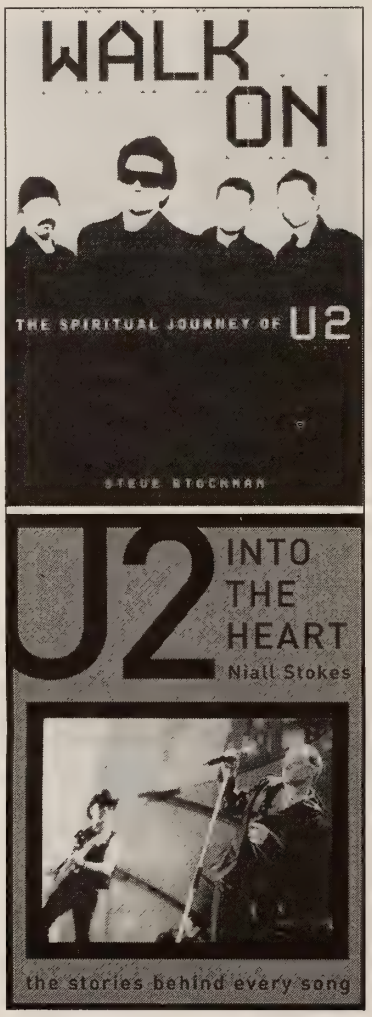
U2's activist nature has been evident since the group's beginnings in 1979 Dublin. As the group performed around the world, members witnessed the vast disparity between nations, which helped shape them and their music.

Two new books shed light on what made U2 what it is today.

"Walk On: The Spiritual Journey of U2" by Irish Presbyterian minister Steve Stockman focuses entirely on the faith development, Scripture references and spiritual nature of the band's lyrics. He offers a perspective you don't generally read in entertainment writing. First he looks at the band's beginnings: Growing up Irish, where religion so often divided the population, Bono attended a mixed Catholic-Protestant middle school where he met the other bandmates. About this time, the loss of his mother intensified his spirituality as well as his seeking of answers in Scripture.

Stockman argues that the band knows its vocation and takes it up willingly. Many of their biggest hits — "Gloria," "Sunday Bloody Sunday," "Pride" and "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking for" — are about soul-searching, faith and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Stockman is a true admirer of Bono, the band and the members' good works. He thinks that U2 remains popular and relevant even as the bandmates address faith questions in a world of suffering because they deal honestly, not blindly, and because they believe.

Stockman writes of the honest and forceful way Bono refers to Scripture in the concert setting. He says redemption and hope are ideas that U2 offers to its audience. Seeing them in concert after Sept. 11, I can attest to the frequent references to the Lord, the healing nature of the words and the spirit that resonated through the arena.




"U2 Into the Heart" by music writer Niall Stokes tells the story behind every U2 song. Bono collaborated with Stokes, and at least one band member regrets that contribution. Drummer Larry Mullens Jr. in Time magazine said, "I think it was big mistake because one of the most valuable things about his lyrics is that you can adapt them to any particular situation."

We learn how an idea builds, how the rest of U2 band members contribute and how nuances can make the song. It is an essential resource for anyone who admires the songs of U2. The photographic timeline itself is worth the price of the book, but to have Bono describe what was happening in the world or within his own family as he wrote the lyrics is truly insightful.

After reading the book you will never again listen to the songs the same way. The book takes readers up to U2's much-lauded current offering, "All That You Can't Leave Behind," with deeply personal songs of loss and tremendous hope for the state of our world. Stokes has covered U2 in the Irish music press for decades. His history with the band allowed him great access and he graciously sheds light on the process and personalities that are U2.

Together these books flesh out what U2 is and what makes U2 one of the most successful bands in rock 'n' roll history. They explain the motivations for involvement in peace and justice issues, the search for salvation and answers, the desire for a better world. Now it seems it's not enough just to sing about it, but to do something to create heaven on earth where children have medicine and enough to eat.

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# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings: July 14, 2002*

**July 14, Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.**
Cycle A Readings:
1) Isaiah 55:10-11
Psalm 65:10-14
2) Romans 8:18-23
3) Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Cory was the quietest of our parish confirmation candidates last year. But in his letter to the bishop requesting the sacrament, one simple line loudly proclaimed the word of God: "I found out that something so small as spending time working a puzzle with an elderly person at the nursing home can make someone so happy."

This weekend's reading from Isaiah explains that just as the rain doesn't return to the heavens until it has fulfilled its task of watering the earth and making it fruitful, God's word "shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it."

Cory had spent a moment loving a person who needed it, and he realized the fruitfulness of God's word, that is, the love of Christ, the way of the cross. Isaiah said God's word will achieve its end. Cory said, in effect, wow, I got to be part of that.

In the sower's parable, the Gospel follows up by pointing out that not everyone chooses to participate when given the chance to share in bringing God's will into the world. Cory was in a class of 22 candidates who were asked to document participation in "some Christian ministry" as part of their preparation for confirmation.

Despite an explanation of how "ministry" differs from "community service," one or two reported such activities as "shelving books" at the library or monitoring exhibits at the school science fair. A few said they liked helping people in need because it made them feel good about themselves. But several were fertile ground for God's word, the life of Christ. They reported, as Cory did, "I know I will go back and serve again" or, "I realized this is what being a Christian is" or, "I now see what some people have to deal with, and this is what I am called to do."

Being open and preparing themselves well, they welcomed the Word, and it will continue to thrive in their lives.

**QUESTIONS:**
*In what ways do you nurture along God's will in the world? How have you missed opportunities to use God's gifts in your life for the common good?*

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of July 14 - July 20**

**Sunday (Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Isaiah 55:10-11, Romans 8:18-23, Matthew 13:1-23; **Monday (St. Bonaventure),** Isaiah 1:10-17, Matthew 10:34—11:1; **Tuesday (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel),** Isaiah 7:1-9, Matthew 11:20-24; **Wednesday,** Isaiah 10:5-7, 13-16, Matthew 11:25-27; **Thursday,** Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19, Matthew 11:28-30; **Friday,** Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8, Matthew 12:1-8; **Saturday,** Micah 2:1-5, Matthew 12:14-21

**Scripture for the week of July 21 - July 27**

**Sunday (Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Wisdom 12:13, 16-19, Romans 8:26-27, Matthew 13:24-43; **Monday (St. Mary Magdalene),** Micah 6:1-4, 6-8, John 20:1-2, 11-18; **Tuesday (St. Bridget of Sweden),** Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Matthew 12:46-50; **Wednesday,** Jeremiah 1:1, 4-10, Matthew 13:1-9; **Thursday (St. James),** 2 Corinthians 4:7-15, Matthew 20:20-28; **Friday (Sts. Joachim and Anne),** Jeremiah 3:14-17, Matthew 13:18-23; **Saturday,** Jeremiah 7:1-11, Matthew 13:24-30

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# The Men in Black are back

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The sci-fi sequel "Men in Black II" (Columbia) is fairly entertaining and instantly forgettable. The film reunites Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones and director Barry Sonnenfeld, all of whom worked on the original 1997 film.

This time around, Smith and Jones' roles are reversed, with Smith as the top honcho in a secret government agency (appropriately named Men in Black or MIB because of the black suits the agents wear) which monitors extraterrestrial activity on Earth. Jones, whose Agent Kay was "neuralized" (a process which erases a human's memory of any alien sightings) in the last movie, is now working as the postmaster in a tiny Massachusetts seaside town.

Agent Jay (Smith) needs Kay back on the job. Jay has uncovered a diabolical plot masterminded by Serleena (Lara Flynn Boyle), an evil Medusa-like monster who transforms herself into a slinky lingerie model. Serleena has come to Earth looking for a light-emitting object, the light of Zartha, which will give her power over the universe, and could mean the destruction of Earth. Somewhere trapped in the recesses of his mind, Kay has the information that could stop Serleena.

The story's plot is pretty skimpy and it takes a backseat to the notable alien creatures created by Rick Baker and the flashy visual effects. Each creation is initially distinctive, but they begin to blur as more and more creatures come out of the woodwork.

The film's tongue-in-cheek humor — ever present in the original — is in attendance again. The comedy is mostly derived from Kay and Jay's nonchalant attitude about aliens running amok in the country disguised as humans. (A running joke is that all postal workers are aliens.) It's a world where the MIB immigration department casually asks if an alien has brought any fruit or vegetables and warns another that if he goes out during the day, he can only go to the East Village.

The violence in this sci-fi fantasy is more cartoonish than menacing. As alien creatures burst into a bright fireworks display or Agents Jay or Kay get into another gooey battle, the action is not of the serious kind.

However, the role reversal of Smith and Jones hurts the film because it does not give Smith a chance to be as cocky and daring as he was in the original. His toned-down energy level is a drawback because audiences most likely will expect him to be the bold and funny guy. And Jones doesn't play that role, so some of the humor is lost. Both Smith and Jones seem comfortable — possibly a little too comfortable — as they get into a rhythm. However, there's a certain been-there-done-that quality to their performances that neither can really shake.

Because of some cartoon sci-fi violence and crass expressions, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



CNS PHOTO FROM COLUMBIA PICTURES

**Scene from movie 'Men in Black II'**

**The Worm Guys collaborate in a scene from the film "Men in Black II." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**


## QUESTION:

What do the following philosophers, scientists and theologians have in common: St. Paul, Locke, Tocqueville, Dante, Aristotle, Augustine, and Leibnitz?*

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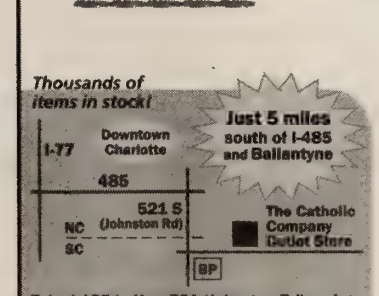
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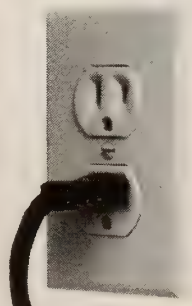
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## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Pope speaks of creation canticle during audience at Castel Gandolfo

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — In an unusual general audience at the papal summer villa at Castel Gandolfo, Pope John Paul II struck a summery theme in his series of talks on the psalms and canticles used in morning prayer.

Speaking to about 2,500 people crowded into the courtyard of the villa July 10, Pope John Paul focused on the Book of Daniel's canticle of creation.

The canticle, which calls on all creatures to bless the Lord, "is a song of thanksgiving which the faithful raise to the Lord for all the marvels of the universe," the pope said.

The song was sung by the three young men thrown into the furnace because of their faith in God, but God protected them from the fire, and they escaped unharmed.

Even though they were about to be martyred, the pope said, "they did not hesitate to sing, to rejoice and to give praise."

"The bitter and violent pain of the trial disappears, seeming almost to dissolve in the presence of prayer and contemplation," he said. "It is precisely this attitude of trusting abandonment which gives rise to divine intervention."

When a believer focuses all his energy on praising God and expressing his hope for salvation, suffering and fears melt away, the pope said.

"This is the power of prayer when it is pure, intense and filled with abandoning oneself to God," he said.

Pope John Paul arrived at the summer residence July 8. Except for his July 23-Aug. 2 trip to Canada, Guatemala and Mexico and his Aug. 16-19 trip to Poland, he is expected to stay at the villa until sometime in September.

The Vatican said he would follow his usual practice of returning to the Vatican for the Wednesday general audience only when the number of visitors exceeds the capacity of the courtyard.

The 2,500 people who joined the pope July 10 did not have much room to move around, and only the visiting bishops and a few other guests had seats.

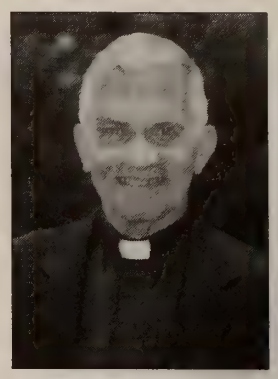
The crowd was kept just a few feet away from the seated pontiff, blocked by wooden barricades. Many children sat on a parent's shoulders to get a better look.

Pope John Paul also used the audience to give a belated greeting to the townspeople of Castel Gandolfo, whom he usually greets from a balcony of the villa his first evening in residence.

The pope thanked the community for "welcoming me with great cordiality" and said, "I am happy to be among you here in Castel Gandolfo where, if it pleases God, I will pass the summer."

He also asked them to pray for the success of World Youth Day in Toronto, that "this important ecclesial appointment will bear the hoped-for spiritual fruit."

## Guest Column



FATHER JAMES HAWKER
GUEST COLUMNIST

### The Supreme Court decision on educational vouchers

Will educational vouchers be made available in North Carolina?

No decision of the U.S. Supreme Courts' 2001-2002 term was more surprising to many observers then was the ruling that deemed the Cleveland educational voucher plan as constitutional. In doing so, the Supreme Court viewed it as being a program of true private choice even in those instances when public money is employed for religious school tuition.

Opponents of the Supreme Court's ruling had argued that the voucher plan violated the First Amendment of the Constitution. Most of the justices, however, did not agree with or accept that interpretation. Chief Justice William Rehnquist stated in the majority opinion that "the Court has drawn a consistent distinction between government programs that provide aid directly to religious schools, and programs of true private choice, in which government aid reaches religious schools only as a result of the genuine and independent choices of private individuals."

Rehnquist made reference to two prior decisions of the Supreme Court that "made clear that when a government aid program is neutral with respect to religion and provides assistance to a broad class of citizens who, in turn, direct government aid to religious schools wholly as a result of their own genuine and independent private choice, the program is not readily subject to challenge under the Establishment Clause."

The key determinant, then, for the majority vote would be that public monies are not allocated directly to a religiously affiliated school, but to parents who are able to choose from a variety of schools, whether public, private or religious. The position of the Supreme Court is that if parents have the option of selecting secular educational settings, it is irrelevant if the majority of schools that parents choose are religious.

It is important to recognize that while the Supreme Court has acknowledged the constitutionality of the Cleveland program, state legislatures will determine whether or not vouchers will be made available for their citizens. In some instances, there may be a voter referendum to ascertain the will of the people. Were a legislature to vote in favor of voucher availability, it will be necessary that a plan be formulated that will guarantee its being constitutional.

Keep in mind that an essential ingredient would be that the plan is neutral, meaning that the parents may choose among a number of educational settings, whether secular private schools, public magnet schools or religious schools. It should be observed that the states might determine the amount of money allocated to specific parents based upon their minority and/or economic status.

There is no doubt that those who oppose vouchers, whether citizens or members of legislatures, will labor mightily to ensure that they never see the light of day in their state. Public school teachers, represented by their powerful unions, will argue that the availability of vouchers will absorb sorely needed funds from the public schools. That argument did not impress the majority of the Supreme Court Justices as being viable. Nonetheless, because of the proliferation of misunderstanding, misinformation and half-truths, the possibility of vouchers in various states will become less probable. In certain instances, the hopes of parents, especially the minorities and the poor, who would benefit significantly by their availability, will be dashed.

On the other hand, in those instances in which state legislatures do vote in favor of the voucher system, and constitutional plans are formulated to ensure their proper distribution, the rights of parents, as validated by the decision of the Supreme Court, will be recognized and respected.

So, will educational vouchers be made available in North Carolina? The answer depends upon a number of factors. Were one or more legislators to draft a bill, the members of the state legislature via the vote would decide whether or not parents would be permitted to exercise their constitutional right to choose. It would then be necessary to formulate a plan of implementation that is constitutional.

At the present time, interested parents should contact their representatives and inform them of their position on the matter. The value of a proactive stance, especially when confronted with a potentially controversial issue, should never be underestimated.

*Father James Hawker is vicar for education and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.*



## Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM CAP
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Two thoughts for summer 2002

When we think of summer, we think of sun, shorts, lawn mowing, fireworks, mosquitoes and vacation (hopefully with God!). I may suggest two more ways of celebrating summer: restful silence and God's diet.

The problem with the media culture is that it cannot bear silence. When radio was first invented, a desperate announcer, who had run out of things to blather about, suddenly announced, 'Ladies and gentlemen, the sound of New York's traffic!' He stuck the microphone out the window. There had been a constant flow of noise or else what was the point of the medium?

Later, technology provided an endless stream of flash and noise to the all-consuming eye and ear of TV and radio. It has not solved the problem of how to fill them with anything valuable most of the time.

The wisdom of Christ is mostly silent, and it speaks only when it has something to say, not just to fill the air with chatter. Let's remember: this summer we seek the wisdom of solitude and avoid the chatter of fools.

The second way to celebrate summer is God's diet. God populated the earth with all kinds of vegetables, so we would live long, healthy lives. Satan created McDonald's and the 99-cent double-cheeseburger. Then Satan said to man, "You want fries with that?" and man replied, "Super-size them." And man gained pounds.

God created the healthful yogurt. Satan froze the yogurt and brought forth chocolate, nuts and bright-colored candy sprinkles to put on it.

God said, "I have sent you healthy vegetables and olive oil with which to cook them." Satan brought forth steak so big it needed its own platter. And man gained pounds, and his bad cholesterol went through the roof.

God brought forth running shoes, and man resolved to lose those extra pounds. Satan brought forth cable TV with remote controls, so man would not have to toil to change channels between ESPN and ESPN2. And man gained pounds.

God brought forth the potato, naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition. Satan peeled off the healthful skin and sliced the starchy center into chips and deep-fat-fried them. He then created sour cream dip also.

The man clutched his remote control and ate the potato chips swaddled in cholesterol. Satan saw this and said, "It is good."

And man went into cardiac arrest. God sighed and created quadruple bypass surgery. And Satan created HMOs.

Have a holy and healthy summer!



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Being aware and mature

My nephew Matthew has always been a very special grace for my family and me. Born into what we today term a "crisis pregnancy" situation, he has always been our miracle, our gift from God. For me, as a priest, his arrival into the world was particularly memorable: I got to be the Lamaze coach for his birth. And that, along with my ordination to the priesthood, have been the central moments in my life.

The seven pounds of newborn baby has grown significantly over almost two decades. Matthew now stands over me, and in addition to his physical stature he's grown in character. He possesses a profound sense of right and wrong and he also has a compassionate heart. With the coming of his 18th birthday, I wanted to do something special. Knowing that this fall would see him off to college, I decided that a car would be a practical gift. I started saving a long time ago and, with the help of a friend in the car business, I found just the right one. It was safe, but a little sporty. I was certain that my nephew would love it.

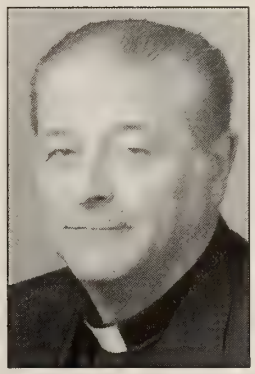
Now, I've never been good at keeping happy secrets. So I guess I'd dropped the occasional hint to Matthew about something special on his birthday. Being a smart kid, he was able to figure it out and one day, he decided we should talk. We went out to lunch and had an amazing conversation. "So, you got me a good gift for my birthday, Uncle Jim?" "Well," I said, "I'm pretty sure you'll like it." Wasting no time, Matthew took the plunge. "I'd guess it's a car, right?" "Well, it might be, but I'd rather not say until your birthday."

Then he hit me with something I'll never forget. "Uncle Jim, I'm really very grateful for your generosity, now and always. But I'd rather not have you buy me a car." I was understandably perplexed. After all, I'd reasoned, isn't a car the dream for a young person turning 18? But then Matt put it in perspective. "Of course, I'd love to have a new car. But since Sept. 11, things have been very hard for Mom and Dad." Many industries were affected by this national calamity and among those "downsized" was my brother-in-law. "I just don't see how I could accept a car, which is really a luxury, when they have to struggle just to meet the mortgage. So I guess what I'm saying is that I'd rather you share the money for the car with them."

It's been a long time since I was about to turn 18. But I suspect that consideration for the financial struggles of my parents was not at the top of my concerns. I wondered if his parents had suggested the idea to him, but they were as surprised as I was. No, Matthew had come to this on his own. On that day, I learned that contrary to popular myths, young people today aren't always obsessed with themselves. I learned that generosity of spirit isn't a value whose time has come and gone. I learned that all of us are obliged to consider the consequences of our desires. I also learned that wisdom doesn't only come from adults.

Some months ago, the Christopher Closeup television program had the delightful opportunity to interview broadcast icon Art Linkletter. A spry and insightful 89 years old, he reflected on the lessons of his life. Remembering his best-selling book entitled "Kids Say the Darndest Things" based on his TV interviews with youngsters, Linkletter said that "we have so much to learn from the honesty of children." When you've seen a child being born, grow and develop, it's hard to imagine them as having a lesson for us to learn from them. We have so much to gain by seeing that young people — like their elders — are capable of true insight. We only have to listen, and learn.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### The third secret of Fatima

*Q. I recently read that the "third secret of Fatima" was to be revealed in the year 2002. What were the events foretold by the visions at Fatima, and when did these events occur? (Illinois)*

A. In 1913 some young children in Portugal claimed that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to them a number of times, urging prayer and penance, and "foretelling" dire catastrophes that the church and the whole human race were to experience. The first of several appearances of Mary to the Portuguese children took place May 13, 1917.

Some years later, the church approved these visions in the sense that the apparitions could not be explained naturally and genuinely had a supernatural source. Rumors have been rampant for decades that a "third secret" foretold especially terrible cataclysms for the world.

After the attempt to assassinate him May 13, 1981, Pope John Paul II attributed the saving of his life to Our Lady of Fatima. On May 13, 2000, during a pilgrimage to Fatima by the pontiff, it was announced that, in gratitude to the Virgin Mary for her protection during his years as pope, the so-called third secret was being made public.

The secret described a vision of a "bishop clothed in white" (the pope?), who makes his way toward the cross, amid corpses of martyred clergy, religious and many lay people. As he advances, he too falls to the ground, killed by gunfire. Two angels gather the blood of the martyrs and sprinkle the blood over souls making their way to God.

The pope charged the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith with making the third secret public and preparing an appropriate commentary on the theological and devotional aspects of the appearances.

In his lengthy commentary, Cardinal Josef Ratzinger, head of the congregation, wrote that in the third secret "no great mystery is revealed, nor is the future unveiled." Visions such as those at Fatima, he said, should be understood in the biblical sense of symbolic prophecy, not of predicting the future but of explaining "the will of God for the present," to show the right path for the future.

A private revelation that is considered genuine by the church may be accepted by the faithful with prudence, he said, because it can help understand the Gospel. "It is a help which is offered, but which one is not obliged to use."

Cardinal Ratzinger carefully distinguished between these revelations and God's "public" revelation in the Old and New Testaments, fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Christ, which demands faith.

A key point, he said, is that private revelations are not intended to complete the Gospel but to help people live it.

The commentary quoted the classic statement of Pope Benedict XIV on private apparitions. "An assent of Catholic faith is not due to revelations approved in this way. (Such assent) is not even possible."

Lourdes, Guadalupe, Fatima and other authentic private appearances and revelations are a precious gift from God. They can become powerful additional motives for responding to Christ's invitations and injunctions in the Gospel.

As Cardinal Ratzinger explains, however, they add nothing to what we as Catholic Christians are already obliged to believe or do.

The text of the third secret and the congregation's commentary can be found on the Vatican Web site: vatican.va/roman_curia/congregation. Then click link: Fatima related news stories.

# The Bottom Line



ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

### A woman who cares for the mentally ill

This week I'd like to tell a simple story of what one woman is trying to do to "help the mentally ailing," as she puts it, with little support from earthly sources, but lots of "dependence on the Holy Spirit."

I met Andrea Remlin after getting a phone call from her. She heard about me from a young woman, Susan, who had been a good friend of my late son Peter. Susan thought I would be interested in Remlin's "apostolate" since I had worked so long with my son, who had suffered from a bipolar disorder that led him to take his life in 1991.

We met for lunch, and I found myself listening to a deeply spiritual woman. Her Catholic faith defined everything she did. In the past few years, from having been around people misunderstood and isolated because of their mental illness, she decided to focus on this group, guided by a Catholic psychiatrist from New York.

She told me repeatedly, "The suffering that the mentally ailing experience is one of the greatest afflictions of our day." And she affirmed, "We now have an ongoing work for the mentally ailing which is very effective. It is based on Catholic prayer, guiding the mentally ill in their daily lives and showing them by the things we do for them that we deeply care and love them.

"Those who come to us are never asked about their past, their illness or where they are now in the realm of the church. They feel the presence of our good Jesus, feel his wisdom, and he takes over and helps them."

Remlin said the few who first got together agreed on a name for their apostolate. They call themselves Missionaries of the Abandoned Christ "because these people are abandoned," she maintains.

Outreach is simple, but consistent. Every Sunday at 1:30 p.m., she — often with her husband and son — opens the doors of their home in Assumption Parish of Westport, Conn., for "prayer, fellowship and a home-cooked meal." Anyone suffering from any mental anguish can just show up at the door. Their family members and friends are also welcome.

The goal is to help them move out of the desolation, the abandonment, the loneliness so many feel, she says.

The whole atmosphere is one of joyful acceptance of one another in the way Remlin believes Christ would have it. "We work with their wellness instead of their illness, so we look at the marvelous talent that each person has, which often is hidden and covered over by their illness." They need to feel a sense of accomplishment and worth, "which is what Jesus would want," she maintains.

If Remlin has her way, the idea of Missionaries of the Abandoned Christ will spread, where "loving, Catholic homes will be open for people experiencing mental anguish to live in community." She visualizes people responding to a vocation to work in these homes, implementing a "well-rounded schedule of prayer, work, study, recreation and fellowship."

Sitting with this woman, who daily gathers leftover food from grocery stores and restaurants to bring to the hungry, you find yourself ending a conversation with "Amen!" In the long run, I like to believe it only takes one good person doing one good work in Christ's name to change the world for the better.

# Holy Trinity Middle School honored as national model

CHESTNUT HILL, Mass. — Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte was one of nine schools from across the country showcased and honored at the Boston College National Catholic Education Association conference June 28-30.

The conference, "Conversations in Excellence 2002: Providing for the Needs of Young Adolescents," drew teachers, principals, superintendents and school administrators from Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the United States to learn about the successful school programs and hear experts in the field of young adolescent education.

The programs were honored for attending to the physical, emotional, intellectual and psychological needs of young adolescents, ages 10 to 15. Holy Trinity Middle School was highlighted for its "Integrating Faith and Values in a Middle School Model."

"I was very surprised, pleased and proud," said Jerry Healy, principal at Holy Trinity.

Healy said that in setting up Holy Trinity seven years ago, they not only looked to establish a fine school but one that firmly integrated faith and values into the curriculum.

"We have the ability to pray, worship and integrate our faith and morality and not be afraid to address them," said Healy, noting that Holy Trinity was one of the few middle schools in the country able to pause and pray after the events of Sept. 11. "What we're trying to teach the students is that we don't take our faith and our freedom for granted."

Carole Breerwood, dean of students, and Lorelei Lindow, school counselor, traveled to Boston with Healy to give a presentation on Holy Trinity's program.

The conference was part of SPICE (Selected Programs for Improving Catholic Education), an ongoing effort co-organized by the Boston College Lynch School of Education and the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) to identify, honor and disseminate information on successful K-12 Catholic school programs.

Conference proceedings, including the Holy Trinity presentation, will be published by the NCEA so other schools may benefit.

"We never feel like we're special. We just try to make the school special," said Healy, who took away many great ideas from the conference. "We're always learning and improving."

Holy Trinity will give another presentation at the NCEA national conference in St. Louis, Mo., during Easter week of 2003.




COURTESY PHOTO

**Brownie Troop 533, a group of second-graders at St. Pius X School in Greensboro, sent 24 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel, with the banner "Don't Give Up On Peace" in April. They sent the care package because one of the Brownies, Madeline Burnham, has an aunt who is a diplomat for the U.S. Department of State serving a three-year post in Israel.**

**PAID VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**
**for Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish**

In its third year, the LIFE Community of Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish is seeking single Catholic young adults in their 20's who would like to volunteer. Our volunteers minister full time and are supported financially during their year of service. For those that may be considering full-time professional ministry or would like to serve in the context of a Catholic setting, this opportunity affords an intern-like experience which helps to form leaders for the future of our Catholic church. The LIFE Community is unique, in volunteer groups, as it is parish based. The parish family is one of the largest in the Richmond Diocese and is vibrant in its response to its Baptismal call. After a period of exploration and discernment, the volunteers begin a ministry based on their discernment, their gifts and talents, and the needs of the parish. Previous volunteers have ministered to the poor and homeless, elderly, youth, music, and parish school. During their year of service, volunteers are invited to grow in their faith through orientation, prayer, formation and the joy of ministering with others. Openings available summer 2002 and applications now being taken. Contact schoolofrel@olmc.org or Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 100 Harpersville Rd., Newport News, VA 23601.

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**DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION:** Holy Redeemer Parish, located on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The candidate must be a practicing Catholic and possess at least a bachelor's degree in theology or religious education; will have responsibility for parish Faith Formation program for grades K-5, sacramental preparation, RCIA, adult education, and other programs and events relating to these areas; will work closely with Youth/Young Adult Minister. Knowledge of Spanish helpful. Please send resume to: Faith Formation Search Committee, Holy Redeemer Church, PO Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949.

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY:** Full-time position,1500-family Catholic parish near Charlotte. Responsible for five weekend liturgies plus holy days, weddings, and funerals. Adult choir, contemporary choir, cantors, instrumentalists, and handbell choirs. Rogers electronic organ, Yamaha upright piano, and Clavinova digital pianos, two-octave set of Malmark handbells. Ideal candidate is a practicing Catholic with music degree and experience, music performance skill (organ/piano/voice), choral and cantor skills, knowledge of Catholic liturgical music. Salary commensurate with experience. Full benefits. Send resumes to Music Search, Saint Therese Parish, 217 Brawley School Road, Mooresville, NC 28117. Phone:(704) 664-3992; Fax:(704)660-6321; email: jbarnes@saintthere se.net

**DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT:** The Diocesan Office of Development has an opening for a full-time director of development for Catholic Schools. The candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications or related field. Appropriate experience in fund raising and marketing may be substituted for education. Must have ability to use computer software. Responsibilities include managing 2 annual giving campaigns, handling all aspects of production of newsletters and annual reports, and serving as liaison to 2 regional school foundation boards. Please submit resume by July 31, 2002 to: Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

**RN-MANAGER:** Full-time/part-time, 2nd Shift (3-11:30pm, Mon-Fri). Supervise care and treatment of children/adults with Mental Retardation/ Development Disabilities in residential setting. Required: supervisory and previous pediatric and/ or acute care experience. Excellent benefits. Holy Angels, Belmont, NC, (704)825-4161 Fax:(704)825-0553. info@holyangelsnc.org

**TEACHERS:** Energetic teachers needed. St. Michael's School in Gastonia, NC is accepting applications for a certified 5th grade teacher, and a certified middle school language arts or math teacher. Come be a part of a 60-year tradition teaching in a small, caring environment. Contact our office at (704)865-4382 for an application and more information.

**TEACHERS:** Our Lady of Grace School, Greensboro, is presently accepting applications for Middle School Language Arts and Grade One teaching positions. Please call the school office to receive a teacher application at (336) 275-1522. All interested applicants must have a teaching certificate or be in the process of becoming certified.

**YOUTH MINISTER:** Full-time. Experience required. Responsibilities include middle/high school groups and Confirmation. BA in Religious Ed. or Theology a plus. Send resume/salary requirements to: YM Search Committee, St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Charlotte, NC 28210 by July 26, 2002.

**YOUTH MINISTER, HIGH SCHOOL:** wanted for vibrant 4,500-family suburban Atlanta parish: Sunday evening Mass and program (currently Life Teen); also teen O.C.I.A., retreats, adult leader formation, confirmation preparation, and cooperation with colleagues to oversee entire parish catechetical effort. Collaborative skills a must; degree in religious education or related field or comparable experience required; Spanish language facility a plus. Full-time position available immediately. Salary commensurate with qualifications. Send resume and references to: Business Manager, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 535 Rucker Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004; fax (770) 772-0355.

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**Grants from the Foundation to be used for the fiscal year 2002-2003:**

1.Catholic Hispanic Ministry, Greensboro Vicariate: for resource materials for Hispanic ministry.

2. Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury: for Hispanic ministry programs.

3. Power Partners, Andrews: for a new computer to help in the efforts with At-Risk youth.

4. Catholic Hispanic Ministry, Winston-Salem Vicariate: for resource materials for Hispanic ministry.

5. Volunteers for Wilkes Literacy: to assist in the purchase of a bus to expand literacy services to the poor.

6. Catholic Social Services, Winston-Salem: for teen pregnancy program for the poor.

7. St. Francis of Assisi, Jefferson, and St. Frances of Rome Mission, Sparta: for bible camp for Hispanic youth.

8. Smoky Mountain Vicariate: for Hispanic ministry programs.

9. Our Lady of Consolation Church, Charlotte: for ESL program for Hispanics.

10. St. Matthew Church, Charlotte: for youth evangelization programs.

11. Campus Ministry, UNC-Greensboro: for refugee programs.

12. De Paul Academy, High Point: for multicultural pre-school and after-school programs.

13. St. Joan of Arc Church, Asheville: for youth evangelization programs.

14. St. Joseph Church, Kannapolis: for Hispanic ministry programs.

15. Campus Ministry, UNC-Asheville: for young adult evangelization programs.

16. Hispanic Ministry, Hickory Vicariate: for radio ministry for Hispanics.

17. Hispanic Ministry, Salisbury-Albemarle Vicariate: for Hispanic ministry programs.

18. Life Center, Davidson County: for elderly ministry programs.

Total Grants Awarded: 18
Total Grant Dollars Awarded: $61,950.00

# GRANT, from page 1

Hispanic community. This is the first time this grant has been awarded.

"In those little communities," Bernal said of rural Mexico, "the priest builds the church, the school, the whole town, in every sense, from scratch. Pastoral means dealing with the basic needs, being flexible."

Bernal said that 50 percent of rural Mexicans have a first- or second-grade education, but "the better educated people don't make the church commitment."

The average Hispanic people want to be involved in church life, Bernal said. "We just had our first youth retreat in Franklin; we had 40 young people," he said.

Bernal will use the grant money for weekend conferences on lay leadership, quarterly retreats, materials for youth ministry, ministry training sessions that promote liturgical participation and a Renew International program for small Christian communities.

A regional Hispanic newsletter is planned. Bernal expects to distribute the newsletters to churches so that the Hispanics can pick them up when attending Mass. One aim is to accustom them to becoming informed through reading. Back in Mexico, word-of-mouth was the way information was published.

He will also purchase materials and facilitate lay-leadership development through RCIA, adult education, catechist training and sacramental preparation, all of which is new to these Hispanic immigrants who have never been involved in formal faith formation training.

"You don't have to worry that much (back home) about knowing about your faith because most people are Catholic," Bernal said. "You don't have to worry about (others) proselytizing. In this country, you have to know a lot more about your faith because you're surrounded by people who will tell you your (religion) is wrong."

Bernal has been conducting classes at various churches to help Hispanics assume leadership roles and learn more about their faith, but many of his students move when they lose their jobs or can't continue with the classes because their work schedules change. He's realized he'll have to develop more compact courses, averaging six months, so people will get as much information as possible in a shorter period of time.

He worries that Hispanic Catholics will opt for other churches, which are often more welcoming than Catholic communities.

"What can you do?" he said. "You offer the best you can every time you meet somebody. I love working with the community. The way I see it, if they have a good experience of the Catholic Church, even for one day, wherever they go they will look for another Catholic church."



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

**Richard E. Steinbronn (left), a board member of the diocesan Foundation, recently presented a $5,000 grant for Hispanic ministry in the Asheville and Smoky Mountain vicariates. Mary Herr (center), regional faith formation consultant, accepted the grant. With them is Father George Kloster, vicar of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate.**

# Pope upgrades Mongolian church territory to apostolic prefecture

BY JOHN NORTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has upgraded the church territory in Mongolia to an apostolic prefecture, the first step in creating a permanent church hierarchy in the former Soviet-backed communist country.

In a July 8 statement, the Vatican said the new church territory has been named Ulaanbaatar and will be headed by Philippine-born Missionhurst Father Wens Padilla, who has run Mongolia's Catholic mission since its opening in 1992.

Over the past decade, the number of Catholics in Mongolia has increased from almost none to about 100 people, and the church hopes soon to open a Salesian-run vocational center, the Vatican said.

"The fervor of the church activity undertaken and the growth of the number of Catholics give hope for the future," it said.

Bordered by China and Russia, Mongolia is nearly the size of Alaska and is inhabited by about 3 million people, mostly Tibetan Buddhists.

In 1991, after the fall of the Soviet Union, Mongolia's government asked the Holy See to open a Catholic mission in the country and establish diplomatic relations, the Vatican said.

The pope entrusted the church's work in the country to the Missionhurst order, which now has four priests there. Two South Korean priests are on loan from their dioceses, and 13 nuns from three different orders work in the country. Six Salesian religious men are expected soon, the Vatican said.

Apostolic prefectures, usually not headed by bishops, are the "first step in the organization of the church hierarchy" in a given territory, according to the Vatican's yearbook.


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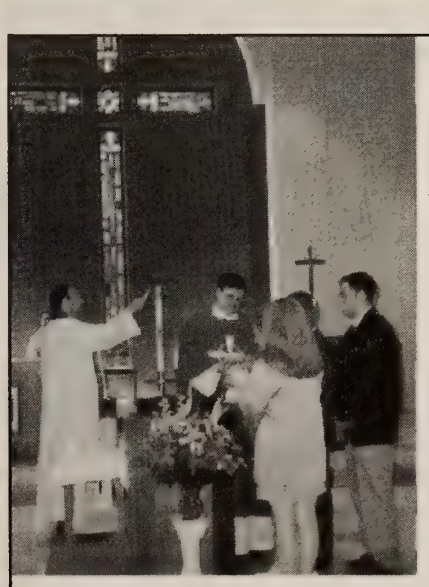
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*For more information contact Gina Rhodes, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320, or Jim Kelley, Director of Development, 704-370-3301, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203, gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org*





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# Literature influences sister's life, vocation

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

CULLOWHEE — "I have always loved to read," School Sister of Notre Dame Mary Warner said. "To me, that just seemed to be the area I enjoyed. Literature influenced my prayer life, the beauty of the words — the word and the Word. The images that are part of so many sacred texts are an approach to prayer for me."

Not only sacred texts — at Western Carolina University (WCU), she is Dr. Mary Warner, associate professor of English and director of English education.



School Sister of Notre Dame Mary Warner

The fifth of eight children, Mary Warner grew up on a farm in Southern Minnesota. School Sisters of Notre Dame taught her in grade school and at Good Counsel Academy, the high school at the order's motherhouse in Mankato, Minn. She joined the order in 1971, making her final profession four years later.

"I saw women who were very happy and dedicated, that's how I was drawn," Sister Mary said of the School Sisters.

She celebrated her jubilee at St. Mary in Sylva (where she plays guitar at the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass) two years ago with 25 of her religious sisters present. The gospel was Mark 4:26-29, which talks about scattered seed.

"I don't have any great vocation story," Sister Mary said, "but that idea of the seed growing gradually is a major image for me, as far as my vocation is concerned."

Sister Mary held a variety of high school and college teaching positions before earning her doctorate in English from the University of Michigan in 1992. She arrived at WCU in 1996 and earned tenure last year. The school has a 7,000-student population; about 150 are Catholic. Sister Mary teaches such courses as "Grammar for Teachers" and "Fundamentals of Teaching Composition."

Each course begins with a personal introduction.

"What I usually do when I start a class, I tell them about my background and that I'm a Catholic nun," Sister Mary said. "In this area, where Catholics are a minority, 'sister' or 'brother' doesn't mean the same thing (as it does to Catholics). I think it's important to say who I am.

"The neat thing about it is that it brings the presence of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and the presence of Catholic women religious," she said. "Sometimes I find myself doing a fair amount of vocation work just by telling about my order. I believe in the importance of bringing a presence where there isn't a presence already."

She is "really open and attuned" to her students and places them in a circle in the classroom so they can interact.

"My teaching, my ministry, who I am, is based on helping others," Sister Mary said. "I could do everything myself, but it's all about being alert to my students and helping them succeed. I could give a lecture, and they could take notes, but it's not about dump-and-pour. It is much more about identifying their gifts and interests."

She also helps through writing and research. Unable to find any texts that help teach writing, she published "Winning Ways of Coaching Writing: A Practical Guide to Teaching Writing Grades 6-12" (Allyn & Bacon, 2001).

Concerned about "the loss of meaning and sense of hopelessness that mark the lives of so many young people," Sister Mary is working on a project, "Adolescent Readers in the Search for Meaning: Guiding Teens to Sacred Texts." She plans to create an annotated bibliography that parents and teachers can use to teach literature and to help young people appreciate literature and use it to find inner significance and spiritual depth.

"C.S. Lewis says 'we read so as not to be alone,'" Sister Mary said. "At the time of the Columbine shootings, I wondered what Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris read. Where do you find meaning? When you don't find meaning, then very often you turn to ways that are more violent. Human beings can't live without meaning."

Another of her interests is the connection between literature and spirituality.

"How can you be a literature major and not know Scripture?" she said. "You miss millions of allusions. What makes us a complete human being is knowing those cultural references."

This summer, in addition to teaching a graduate course on teaching literature, she also offered "The Bible as Literature," which looks at the Bible, not theologically, but as human stories. "We are culturally and linguistically separated from the original writers," she said. "When you take those texts, you want to look at subject, not object. With subject you're looking at theme, but with object, you're looking for those little details, and those details can derail you. Details are not the point. That's why literalism doesn't work."

She also searches for the sacred in secular texts — in Emily Dickinson, Elie Wiesel, Flannery O'Connor, Julian of Norwich, Virgil and Walker Percy, among others — and encourages her students to also look for the sacred in what they read, noting that, "If you can find one writer that puts you on holy ground, that's important."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

# Vatican announces miracles needed to beatify eight, including four Poles

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has published decrees recognizing the miracles needed to beatify eight people, including four Poles Pope John Paul II might beatify in his homeland in August.

The beatifications of the Polish archbishop, two priests and one nun during the pope's Aug. 16-19 trip to Poland have not been announced formally, but a Vatican official said July 8 the ceremonies are expected to be part of the trip.

The Vatican also published decrees July 5 recognizing miracles attributed to one Spanish and two Italian nuns who founded religious orders as well as the miracle needed for the beatification of Hungarian Prince Ladislaw Batthyany-Strattman, a physician and father of 14 children who founded two hospitals to care for the poor.

The recognition of a miracle, usually a healing for which there is no medical explanation, is the last step needed before beatification. Another miracle is needed for canonization.

The four Poles ready for beatification are:

— Archbishop Zygmunt Felice Felinski of Warsaw, founder of the Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mary. Born in 1822 near Volinia, which today is in Ukraine, he was deported to Russia and, after being freed, worked among the poor farmers of Ukraine and Poland. He died in 1895.

— Father Jan Adalbert Balicki, who was born in 1869 and served as a professor of theology and rector of the seminary in Przemysl. He died in 1948.

— Jesuit Father Jan Beyzym, who was born in 1850, also in the Volinia region. He served as a missionary among people with Hansen's disease in Madagascar and died there in 1912.

— Sister Sanzia Szymkowiak, a member of the Seraphic Sisters. She was born in 1910 and is particularly known for the love and care she showed nursing soldiers injured during World War II. She died in 1942.

The other miracles approved July 5 clear the way for the beatifications of:

— Italian Sister Eugenia Ravasco, founder of the Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. She died in 1900.

— Spanish Sister Juana Maria Condesa Lluch, who founded the Handmaids of the Immaculate Conception to care for young girls working in Spanish factories. She died in 1916.

— Italian Sister Maria Domenica Mantovani, co-founder and first superior of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family. She died in 1934.

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Lord, I love your commands. Let your kindness comfort me according to your promise to your servants. Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.

— Psalm 119:57, 76-77


# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

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**New knights council upholds old traditions**

...page 5

## Young people urged to flavor bland world with hope of Christ

By Carol Zimmerman
Catholic News Service

TORONTO (CNS) — Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., urged young people "not to be afraid to be seasoning for a bland world" and to bring it flavor "with the hope of Christ Jesus."

The bishop, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, spoke to at least 9,000 youths who sat on the floor of what looked like an old gymnasium at Toronto's Exhibition Place.

The bishop focused his talk on the day's theme, "You are the salt of the earth," and urged the crowd to take on qualities of salt in their daily lives as Christians not only by bringing flavor and meaning to the world, but by restoring it, as saline solution restores those who are sick.

"You young people are the saline solution that our world so desperately needs," he told them.

He said Christ's call for his disciples to be like salt in their influence upon the world still holds true for believers today, perhaps with even greater necessity.

"The society in which we live, my young brothers and sisters, is still quite insipid and flavorless, perhaps more so today than ever before," he said. "In fact, our society is desiccated with its lack of focus, moral direction and even hope. We are dry, brittle and often hopeless because we have lost contact

See WORLD YOUTH DAY, PAGE 18

# Children share faith in Vacation Bible School



Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**Adult volunteer Peggy Culkin works with her daughter Maggie and John Paul Stepkowski, two students at Vacation Bible School at Our Lady of Grace Church July 7-12.**

By Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — Vacation Bible School is a way of bringing the youth of local parishes together to learn about God, Jesus, the saints and the Bible. Each parish has its own methods, styles and creativity for how the messages of Jesus and the Bible are taught and learned.

The forum used at Our Lady of Grace Church Vacation Bible School, which took place July 7-12, utilized an approach similar to one used by Jesus — using stories and objects with which people were familiar.

According to Laura Wilson, program director of this particular event for the last two years, hands-on experiences laced with prayer, crafts, drama skits, singing and a lot of interaction have been very successful with the pre-school through fifth-grade students.

Wilson coordinated the program with parent and upper-student volunteers to work with the almost 120 students participating in this year's Vacation Bible School.

"The parents really enjoy having this special time with their children, while the kids enjoy the variety of activities associated with the program," said Wilson. "The church profits by establishing a Bible-based background as a foundation for the faith."

While the student volunteers, ranging from grades eight to 10, were accumulating hours for their confirmation obligations, they seemed to enjoy and learn from the experience as much, if not more, than the younger participants.

David Peters, a youth crew leader in charge of the registration table with Wilson, said, "It's a good experience for the children. They gather into the classes and we try to make their experiences fun."

Debbie Griffin, an adult

See BIBLE SCHOOL, PAGE 13

# First chancellor recalls life in ministry

By Kevin E. Murray
Associate Editor

GREENSBORO — Starting a diocese from scratch — Msgr. Joseph S. Showfety remembers it well. Retiring in July, he looked back on 47 years of priestly ministry that included time as the Diocese of Charlotte first chancellor. "Those were great years," he said of the diocese's founding.

Back in May 1955, when Father Showfety was ordained to the priesthood at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh, the Raleigh Diocese, which spanned all of North Carolina, had 25,000 Catholics.

By 1971, though, more and more Catholics were moving to North Carolina, and then-Bishop Vincent S. Waters saw the need for a second diocese. "Bishop Waters said when the Catholic population reached 60,000, he would petition Rome," Msgr. Showfety said.

The petition was granted, and the Diocese of Charlotte was born in 1971, with Bishop Michael J. Begley as its first shepherd.

"He was the perfect choice," Msgr. Showfety said. "He was known by the priests, and they respected him."

Father Showfety twice called Our Lady of Grace Church, where the soon-to-be-bishop was pastor, to offer his congratulations, but "on both occasions, he was out of the rectory," said Msgr. Showfety.

It was Bishop Begley who got in touch with him during a snowstorm, three days after the new diocese was announced. "I'm outside cleaning off the sidewalk," Msgr. Showfety said. "I got in the house ... the phone rang. Here is the future bishop of Charlotte calling me." Bishop Begley asked him to be chancellor of the Charlotte diocese.

"I said, 'Mike, I want to build a (new) church in Hendersonville,'" said Msgr. Showfety. "He said, 'I know you do, but the church will not be built by you. I want you in Charlotte.'"

It was a post young Joseph Showfety couldn't have predicted when he first considered

See MSGR. SHOWFETY, PAGE 8


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**Local youth take international honors in dance competition** ...page 9

**Mercy sister fulfills childhood dream**...page 20

### Bill to protect infants born alive approved; Bush expected to sign it

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Senate gave final congressional approval July 18 to the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act; it was then headed to President Bush, who was expected to sign the legislation. The bill, approved by unanimous consent in the Senate, would guarantee certain rights under federal law to children born alive, even if it occurs during an abortion. The House approved the legislation by a voice vote in March. In another abortion-related action, the House Judiciary Committee on July 17 approved the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, designed to respond to concerns raised in the U.S. Supreme Court's Stenberg vs. Carhart decision in 2000.

### Irish police protest request to remove Sacred Heart icon from station

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — A picture of the Sacred Heart has been banished to the back room of an Irish police station after officers in Cobh claimed they were ordered to remove it from above the front desk. The picture has hung in Cobh police station for 80 years, but when the police officers were moved to new accommodations built by the Office of Public Works, an official there said it could not be put on public display in case it offended nonbelievers. The ban angered some 20 police, or Gardai, officers stationed at the barracks, and their call for the reinstatement of the image has been backed by their staff organization, the Gardai Representative Association. A spokesman for the association, Dermot Moloney, said the picture has been in place since 1922, when the Gardai took over after the end of British rule.

### Pope condemns desecration of graves in Rome's Jewish cemetery

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II condemned the desecration of graves in Rome's Jewish cemetery and an "analogous series of events occurring with worrying frequency" around Europe. Headstones, Stars of David and marble slabs on about 50 graves in the Jewish section of Rome's Verano cemetery were smashed or toppled overnight July 17-18. Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican secretary of state, sent a telegram to Rome's chief rabbi, Riccardo di Segni, July 19, expressing the pope's condolences to the city's Jewish community and condemning the acts and the "anti-Jewish sentiments which inspire them." The cardinal said the pope was "deeply saddened by the detestable gesture" and by attacks on cemeteries and synagogues that have occurred in other parts of Europe and on other continents over the past months.



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

**Bride enters Bethlehem's Church Of The Nativity**
**Annie Abdu bends to enter the door of the Church of the Nativity for her wedding at adjacent St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Bethlehem July 16. She and her fiance had planned a June 30 wedding, but Israeli military curfews delayed the ceremony and forced the couple, their friends and relatives to attend a hastily announced service when restrictions were lifted for a few hours.**

### Vatican Radio boldly goes where no staff has gone before: the Web

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With a tiny budget and a core staff of two, Vatican Radio has begun experimenting quietly with what project leaders expect to one day completely revolutionize the 71-year-old broadcaster: multimedia Internet radio. Over the past year, the radio's Internet-development team — consisting of two American employees with radio and sound experience but no formal Web training — has refined concepts, worked out bugs, and tried to convince higher-ups that the risks of the new media are worth the plunge. Now they say they're ready to show off the fruits of their labors, which they describe as an edgy and informative Catholic site with few parallels. "What we're trying to do is offer in an attractive format really compelling, interesting and even fun Catholic stories or stories from a Catholic point of view," said Stephen Banyra, 42, the site's Web master and former director of the radio's English-language news program. "We also wanted to give it a bit of a commercial feel to make it accessible to a wider audience, not just Catholics," he said.

### 'Spider-Man' offers good moral lessons, Jesuit magazine says

ROME (CNS) — Despite its "militaristic patriotism" and exaltation of all things American, the film "Spider-Man" offers moral lessons that more and more people are finding only in the movies today, said an influential Jesuit magazine. A classic tale of the struggle between good and evil, the film illustrates the point that, while science can give one power, it is up to the individual "to use it for good or evil," said the article in La Civilta Cattolica. The film's success is due not simply to its special effects, but to the fact that it was able "to create a hero and a myth that measure up to Western culture," said the Rome-based magazine that is reviewed at the Vatican before publication. The story's hero, Peter Parker, is the stereotypical "good guy," not the most popular, not rich, but good at school and "God-fearing," the magazine said.

### Sister of Providence among 29 receiving prison terms for SOA protests

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Sister Kathleen Desautels, a Sister of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, will spend six months in a federal prison for trespassing at the former School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Ga., during a protest last year. Sister Kathleen, an Indianapolis native and a staff member of the Eighth Day Center for Justice in Chicago for the past 16 years, was arrested last November with 100 other human rights activists for trespassing on the U.S. Army base that houses the school, now called the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. On July 12, U.S. Magistrate G. Mallon Faircloth sentenced Sister Kathleen to six months in prison after a trial in Columbus, Ga. In all, 29 of the 37 co-defendants received prison terms of three to six months, with some also being fined; seven others were sentenced to six months' probation and one was found not guilty.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**September 5**
Episcopal ordination
Philadelphia, Pa.

**September 13 — 11 a.m. Mass**
Installation of Belmont Abbey College President James Gearity, Ph.D.
Belmont Abbey Basilica, Belmont

**September 14 — 6 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. William Church, Murphy

**September 15 — 11 a.m.**
Confirmation
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Hayesville

**September 21 — 5 p.m.**
50th anniversary celebration and Mass
St. John Baptist de la Salle Church, North Wilkesboro

## Diocesan planner

**August**

**3** HAYESVILLE — The Immaculate Heart of Mary Women's Club will host its annual White Elephant Sale today from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the IHM Church Commons, Hwy. 64. No clothing will be on site, but furniture, small appliances, tools, household goods, books and refreshments will be among the available items. For additional information, contact Riki Fiebel at (828) 389-0515.

**4** CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will be gathering today at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 545-8133.

**4** SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**5** CHARLOTTE — The regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight and every first Monday at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Aug. 6 and every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**5** CHARLOTTE — The bereavement support group will meet tonight from 6-7:30 p.m. and every first Monday in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. This support group is for



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Mexicans on pilgrimage to Mexico City for canonization**
**Jose Escobar makes a pilgrimage on his knees July 19 to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe while holding his 1-month-old son. Indigenous peoples of Mexico were thronging to the city to celebrate Juan Diego, a Nahuatl Indian who converted to Catholicism after experiencing a vision of Mary in 1531. Pope John Paul II will canonize Juan Diego on July 31.**

### Former ambassador says abortion as evil as Sept. 11 terrorist attacks

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Former U.S. diplomat Alan Keyes told a pro-life conference in New Orleans he equates the evil of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks with the evil of abortion. While the attacks manifested "a disregard for the intrinsic worth of innocent human life," he said, they were no different nor more appalling on a moral level than the fact that abortion has destroyed millions of unborn babies since it was legalized virtually on demand in 1973. Keyes, who was U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Economic and Social Council during the Reagan administration, made the comments in a July 12 speech at the American Life League's annual Celebration of Life World Family Conference in New Orleans. "If we pray down destruction on the head of Osama bin Laden for that violation of innocent life," Keyes said, "we have to be aware that we pray down destruction as well on a nation that is willing to enshrine in principle a right to administer the self-same blow to those innocent lives of our offspring that ought to be more sacred in our obligation to God than any others."

### CRS official tells Congress Sudan situation 'urgent, deteriorating'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The situation in Sudan is "urgent and deteriorating," putting 1.7 million lives at risk from famine, disease and war, a Catholic Relief Services official told a Senate subcommittee. Paul Townsend recommended to the African affairs subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the U.S. government negotiate for peace, reinforce the value of self-government, and back unimpeded access to humanitarian aid, especially with regard to developing oil deposits. For more than 30 years, CRS, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency, has been involved in the African nation, home to nearly 30 million people. In written testimony to the subcommittee July 11, Townsend called it "the most desperate humanitarian disaster on our planet."

### Canonization preparations under way for Guatemala's 'Hermano Pedro'

ANTIGUA, Guatemala (CNS) — Behind the crumbling, elaborate baroque facades of Antigua, preparations are under way for the canonization of the town's favorite son, Blessed Pedro de San Jose Betancur. Hermano Pedro, as he is known, is revered throughout Guatemala and Central America for his miraculous curing of the sick and dedication to the poor. Pope John Paul II is scheduled to canonize Hermano Pedro July 30 in Guatemala City. So many pilgrims are determined to visit Hermano Pedro's remains and altar at the Church of San Francisco in Antigua that a schedule was set up to allot the weekend days preceding the pope's visit to people from different areas of the country and those from other spots in Central America.

### Sant'Egidio to gather worldwide religious leaders to promote dialogue

ROME (CNS) — Dialogue is the only solution to terrorism and violence, poverty and the growing distance between the rich and poor, said the spokesman for the Rome-based Sant'Egidio Community. The Catholic lay group is preparing its 16th international meeting of religious leaders, to be held Sept. 1-3 in Palermo, Sicily. More than 350 religious leaders — Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Protestant, Muslim, Jewish — and cultural leaders, including politicians, scholars and writers, will meet to discuss "Religions and Cultures between Conflict and Dialogue."

anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. For details, call Ruth Posey, CSS counselor, at (704) 370-3238.

**5** CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on Sept. 9. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

**7** ALBEMARLE — The Forever Young Club of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, 416 N. 2nd St., will be having a meeting and a covered dish lunch in the Family Life Center this morning at 10 a.m. For further details, call Mary Garris at (704) 982-8427.

**7** CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will be having a meeting with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**9** WINSTON-SALEM — All married couples are invited to participate in the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter this weekend through Aug. 11. Marriage Encounter is a 44-hour period when couples can take time off from families, work and other responsibilities to focus on each other to grow spiritually and emotionally as one. The next Marriage Encounter will take place in Charlotte the weekend of Nov. 8. For more information or reservations, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

**10** CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo community will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight and every second Saturday of the month for a school of leaders at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For further information, call Ky Do at (704) 532-9094.

**11** CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

**11** FRANKLIN — The Women's Guild of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., will be having their monthly meeting tonight at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

**11** MAGGIE VALLEY — Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, will be hosting a rededication ceremony of the Tiffin Meeting Room this afternoon at 2 p.m. The room is being named in honor of the Franciscan Sisters of Tiffin, Ohio, who have served at the center over the years. For details, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

**12** CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia will be held today and Aug. 26 from 10-11:30 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., and Aug. 20 at Providence United Methodist Church. With advanced notification, activities for the memory-impaired can be provided. For more information about the support group or the Shining Stars Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday at St. Gabriel from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and every Tuesday and Thursday at Sardis Presbyterian Church from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

**14** CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be gathering for lunch today at 11:30 a.m. at China House, 5720 Independence Blvd. All are invited to join the group for food, fun and fellowship. For more information about the monthly meetings, call Bobbe Conlin at (704) 643-1376 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the publication date.*

# Massachusetts woman has dream job as fan director for Red Sox

By PEGGY WEBER
Catholic News Service

BOSTON (CNS) — Sarah McKenna has a dream job.

At age 27, the native of the Springfield Diocese is director of fan services at Fenway Park in Boston, the home of the Red Sox.

She is a respected staff member who tries to make sure that people have a positive experience at the 90-year-old ballpark. "Basically, I take care of the individual fan," she said.

Since spring, Fenway Park has been full almost every night. More than 30,000 people have come to each game to watch their beloved team play. More people came to play catch in an empty park on Father's Day than attended some games in other major-league cities.

"If it's cold, rainy or hot, our fans come," she said in an interview with The Catholic Observer, Springfield's diocesan newspaper.

She and several other people from the Boston Red Sox have initiated new programs this season that are focused on fans. Their motto is "Fan Friendly Fenway."

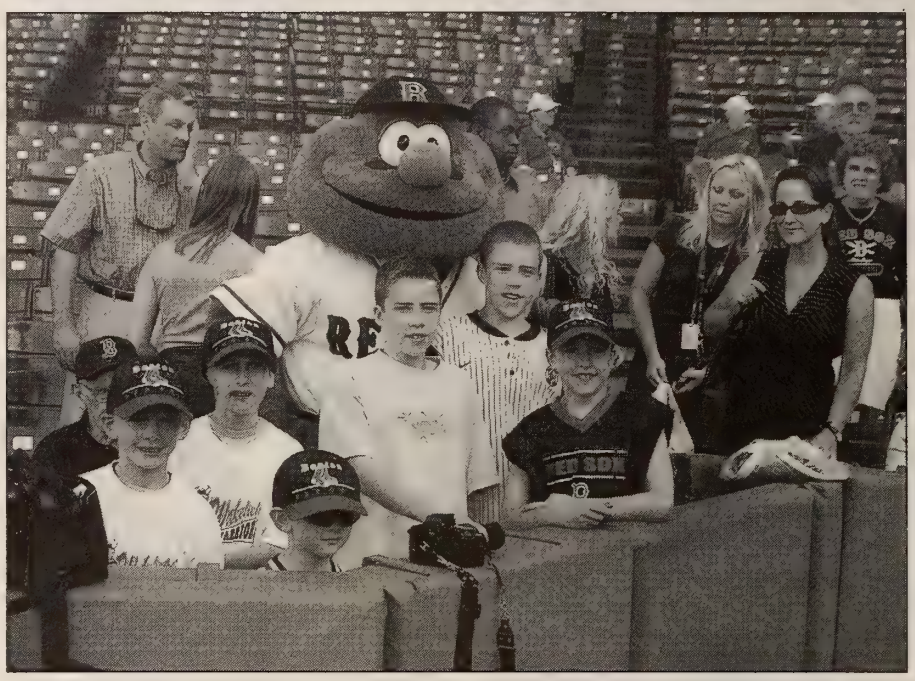
"Right now I'm helping to start up a new program of Fenway Ambassadors, who will be out and talking and proactively meeting fans on a day-to-day basis," she said.

McKenna said 3,500 people applied online through Bostonworks.com. She said they actually interviewed all 3,500 at a meet-and-greet session at the park and narrowed the group down to about 240 people.

"This will be a team that will work during the day and at the games. They will be the face of the Red Sox," she said.

She envisions the ambassadors greeting fans as they arrive via the "T," Boston's transit system, or the workers might board the T to hand out postcards of players.

"They'll be giving gifts to children and helping senior citizens to their seat and taking pictures of people so fans can have their memories captured at Fenway," she said.



CNS PHOTO BY FRED LEBLANC, CATHOLIC OBSERVER

**Fans of the Boston Red Sox baseball team are photographed with the "Green Monster" mascot at Fenway Park in Boston. Sarah McKenna of Springfield, Mass., director of fan services for the team, has made the park "fan friendly" by creating special services for kids and adult fans who regularly attend ballgames.**

McKenna graduated in 1992 from Cathedral High School in Springfield. In 1996, she graduated from Dominican-run Providence College in Rhode Island with a degree in health care policy and management.

Then she and some girlfriends hopped in a car and headed to Portland, Ore., where she worked briefly for the single-A Portland Rockies, a farm team of the Colorado Rockies.

She became interested in working in sports through a family friend, Peter Cooney, past owner of the former Springfield Indians minor league hockey team. "I've just been interested in sports my whole life," she said.

"She's got four brothers who say they should have that job," McKenna's mom, Chris Keaney, said with a chuckle. "But Sarah has worked hard to get where she is. When she worked for the minor league team in Oregon, she pulled tarp and sold tickets. She learned about baseball from the grass roots up."

Keaney said that McKenna's older siblings, David, Joe, Missy, Patrick and Stephen, have been great role models for her.

"And her father showed her how to work hard," said Keaney about her husband, Dave Keaney, a lawyer and consultant to U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass.

In Oregon, McKenna met her husband, Bill, who was from Framingham, Mass.

They moved to San Diego for Bill's job, and McKenna began working with the San Diego Padres on what turned out to be a successful campaign for a new ballpark, called Qualcomm Stadium.

That is how she met Larry Lucchino, Red Sox president and CEO, and Charles Steinberg, the team's executive vice president for public affairs. Making their acquaintance led to her getting the fan position at Fenway. McKenna learned at Christmas she would be working for the team.

"It was time for us to come home with our family. And we were ready for a change," she said. She and her husband have a 16-month-old daughter, Jameson.

McKenna seems comfortable in the old park where the "Green Monster," its famed 37-foot-high left field wall, looms over the crowd. She maintains a respectful distance as she stands a few feet away from some of baseballs' greats.

"This is their time. They don't need distractions," she said.

What does she like best about baseball? "I think I like the entertainment aspect of baseball. I like the way it has a real family atmosphere. A lot of memories are created at the ballpark, especially at Fenway," she said.

She said her Catholic faith has helped her in her work.

"I think my faith has taught me the lesson of patience. And I think of the idea of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you has helped. It is basically a good rule to go by," she said.


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# New Knights continue long, noble tradition

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

MOCKSVILLE — Father Michael J. McGivney founded a fraternal service-oriented brotherhood called the Knights of Columbus in 1882 in New Haven, Conn. His goal was to bring the men of his parish together in faith and fellowship while guaranteeing widows and orphans financial assistance.

Following the Christian ideals of its founder, the Knights has become an international organization dedicated to the promotion of the Catholic faith and the pro-life movement and the assistance of underprivileged children, the orphaned, the disabled and the handicapped.

The Knights formed its first council in Charlotte in 1903. The long, noble tradition continues to grow through the first U.S. council formed in the new millennium — the award-winning St. Francis of Assisi Church Council 12610 in Mocksville.

The triumvirate — Roger Hunckler, former grand Knight; Jim Gildein, former grand Knight; and Mercy Sister Mary Carmelita Hagen, past administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Church — started Council 12610 in 2000.

Hunckler guided the council through its first year with a membership of 23. In the 2001-2002 year, Gildein assumed leadership and helped expand the membership and push the council to greater heights. The council received the state awards for the largest percent membership gain and for the largest net membership gain, going from 23 to 53 members in a single year.

"A lot of us didn't even know each other. We have many of the same ideas, and through the Knights of Columbus, we have found we are not alone in our thoughts and have acquired good friendships," said third-degree Knight Al Streit.

The growing numbers and energized members have helped the council make its mark.

In the last two years, the council has received: the Supreme Star Council Award; the 2001-2002 N.C. State Council award, Division I; the State Deputy Award, Division I; the Community Award; the Council Recognition Program Award; the Scrapbook Award; and the Lamb Award for raising $7,608 during an Operation LAMB (Least Among My Brothers) drive, the proceeds of which benefited the Association of Retarded Citizens, the Special Olympics and the handicap program in South Davie Middle School.




Courtesy Photo

**"Mr. Tootsie" and Knight George Kimberly, a member of Council 12610, do their part during an Operation LAMB drive, in which proceeds went to the Association for Retarded Citizens, the Special Olympics and the handicap program at South Davie Middle School.**

But it is more than winning awards for Council 12610. The Knights lead rosary devotions; attend pro-life marches in Raleigh and Washington, DC; undertake church membership drives; have started a men's choir; have an ongoing Bible study; and have an annual retreat, which occurred this year at Lake Janaluska.

The council was instrumental in the financial efforts for the construction of a new church for St. Francis of Assisi, as well as the formation of a new "circle" of Columbian Squires 4713, which is aimed at the teens of the parish.

The council has also helped a 10-year-old quadriplegic, Taylor Lovelace, by contributing $1,200 toward the $70,000 needed for an operation to get him off a ventilator. Much of the money was raised through a very successful "Haunted House," which encompassed 1,500 hours of work for the Knights. Other charities that benefited from this project were the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and the American Red Cross.

Gildein attributes the success of the council to the general good intentions of the men of the parish who want to give back to the church.

"Working together has brought us to the success that our projects have demonstrated," said Streit.

Knight Francis Russell added; "Everybody worked on these projects together. We have a good bunch of guys here who are well organized. It's good to see the Knights of Columbus working with the church and the youth of our parish."

*Contact Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

# Eucharistic adoration

ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., hosts eucharistic adoration on the following days: Friday mornings immediately following the 9 a.m. Mass until noon, Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:15 p.m. and today and every first Friday from 9:30 a.m.-8:45 p.m. For more information, call the church at (828) 684-6098.

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., hosts daily adoration from 6 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information, call Jane Sorrells at (828) 298-0334.

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd., now hosts daily adoration in the perpetual adoration chapel across from the monastery from 10 p.m.-6 a.m. because of lack of participation. For volunteer and other information, call Marie Siebers at (704) 827-6734.

CHARLOTTE — All are invited to St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., for perpetual adoration. For volunteer and other information, call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas, 1400 Suther Rd., hosts eucharistic adoration every first Friday from 1:15 p.m.-midnight, and eucharistic holy hour takes place every Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Aquinas Hall is open everyday from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 2nd St. NE, hosts eucharistic adoration on the first Friday of the month from Sept. to May in Sebastian Chapel from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. For volunteer and other information, call Jean Marie Hirsch at (828) 495-4339.

HIGH POINT — Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., hosts perpetual adoration in the chapel. For volunteer and other information, call Theresa Hansen at (336) 273-1507.

MOCKSVILLE — St. Francis of Assisi Church, 862 Yadkinville Rd., hosts eucharistic adoration the first Friday of the month from 11 a.m.-noon. For further details, call the church office at (336) 751-2973.

SYLVA — Eucharistic adoration takes place every first Saturday at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., following 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For more information, call Linda Knauer at (828) 631-3561.

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### Catholic astronaut honored after six-month 'Walz' through space

LEAGUE CITY, Texas (CNS) — For Carl Walz, returning home to family and friends was of primary interest following his six-month traveling excursion. Still, one cannot underestimate the draw of gravity. St. Mary Church, Walz's home parish, joined earth's gravitational pull in welcoming the astronaut back to League City with a recent Mass and reception in his honor. Walz is one of the two NASA astronauts who broke the American endurance record with 196 days in space onboard the International Space Station. Following an introduction by pastor Msgr. Eugene Cargill, Msgr. Frank H. Rossi presented Walz with a diocesan medal of recognition from Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston. The diocesan chancellor told the assembly that only 15 medals have been distributed since the original was first cast under Bishop John L. Morkovsky in the mid-1970s.

### Religious brother manifests love of art through sculpture, education

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Christian Brother Joseph McNally, missionary and artist, culls his inspiration from the principal Christian mysteries, his subjects from universal symbolism and his materials, quite often, from swamps and bogs. Many works by Brother McNally, 79, a native of Ireland and naturalized Singaporean citizen, were to be on display throughout the Washington area through August. "I regard myself, as we all are, as the human instrument of God," Brother McNally said in an interview with Catholic News Service. "I am particularly interested in God the creator and his creative spirit, which has caused the whole world to have the kind of beauty it has. Therefore, I look for ways in which I can express the idea of creation." His exhibited sculptures were of two sorts: "resurrected" wood and welded bronze.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Pilgrim is silhouetted at Toronto train station**

**A youth carries a cross as he arrives July 22 at the Toronto train station for World Youth Day. Hundreds of thousands of youths were making the pilgrimage to spend time with Pope John Paul II at World Youth Day July 23-28.**

### Jesuit historian says endless attacks on Pius XII are not news

ROME (CNS) — The endless, repetitive attacks on Pope Pius XII's behavior during World War II run strangely counter to the demand of journalists and writers to keep coming up with something new, said a Jesuit historian. The supposed "silence" of the pope is "the only argument given an exception" from the news-news rule, said Father Pierre Blet in the Jesuit magazine, La Civilta Cattolica. "For 40 years the same refrain has been repeated in every key: During the last world war, when the National Socialist regime exterminated the Jews, Pope Pius XII knew and was silent, when with a word he could have saved them," the priest wrote. Father Blet helped edit the 12 volumes of World War II Vatican archive material published from 1965 to 1981 and in 1999 published a book based on the material.

### Juan Diego sainthood cause implied he existed, Vatican official says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While the sainthood cause of Blessed Juan Diego faced several votes at the Vatican, no one was so blunt as to ask: Did he exist or was he a legend? However, officials familiar with the cause said each stage of the process leading to his July 31 canonization, as well as the 18th-century investigations into the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe, were supported by evidence that he once lived. When the Vatican recognized Juan Diego lived a heroically holy life and he interceded to save the life of a young man, "the fact that he lived was implied," said Jesuit Father Paolo Molinari, who was postulator of the cause until 1990, when Pope John Paul II proclaimed Juan Diego blessed.

### Church leaders welcome announcement of new archbishop of Canterbury

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — British Catholic leaders welcomed the announcement that the new archbishop of Canterbury will be Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams of Wales. Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Westminster, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, praised Archbishop Williams as a "theologian of distinction, a man of deep spirituality and a gifted communicator." The cardinal said July 23, "He will, I have no doubt, prove to be a force for great good in this country and throughout the Christian world." Archbishop Williams, 52, will succeed Archbishop George Carey, who is retiring Oct. 31 after 11 years as spiritual head of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Bishop Crispian Hollis of Portsmouth, England, chairman of the English and Welsh bishops' Committee for Mission and Unity, said: "Archbishop Williams will be a challenging voice both within the Anglican Communion and for all those who work for the unity of Christ's church from other denominations.




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# Two men ordained for transitional diaconate, will act as link between communities

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Two of the diocesan faithful, who have chosen a life of commitment to the church, moved one step closer to fulfillment of their decisions to become priests. Rev. Messrs. Julio Cesar Dominguez and Enrique Gonzalez-Gaytan were ordained to the transitional diaconate at a bilingual Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral July 20.

In a celebration of two cultures, the choir sang selections in Spanish; the readings and Bishop William G. Curlin's homily were also translated into Spanish. The spirit of oneness flowed throughout the sanctuary in celebration of two men who will become priests of the Diocese of Charlotte. Family, friends and diocesan priests and deacons witnessed the men make one of their important steps on the road to priesthood.

Even though the men are at different points in their faith journeys, both hail from Mexico and studied at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. They have been in this country about two years but studied for the priesthood in Mexico before coming to the U.S. to complete their educations. Most of the deacons' family members still live in Mexico, but they have relatives in the diocese.

Rev. Mr. Dominguez, 30, has been working at St. Michael Church in Gastonia and Holy Family Church in Clemmons. He will return to St. Charles in the fall to complete his seminary training but has also studied in Rome.

"Everyone has a vocation, and I answered my call because I wanted to serve the people," Rev. Mr. Dominguez said. "The further development of my spiritual life attracted me to the priesthood."

Rev. Mr. Gonzalez-Gaytan, 33, completed his work at St. Charles in May and will continue studying language in a specialized program in the fall. He has been serving at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton, St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem and Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe.

During the rite of ordination of a deacon, the bishop calls the candidate forth to make the promise of celibacy and the vow of obedience. The candidate lies prostrate on the floor while those in attendance, including the bishop; those priests concelebrating and deacons serving, kneel and pray the litany of the saints. The bishop lays his hands and asks the Holy Spirit to descend upon the candidate. The candidate is then vested with the dalmatic and stole, and as a deacon, assists during the rest of the Mass.

During his homily, Bishop Curlin stressed the importance of the Eucharist, prayer and a deeply rooted dedication to Christ in the lives of priests in order for them to fully serve God's people to best of their abilities.

"As you come forth today, ask God to help you to become holy priests and saints. You must stand before the world as a deacon, and later as a priest, and tell everyone of your dedication to Jesus Christ," the bishop said. "At times, my brothers, it will be difficult, but if you don't communicate daily with God through prayer, Scripture and the Eucharist, then you will not be able to be a good priest."

The bishop told the men that with all of the problems facing today's church and its people, only the love of Christ will strengthen their ministries: "Jesus Christ is your life, and you must lock out anything that will disrupt that relationship. You have to bring your weaknesses to Jesus through faithful reconciliation. People will respect you because you will live the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the world."

"These men have immediate knowledge and understanding of the culture from which they have emerged and will be important bridge-builders in the diocese," Father Allen said.

The two men will be ordained to the priesthood within the next year. In September, the Diocese of Charlotte will have 23 men studying at various seminaries which includes nine new candidates pending, said Father John Allen, director of vocations.

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*



Photo by Alesha M. Price

**Rev. Messrs. Julio Cesar Dominguez and Enrique Gonzalez-Gaytan, left to right, stand with Bishop William G. Curlin after the transitional diaconate ordination mass at St. Patrick Cathedral July 20.**

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# MSGR. SHOWFETY, from page 1

the priesthood, back when he was an altar boy at St. Benedict Church in Greensboro and a student at St. Benedict Grammar School. "The first thoughts came at that time," he said, but they were on the back burner by the time he was a Greensboro High student, playing sports and working for his father.

Showfety attended The Citadel military college in Charleston, S.C., for six months before enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1945.

"When I was in boot camp, the German war ended," he recalled. "When I was in service school, the Japanese war ended." He was transferred to the Naval Training Center in Great Lakes, Ill., where he was a yeoman in the personnel center. "I had the distinction of typing up my own discharge papers. Not many can say that."

After leaving the Navy, Showfety worked for his father for a year while contemplating the priesthood.

Finally he decided where his calling lay. "None of us deserve to be priests," Msgr. Showfety said. "It's a gift given to us by the divine Lord. He chooses us; we don't choose him."

He majored in philosophy and English at Mount Saint Mary's College & Seminary in Maryland, earning his degree in 1951, then studying theology at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore in one of the largest seminary classes in the world at the time.

Ordained a month, he was assigned to St. Mary Church in Mount Olive, where the Diocese of Raleigh had recently purchased a house for use as the rectory. The building had no furniture, just "a toilet, a bathtub, a bathroom sink and a kitchen sink. No heat, no hot water—. I had nothing," said Msgr. Showfety, who did much of the repair work. "We had to have the floors sanded. I was on my knees putting the varnish on the floor. My dad helped a great deal; it took us several months to get the place in shape."

He also traveled a lot, gaining an education beyond what he'd had in the seminary. Like other new priests in the diocese at the time, he was assigned to work in mission areas under the supervision of a pastor, spending half his time in the parish, half his time in a mission.

"You basically lived in your car," he said. "You were on your own for three to four days a week, which was a good experience. So most of us old-timers from Raleigh have been through this system. I feel



File Photo

sorry for newly ordained priests; they go from being students in the seminary, and all of a sudden — boom — they're thrown into large parishes and all of the work involved in that."

The Diocese of Raleigh was a lot different back then. "In those days it was tough," said Msgr. Showfety, recalling black and white parishes. "Integration has changed all that. St. Mary, which was a black parish for years, has been integrated the way everything else has been integrated. They have, I think now, 14 different nationalities in the parish."

Over the years, he held a variety of positions, including secretary to the Priests' Senate, and administrator of the original Bishop McGuinness High School in Winston-Salem and the now-defunct Asheville Catholic High School. He was pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville and director of nearby Our Lady of the Hills Camp when he got that call naming him the first chancellor of the Charlotte Diocese, a position he held until 1974.

Father Showfety went to Raleigh the next day to begin the process of forming the new diocese. "There was an awful lot of work involved. I knew nothing about chancery work. Everything was new for us," said Msgr. Showfety, who did the bulk of the setup work with Bishop Begley and two secretaries. "It was a lot of hours, a lot of headaches. We didn't have much time for ourselves.

"I look back with honor. The spirit was excellent. People were very supportive of Bishop Begley—they knew him, and they loved him. The priests were very cooperative and helpful."

The first chancery staff worked out of two rooms in the rectory of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte. Later, it was in a house to which Father Showfety would commute from Concord. In 1974, the chancery moved into a building where "everything came into place," Msgr. Showfety said. "We had room and all of the offices in one building; before, departments were scattered across town. In my day, I kept the books. I made the deposits. Today, there's a big finance office there. What I did myself, they have many people doing. It's a whole different diocese now. We're growing, and we're growing very fast."

He was appointed monsignor in 1976. Bishop Begley wanted to surprise him by having the declaration sent to his residence, but was out of town when Father Showfety picked up the mail. "I never told him I (already) knew about it," Msgr. Showfety said of the bishop's "surprise" announcement.

The diocese continued to grow. Some of that growth is attributed to the increasing number of Hispanic Catholics in the diocese. Msgr. Showfety recalls 350 Hispanics attending the first Spanish Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church a year ago. Now, as with other churches in the diocese, there are regular Spanish Masses at Our Lady of Grace Church. He believes more must be done.

Priestly ministry has also changed. There are "more demands, more people and more involvement of the laity," he said. "Many priests think of themselves as CEOs with people working under them. The laity are doing the work that priests have done before — the pastoral aspects, not the secular aspects."

However, some things about the priesthood should never change; priests cannot forget that they are priests, Msgr. Showfety said. "We're not laymen; we're priests. We cannot forget that. If we don't forget we're priests, nobody else will."

With the recent national attention focused on priests, Msgr. Showfety recommends prayer. "We need to keep praying as priests," he said. "It's a deep scandal for the church, but we'll come out of this better as a church and better as priests in the years to come."

As for his future, Msgr. Showfety has a lot planned. "I don't feel much retired yet," he said, still settling into his new apartment in Greensboro. "I'll play golf more frequently, I hope."

He also hopes to tape his recollections of the original Bishop McGuinness High School. "I'm the only one who knows the beginnings of the high school," he said. He wants to make copies of the tape and keep one in the diocesan archives and one at the new high school in Kernersville.

Will he miss serving in active ministry?

"I'm sure to miss it," he said. " ... I had a good run — 47 years. I have no regrets at all."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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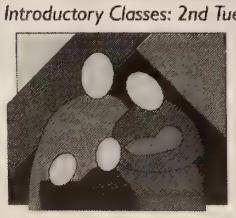

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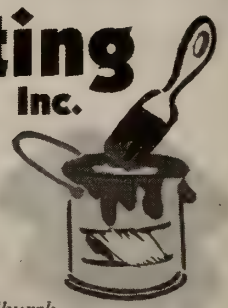
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# *Feis for all:* Irish dance keeps youth on toes

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — For these kids, Irish dancing is just plain fun. Going to the world finals on the other side of the globe is an added bonus.

Twelve young dancers, ages 11 to 17, of the Rince Na h'Eireann dance school ventured to Glasgow, Scotland, for the World Irish Dancing Championships March 24 to April 1. There, they competed against some of the finest dancers from around the world.

"They were all very excited, and they had worked very hard," said Sandra Connick, owner of Rince Na h'Eireann.

Connick, who has been an Irish dancer since childhood, opened the Charlotte school in 1993 after moving with her family from Cork, Ireland. It wasn't the first time she and her teaching partner Pam Pierce have brought dancers to the world finals, but it was the first time they brought them to Scotland.

"(This competition) was the first one ever held out of Ireland in 33 years," said Connick. "There were thousands of people there from all over the world."

It was a new experience for Hillary Dawe and Brian Waldrep, both first-timers to the world championships.

"The Irish and English dancers were amazing," said 11-year-old Dawe, a St. Matthew Church parishioner.

"It was overwhelming the first time seeing all of those Irish dancers," said 12-year-old Waldrep, a parishioner at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel in Winston-Salem. "But it was exciting, too."

The fierce competition did little to sway the determination of the group, who trained exhaustively for weeks in advance. Dawe placed 115th out of 154 competitors in the girls under 12 category. Waldrep placed 42nd out of 60 in the boys under 12 category.



Photo by Kevin E. Murray

**Catholic youth, who are dancers from the Rince Na h'Eireann dance school in Charlotte, venntured to Glasgow, Scotland, to compete in the World Irish Dancing Championships March 24 to April 1.**

"You have to have self-discipline," noted 17-year-old Jenny Britt of St. Matthew Church. "My friends think it's awesome that I do it (dancing), but they don't like all the time it takes up."

That discipline means training up to five days a week for some of the dancers.

Waldrep, who has been dancing since he was 7, trains at Connick's Winston-Salem school but also spends Mondays practicing at the Charlotte location. Despite the hard work, he enjoys being able to compete and have fun at the same time.

"It's incredible to see your child up on that stage," said Brian's mother, Ellen, who watched him dance in Scotland. "And knowing he's doing what he loves is a thrill."

"If you have a negative attitude, you won't enjoy it," said Britt.

"My friends think it's cool that we get to travel," said 17-year-old Annie Garvey, who attends St. Patrick Cathedral. Garvey said they've been to competitions in Boston, Georgia, Texas, California and Ireland, among other places.

"They love to go to the general competitions," said Connick. Her students participate regularly in "feishanas" — plural for "feis," a competition or festival — where they hone their skills for the "oireachtas," the qualifying round for the world championships.

"(Dancers) have to be at a certain competition level to go to the Southern Regional," said Connick.

Her dancers went to the Southern Region oireachtas in St. Petersburg, Fla., in December 2001, where only the top 20 percent of all dancers qualified for the world championships. Twelve were Connick's students.

"They work so hard together," said Connick. "They are very good at encouraging each other and pushing each other. They get satisfaction from watching others do well."

"The kids in the class have become close friends because they put so much time and effort into dancing," said Ellen Waldrep.

"We're like a big family," said 13-year-old Pierce Beach, a member of St. Patrick Cathedral. "We're all friends here. We don't have to worry about popularity; it's all about having fun."

Beach, who placed 20th out of 56 competitors in the boys under 14 category, noted they were looking forward to the next world championships. "We're all shooting to go back," said Beach. "The next one is rumored to be in Australia. I'll paddle there if I have to."

"It's not all about the championships," said Connick, noting Irish dance implements exercise, teamwork, self-confidence and social skills.

Ellen said Brian used to be shy. Now, "he can talk to a room full of people about dancing and do a demonstration for them, too," she said.

"I enjoy watching those who struggle in the beginning go on to succeed. I'm very proud of them all," said Connick.

The Waldreps credit the dancers' success to the teachers. "Sandra and Pam are fabulous and so great with the kids. They make it fun for them," said Ellen.

"Sandra and Pam are more than teachers to me. They've become friends," said Brian, who hopes to keep getting better at Irish dance. "Once you're at a certain level, you can make up your own steps."

And like many of the dancers, Waldrep would one day like to be in "Riverdance," the show credited for the recent popularity of Irish dance.

"We all want to be in Riverdance," said Beach. "You get to travel the world, be famous and get paid for what you love."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*


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# Religious intolerance cheats Catholic student's education

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

MOCKSVILLE — Fifteen-year-old Ben Holmes said he learned more about intolerance than compassion at Sheets Memorial Christian School.

"When the school year ended, they said they weren't accepting me back," he said. "The main reason: they're opposed to Catholics."

Holmes started attending the Lexington school as a freshman last fall after he and his mother, Cynthia, relocated from Portland, Maine. Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville was too far away, she said.

"Our real-estate agent invited us to her church and said it had a really good youth group," said Cynthia, referring to Blaise Baptist Church, which is affiliated with Sheets Christian School. "She said many kids from the church went to the school."

Though Catholic, Cynthia had no concerns about attending a Protestant church or letting Ben go to a Protestant school that incorporates religion into its curriculum.

"I wasn't scared to let him learn about other faiths because I know his faith is strong," she said, explaining how she grew up among many different religions. Besides, "It was described as a non-sectarian school in their papers and ads. It shouldn't exclude any religion."

In January, the Holmeses decided to stop attending Blaise Baptist Church. "There were adverse comments toward Presbyterians and Catholics made," said Cynthia. "It became clear this was not a church that was accepting of new people."

Ben still enjoyed attending Sheets Christian School and made many friends. He would stay after school to help cleanup classrooms. It was early March when Ben made the sign of the cross after a prayer in Bible study class.

"The teacher looked like he had seen a ghost," said Ben. "He said, 'You've got to be kidding me.'"

Soon after, principal Dan Hightower summoned Cynthia to his office. "He said Ben was an exemplary young man and wasn't in any trouble, but was concerned because he was Catholic," said Cynthia.

Cynthia said Hightower claimed Catholics were "idol worshipers" and didn't have the same view of salvation. Because the school philosophy is that the home, school and church must complement one another, Hightower said Ben would have to attend Blaise Baptist Church to stay enrolled. "I told him that was absolutely unacceptable to me," said Cynthia.

"It was a cold situation at school after that," said Ben, "like I was in a dark room."

In late May, the Holmeses were called to a school board meeting. "There was no discussion of my son's grades or behavior. They just asked us questions of faith," said Cynthia.

"They asked very irrelevant questions, mostly directed to my beliefs in salvation," said Ben. "They found that very disagreeable."

The Holmeses were told the Baptist and Catholic doctrines were incompatible.

"I asked them to consider Ben's psychological welfare and to let him stay in the school with his friends," said Cynthia.

Afterward, Cynthia said Hightower shook her hand. "He said it was 'nothing personal' — his words — and showed us to the door," she said.

A month after school ended, the Holmeses received a letter indicating Ben could not return because of a change in his application.

"It was written very ambiguously," said Cynthia. "It was either because we changed churches or because I had changed jobs. Those were the only two changes on the application."

Cynthia indicated there was nothing in the application stating the school needed to be notified if Ben switched churches. "And we never gave them any indication we'd be joining that church," she said.

"I couldn't believe the way Christians were treating Christians," said Ben. "They were supposed to teach me about Christ's compassion. They taught me about hypocrisy instead."

The Holmeses are now attending St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mocksville. "They've been wonderful. It's good to be home," said Cynthia.

"I'm simply disappointed in what happened. We (Catholics and Baptists) have a lot in common in our belief in the Lord," said Father Andrew Draper, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi. "A kid who's well-grounded in his faith should be able to go to school wherever he wants."

Ben will be attending Davie High School in the fall. Cynthia had hoped to keep him out of public school, so he "could pray without retribution and have God's name not taken in vain," she said.

But she said the experience has been positive in many ways. "Ben's never been challenged before. He's delved into and strengthened his faith," said Cynthia.

Ben still thinks highly of Sheets Christian School. "There's just a few bad apples," he said.

Cynthia said she went to the media about Sheets Christian School because she "thought people should know what kind of intolerance their kids are being taught. How will they learn to be tolerant if they're not being taught tolerance?"

"I sincerely hope this brings people together instead of pushing them apart," said Father Draper. "There's an opportunity for growth if we act rather than react."

"We're all Christians. We'll all be standing before God one day, and he won't ask us our denominations," said Cynthia. "He'll ask more relevant questions about what kind of people we were."

Sheets Christian School said Principal Hightower refused to comment.

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

## Pastoral Assignments

*Bishop William G. Curlin announces the following pastoral changes:*

**Effective July 9 (correction);**

**Appointment of Vicariate Vicar**

| | |
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| **Rev. John Hanic** | From: Chaplain, Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, Charlotte<br>To: Pastor, St. John Baptist de la Salle with Mission St. Stephen, Elkin |
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# Workshops to make better catechists planned for August

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

The Diocese of Charlotte's competency-based process for the training of catechists, the "Catechist Recognition Process," will be held in a series of workshops over the month of August.

All catechists and interested adults are encouraged to attend the workshop in their area.

"The workshop will help catechists become certified for their roles in the parishes," said Franciscan Sister Bernadette Svatos, OSF, coordinator for the Northern Region of Faith Formation.

Catechesis attempts to echo the faith in the liturgy, sacraments, words and works, according to the diocesan handbook for catechetical leaders. "It is the mission of the catechist to proclaim the Gospel to all the evangelized and the unevangelized."

"Fashioning a Eucharistic People" will be held at St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley 6:30-8:30 p.m. Aug. 5. "Using the Lectionary in the Liturgical Year" workshops will be held at St. Mary Church in Sylva 7-9 p.m. Aug. 6 and at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin 7-9 p.m. Aug. 19.

"This workshop gives the history of the lectionary," said Mary Herr, coordinator for the Smoky Mountain region. "It's helpful for lectors to know why we use the one we have now and how it has evolved throughout the centuries."

"Lighting the Fires of Faith VIII," the eighth workshop for the Northern Region, will be held at Holy Family Church in Clemmons 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Aug. 24. The keynote speaker will be Father James Hawker, vicar for education and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.

Sessions include "Skills and Theory," "Sacraments," "Catholic Social Teachings" and "Contemporary Moral Issues," and many will be presented in both English and Spanish.

The same day, the "Footsteps of Faith" workshop for the Central Region will be at St. Aloysius Church 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 24. Keynote speaker will be Father George Kloster, vicar of the Smoky Mountain vicariate and pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville and St. William Church in Murphy.

"It (the workshop) will give them the tools to be better catechists," said Peg Ruble, coordinator for the Central Region. "At the workshop, they are able to participate in a fellowship atmosphere and be inspired in their catechesis."

Another Catechist Recognition Process workshop will take place in the Southern Region on Aug. 24 at St. Vincent de Paul Church at 4 p.m.

"I strongly encourage catechists to work toward their certification in the diocese," said Sister Bernadette.

Catechists are called to a special ministry and have a responsibility to walk in the footsteps of Christ, said Ruble. "It's an experience to deepen their knowledge of their faith."

*For more information please contact: Smoky Mountain Region: Mary Herr (828) 497-9498; Northern Region: Sister Bernadette (336) 271-2917; Central Region: Peg Ruble (704) 391-0445; Southern Region: Joann Mahoney (704) 554-7088*

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

# First Catholic college in Georgia aims for fall 2003 opening

By PRISCILLA GREEAR
Catholic News Service

DAWSONVILLE, Ga. (CNS) — With $10 million already raised and an estimated $24 million still to go, construction has begun on the first Catholic college in Georgia, scheduled to open in the fall of 2003.

Some 400 benefactors, volunteers and other supporters attended the groundbreaking this spring on the cleared site of the 356-acre campus for Southern Catholic College in Dawsonville, about 40 miles north of Atlanta.

Southern Catholic will be an independent Catholic liberal arts college, dedicated to providing a technologically advanced learning environment grounded in the teaching of Catholic values and the Catholic intellectual tradition.

"Things have happened in the last two-and-a-half years because God directed people to come forward and actually participate in this project," said Tom Clements, Southern Catholic chairman, at the groundbreaking. "I appreciate not only your efforts but your passion."

Clements recalled that two years ago Jeremiah Ashcroft, then president of East Georgia College in Swainsboro, e-mailed him wanting to help in the school's development. After launching a nationwide search for a college president, looking at over 200 candidates, Ashcroft was the committee's choice as first president of Southern Catholic.

"If you want to deepen your faith, go back to the work of being obedient to what you feel the Holy Spirit is telling you," Clements said. Ashcroft "is the individual who contacted us first — if I just would have paid attention."

Ashcroft pledged that the school will provide a quality education, enabling graduates to make a good living but also to have the moral and ethical formation necessary for a good life. He plans to form partnerships with sister schools, especially North Georgia College and State University and Gainesville College.

Linda Williams, president of the Dawson County Chamber of Commerce, spoke of the benefits to the area, including increased social, cultural, recreational and educational venues, and the economic benefit through jobs, business opportunities and tourism.

"On behalf of all your new neighbors here, we support you and look forward to the many opportunities for partnerships that will benefit both Southern Catholic College and the community," she said.

Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta gave the opening prayer of dedication, asking for blessings "on this center of seeking, of learning, and of teaching what is true."

"The Catholic college is a place where this revelation of faith, and this enlightenment of the human spirit, can and will take place," he said. "Too long, our home — this beautiful state of Georgia — has been without a temple for this synthesis of faith and reason."

The Rev. Jim Gaines of First Baptist Church, Dawsonville, said, "The faith community of Dawson County is overjoyed and looks forward to working with Archbishop Donoghue and Ashcroft together as we serve this community." He added that, with such a large Baptist turnout at a Catholic event, "it's got to be God's will."

Southern Catholic has set a goal of $34 million to cover start-up costs, the first phase of buildings and operating costs through the 2006-2007 academic year.

The first phase includes construction of a residence hall, academic/office/administration building, gymnasium and a facilities building. The expected completion date is next fall.

There will be 61 hours required in the core curriculum, which will explore what it means to be human and people's relations to God, nature and community.

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Individuals are encouraged to apply by sending a letter stating your professional background, your parish and why you would like to serve on The Catholic News & Herald advisory board. Please respond by August 16 to:

Joann S. Keane, Editor
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1123 S. Church St. Charlotte, NC 28203

## In brief ...

### Free educational workshop to be presented for seniors

ALBEMARLE — Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministry in collaboration with U.S. Financial Services will be presenting "The Senior Financial Workshop" Aug. 27 from 10-11:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, 416 N. 2nd St. The free educational workshop for seniors 65 and over will focus on ways to reduce or eliminate taxes on social security, protecting assets from nursing homes and probate, alternatives to Wall Street and other elder planning techniques. For reservations and other information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Marlo Wallace at (704) 370-3228.

### Glenmary missionary to speak in mountains

BOONE — Glenmary Father Rollie Hautz of the Glenmary Home Missioners will speak at Masses the weekend of Aug. 3 and 4 at St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way. Father Hautz will speak to parishioners and guests about the Glenmarys' ministry in Appalachia, the rural South and the Southwest. This society of priests and brothers, along with coworkers, minister exclusively in the United States where less than one percent of the population is Catholic and the poverty rate is twice the national average. For further details, call the church office at (828) 264-8338 or (828) 264-6347.

### Group starting for separated and divorced Catholics in Triad

CLEMMONS — Beginning in Oct., the Family Life Commission of Holy Family Church will begin a group for separated and divorced Catholics in the Triad. This group will act as a network for sharing information and resources while also providing spiritual and social support. For more information and questions, contact Donna Kronner at (336) 631-8892.

### K of C annual corn roast pops off in August

FRANKLIN — The Knights of Columbus annual corn roast will take place Aug. 16 at 5 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St. For tickets and other information, call the church office at (828) 524-2289.

### St. William Church Ladies Guild rummage sale to take place in August

MURPHY — A rummage sale, sponsored by the St. William Church Ladies Guild, will be held Aug. 2 and 3 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 765 Andrews Rd. The group requests unused treasures and outgrown clothing. All contributions need to be dropped off at the Glenmary Center Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon beginning June 26. For the donation of large items, contact Mary Lane at (828) 494-7161.

# Mercy Sister Mary Kathleen McNamara dies at 97

BELMONT— Mercy Sister Mary Kathleen McNamara, 97, died July 21 at Marian Center, Sacred Heart Convent. She was received as a Sister of Mercy on Feb. 2, 1942 and was in her 61st year as a Mercy Sister.

The vigil service was held July 23 in the Cardinal Gibbons Memorial Chapel at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont.; visitation followed. A Mass of Christian Burial was held July 24 at the Cardinal Gibbons Memorial Chapel, and burial followed at Belmont Abbey Cemetery.

Sister Mary Kathleen McNamara was born Nov. 4, 1904 in Dunree, Buncrana County, Donegal, Ireland, and baptized Fanny McLaughlin. The sixth child of twelve, she and her sister, Rosemary, came to America together. She took the name Sister Mary Kathleen upon entering the religious order of the Sisters of Mercy on Aug. 2, 1941.

Sister Kathleen received her bachelor's degree from Belmont Abbey College, and she attended postgraduate classes at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Shortly after her entrance, she began her ministry teaching at Sacred Heart School in Salisbury, where she taught in the primary grades for five years. Then, it was back to St. Mary's in Wilmington, where she served as principal for 11 years and as the superior of her local community from 1965-68.

In 1968, after 25 years devoted to the education of Catholic youth, she returned to Belmont to begin teaching at Sacred Heart Campus School where she remained until 1982.



Her elegant countenance and outward beauty mirrored the beauty within, and her smile was but a window of her soul. She radiated a sense of peace and well-being to all those who knew her. In fact, she made such a distinct impression on many of her former students that they continued to visit her up until her death. Her quick wit never failed, and the joy and laughter she readily shared with her family, her sisters. Her friends will serve to remind us of her often; she actively served in a prayer ministry until her death.

Her uncanny memory for names, faces and facts, her love for Damon's ribs, playing "Uno" in the evenings, her frequent tea parties and her love for the beach became the stuff of legend. She was frequently referred to as "Miss Hospitality." Many will remember her sliding her rosary beads between her slender fingers as she prayed for her beloved community, her family and her friends.

Sister Mary Kathleen was the daughter of the late Daniel and Fanny McLaughlin. She is survived by several nieces who visited her frequently, Mary McNally, Mrs. Barbara Peznowski and Mrs. Fran Robinson, as well as numerous other nieces, nephews and cousins.


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## BIBLE SCHOOL, from page 13

leader coordinator for one of the preschool sessions, said, "Our objective here is to make sure they leave with open hearts and have good experiences about God, love, forgiveness and how to help one another."

One of the crafts constructed by students was Velcro people that showed how people can stick to one another in friendship and that God also sticks to them in friendship.

Morgan Maceldowney really enjoyed the "bug" part of the program — each bug told a different Bible story.

"It's a real nice program," said Katie O'Keeffe, another youth crew leader who has attended Vacation Bible School since she was seven. "The kids learned the concept of God and that he knows and loves them."

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

# Father Lightner, Belmont Abbey monk, dies at 87

BELMONT — Benedictine Father Bede Charles Lightner, a monk of Belmont Abbey, died peacefully on July 10, after several years of declining health. He was strengthened by the celebration of the sacrament of the anointing of the sick with his confreres before his death. He was 87.

Father Lightner is survived by the monks of Belmont Abbey; Michael and Beverly Campos and their children, Stephen and Faye Campos; Mary Jane Sweeney and other cousins and by numerous friends and former students.

Father Lightner was born on May 3, 1915, in McKeesport, Penn., the son of Charles W. and Frances Hufgard Lightner. He was only two years old when his mother died and nine years old at the death of his father. He was raised by his aunt, Mary "Mame" Reilly.

Before graduating from St. Peter's Grammar School and High School in McKeesport, Father Lightner realized his desire to be a priest and teacher. His pastor at St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe encouraged a meeting with Benedictine Father Michael McInerney, a McKeesport native and monk of Belmont Abbey, who invited Father Lightner to come to the abbey.

Father Lightner began his novitiate at St. Vincent Archabbey, receiving the name of Bede, and he made his first profession of vows as a monk of Belmont Abbey on July 2, 1935. After completing his studies at Belmont Abbey College in 1937, Father Lightner continued his preparation for the priesthood at the Belmont Abbey Seminary. On June 15, 1941, he was ordained to the priesthood at St. Vincent Archabbey by Bishop Hugh C. Boyle of Pittsburgh. Father Lightner continued his studies at Davidson College and Duquesne University and ultimately earned his master's in romance languages from the Catholic University of America in 1946.

He served as rector of the College at Belmont, associate pastor at St. Benedict Church and teacher at Benedictine High School in Richmond, Va. He served at Sacred Heart Priory and Benedictine Military School in Savannah, Ga.

In 1989, Father Lightner took a leave of absence from the priesthood and transferred his residence to Decatur, Ga. In 1998, through the solicitude and kindness of Abbot Oscar Burnett, OSB, Father Lightner returned to his original monastic home and resumed his life as a capitular of Belmont Abbey. He was an active participant in the life and prayer of the monastic community and concelebrated daily at the conventual Mass as long as he was able.

His body was received in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians at Belmont Abbey before vespers July 12. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the Abbey Basilica July 13. Bishop William G. Curlin presided, with assistance by the monks of Belmont Abbey and Sacred Heart Priory and priests of the Diocese of Charlotte. Abbot Burnett gave the homily. Burial in the abbey cemetery followed.


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**Book Review**

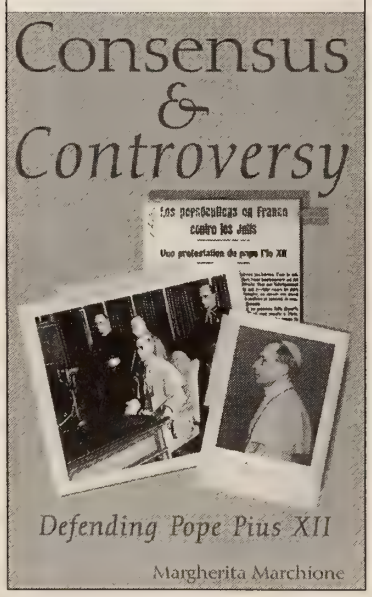
# Books shed new light on Holocaust controversy

REVIEWED BY EUGENE J. FISHER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Books on Pius XII and the Holocaust proliferate today. This is healthy. It reveals a Catholic community willing to grapple with one of the worst evils of human history and with even the most difficult moments of its own history.

Most of the recent rash of books are by Catholics — whether those attacking the pope's record (John Cornwell, James Carroll, Michael Phayer or Gary Wills), those defending him (Ronald Rychlak and the first two reviewed here), and those seeking to present a balanced overview of the controversy (the latter two reviewed here), with the exception of Protestant Holocaust scholar John K. Roth.




Readers seeking a spirited defense of the Vatican's World War II policies, supported by a mass of telling detail, will gravitate toward Sister Margherita Marchione's "Consensus and Controversy: Defending Pope Pius XII" as handy to have on the shelf. Sister Margherita, a member of the Religious Teachers Filippini, does an excellent job, demolishing with a myriad of facts the specious arguments of Cornwell — and therefore Carroll, whose treatment is derivative of Cornwell's — as well as Susan Zuccotti's silly thesis in "Under His Very Windows," published by Yale University Press, that unless a written statement by Pope Pius to the Catholic clergy ordering them to help Jews can be found, it must be concluded that he did nothing.

But Sister Margherita falters in some areas — for example, in presenting the results of the International Catholic-Jewish Historical Commission, whose "Preliminary Report" included the 47 questions that she somehow divorces from it. That report, and the background papers and correspondence of the group with the Holy See, can be found in the May 2002 issue of Catholic International for readers interested in what the scholars really had to say.

Justus George Lawler's "Popes and Politics" is the subtler defense, since he allows and even applauds a good range of responsible criticism, such as that by Father John Morley. His fourth chapter, "Proclamation vs. Reprisal," is especially effective both in rebutting the false canard of papal silence and in proposing a credible understanding of papal policy during the period. Since critics such as Cornwell, Carroll and Wills are far more interested in attacking the present pontiff — as Lawler rightly points out — than in confronting the church's role in the Holocaust, Lawler spends the last half of the book arguing for a more responsible approach to reform in the institutional church than the rather crude visions of these authors.

Sister Carol Rittner and John K. Roth in "Pope Pius XII and the Holocaust" bring together 16 scholars (among them, I must confess, this reviewer) representing a healthy range of responsible scholarship, including three of the six members of the international commission. The essays of Michael Marrus and Father John Pawlikowski, I believe, best summarize the state of the question among professional historians.

At under 200 pages, Jose Sanchez's "Pius XII and the Holocaust" is the best introduction to the burgeoning field of Pius XII studies yet in print. Sanchez has the rare ability to cut to the heart of complex questions in a highly readable fashion without sacrificing the historical nuances and ambiguities that make up real life, then and now.

Guided by Sanchez's well-balanced, non-polemical approach, the reader learns to appreciate the cruelty of the choices almost daily thrust upon Pope Pius, a decent man who was charged with a sacred obligation to preserve the church in a time of regnant evil and who wished at the same time to help as many of the millions of suffering human beings as possible. Often, Sanchez shows, the pope had no good choices, but only ones that he hoped would be less harmful in the long run. One does not have to agree that all of Pope Pius' choices were the right ones to come away with an understanding of him as a human being, neither demon nor angel, fated to live in an era of ambiguity.

*Fisher is associate director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington.*

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings:*
*July 28, 2002*

July 28, Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle A Readings:
1) 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
Psalm 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130
2) Romans 8:28-30
3) Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

At a class reunion he'd probably not be considered particularly successful. No house, no fancy cars, no stock portfolio. Outside a small circle of fellow artists and critics and patrons, he's achieved no fame, never been featured in Newsweek, never had a one-man show at a killer London gallery, never been elevated to the status of "celebrity artist." He's never made a lot of money.

What he has done is to fashion for himself a livelihood and a life making wondrously intelligent and beautiful pieces of art with wax and smoke and wood and gesso and paint.

At every fork in the road there have been hard choices to make. For every "yes" to his artistic vocation there have been a dozen "nos." To pursue the vision which has given him energy and perseverance and hope for more than three decades as a working artist, he has had to leave behind the comfort of doing things the way everybody else does, the security of a more conventional career path, the rewards of always striving to meet the expectations of others.

And though these decisions have been painful and lonely at times, he wouldn't have it any other way, so deeply does he love the art to which he has given himself.

I think of my artist friend when I hear the story of the jewelry merchant in Sunday's Gospel who sells everything in order to possess one flawless pearl.

To give ourselves over to the vision Jesus lays out in his words and life of a kingdom of generosity and reconciliation, of enemies become friends, of sickness healed and broken hearts filled with joy — this is to make hard choices and to follow a sometimes lonely path.

In the end, though, this is the only path to truth and joy and communion.

**QUESTIONS:**

If strangers observed my life, what would they conclude are my highest priorities? What is one way I can free up energy and resources in my life for pursuit of the kingdom?

# Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of July 28 - Aug. 3**

**Sunday (Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12, Romans 8:28-30, Matthew 13:44-52; **Monday (St. Martha),** Jeremiah 13:1-11, John 11:19-27; **Tuesday (St. Peter Chrysologus),** Jeremiah 14:17-22, Matthew 13:36-43; **Wednesday (St. Ignatius of Loyola),** Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21, Matthew 13:44-46; **Thursday (St. Alphonsus Liguori),** Jeremiah 18:1-6, Matthew 13:47-53; **Friday (St. Eusebius of Vercelli and St. Peter Julian Eymard),** Jeremiah 26:1-9, Matthew 13:54-58; **Saturday,** Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24, Matthew 14:1-12

**Scripture for the week of Aug. 4 - Aug. 10**

**Sunday (Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Isaiah 55:1-3, Romans 8:35, 37-39, Matthew 14:13-21; **Monday (Dedication of St. Mary Major),** Jeremiah 28:1-17, Matthew 14:13-21; **Tuesday (Transfiguration of the Lord),** Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, 2 Peter 1:16-19, Matthew 17:1-9; **Wednesday (St. Sixtus and Companions, St. Cajetan),** Jeremiah 31:1-7, Matthew 15:21-28; **Thursday (St. Dominic),** Jeremiah 31:31-34, Matthew 16:13-23; **Friday,** Nahum 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7, Matthew 16:24-28; **Saturday (St. Lawrence),** 2 Corinthians 9:6-10, John 12:24-26

***Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of August***

| | |
|---|---|
| *Rev. Msgr. Felix R. Kalaher* | *1998* |
| *Rev. Henry J. Becker* | *1992* |
| *Rev. John F. Parsons* | *1993* |

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# The "Road to Perdition" is a worthy one

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — In director Sam Mendes' gripping drama "Road to Perdition" (DreamWorks), a cold-blooded hit man's livelihood and past catch up with him, challenging the love he has for his family.

Mendes once again looks at dysfunctional families, as he did in his nihilistic directorial debut "American Beauty." But in his sophomore effort, he digs deeper to unearth themes of filial love and family responsibility as well as betrayal and revenge.

Tom Hanks throws off his good-guy persona to anchor the film with a convincing performance as Michael Sullivan, a hit man working for John Rooney (Paul Newman), the gangster patriarch of the Irish mob in a small Illinois town in 1931. Newman proves he can still physically and verbally dominate the screen. He makes wickedness look almost dignified with his white hair, impeccably tailored suits and senatorial demeanor.

As the title implies, Sullivan is on the road to utter destruction. Both Sullivan and Rooney are forced to choose between their criminal careers and family life. Sullivan must protect his 12-year-old son from Rooney after the boy witnesses a murderous scene while Rooney shelters his oldest son Connor (Daniel Craig), a hot-headed, bitter young man jealous of his father's affection for Sullivan.

The situation is complicated by the relationship between the two fathers. After Sullivan's parents died, Rooney became his adoptive father, nurturing and protecting him and bringing him into the family business, where he holds a respected place of honor. Sullivan and Rooney each recognizes the wages of their own sins. While one is determined for his son's sake that the violence must end, the other father perpetuates even more terrible violence to physically, not morally, save his son.

The divisive morality tale is layered with regrets, bad decisions and a good dose of gruesome violence. But also weaved in with the theme of betrayal is redemption, filial love and family responsibility.

Sullivan is a man who only takes a good look at his life when it is already too late. He is a man who does not take his Catholic faith to work with him, yet insists on saying grace before meals and carrying rosary beads in his gun pocket.

This split life he leads — devoted family man and deadly assassin — comes crashing down on him with one shockingly violent act, which embarks him on a journey of revenge with his eldest son Michael Jr. (Tyler Hoechlin). It is in this journey of self-discovery for both father and son that unconditional love is seen flowing both ways.

"Perdition" is an intriguing character study and an involving yarn. Its intense emotion and beauty is matched by Mendes' evocative visual tapestry. Moody lighting, inspired camera angles and rain-drenched atmospheric sets and locations drop the viewer smack in the middle of Depression-era Chicago where the name Capone is said with reverence.

Mendes does not let the audience off easy when it comes to the violence. The camera is unflinching in capturing its ugly brutality, never glamorizing the crimes. And yet there is a certain strange beauty in seeing Hanks walk determinedly though puddles with a machine gun in his hands. And the bloodshed has horrific consequences that are shown in the same resolute manner.

Jude Law plays a perverted hired hit man with a penchant for memorializing his victims in a truly macabre fashion. From his dried, cracked lips and scummy teeth to his long dirty nails, Law is perfectly repulsive as he tests Sullivan's talent as a killer and fugitive. Hoechlin is a true surprise, acting as the story's observer and occasional narrator. Moments when his performance could have slipped into the sappy, Hoechlin is restrained and natural.

The straightforward revenge story is deceptively complicated. Based on the graphic novel written by Max Allan Collins and illustrated by Richard Piers Rayner, "Road to Perdition" briefly lightens up in the latter half, providing a respite from the darkness with some unconventional bank robberies. But the laughs are only a momentary distraction from the heart of the story. As Mendes examines moral decisions with generational repercussions, the actors' nuanced performances stand out in a sea of popcorn summer movies.

"Road to Perdition" may be on the road to the Oscars.

Due to some brutal scenes of violence with sporadic rough language and profanity, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

*Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*



CNS PHOTO FROM SONY PICTURES

**Scene from movie 'Stuart Little 2'**
**Stuart Little and Margalo become fast friends in the family comedy "Stuart Little 2." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

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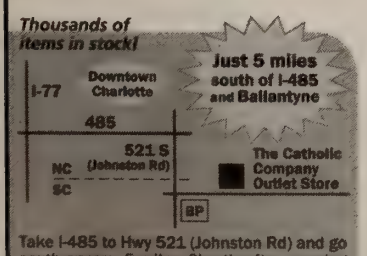

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QUESTION:

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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

### Pope arrives in Toronto, praises intelligence, hearts of young people

By JOHN THAVIS

TORONTO (CNS) — Arriving in Toronto for World Youth Day celebrations, Pope John Paul II said the mega-gathering would help young people find spiritual direction in a world full of social and ethical tensions.

At a brief welcoming ceremony July 23 at Toronto's airport, the pope praised the "gifts of intelligence and heart" that make young people the future of humanity.

But he warned that they were also affected by widespread conflict and injustice in the modern world.

"Too many lives begin and end without joy, without hope. That is one of the principal reasons for World Youth Day. Young people are coming together to commit themselves, in the strength of their faith in Jesus Christ, to the great cause of people and human solidarity," he said.

His Canadian hosts had planned to lower the pope from his plane to the tarmac, but the pope decided instead to walk down the plane's stairs, moving very slowly and held tightly by an aide. Then he was pushed on a wheeled platform into a hangar decorated with Canadian and Vatican flags.

For the 82-year-old pope, it was the start of one of the longer trips of his pontificate, an 11-day journey that will also take him to Guatemala and Mexico for canonization ceremonies.

His July 23-29 stay in Toronto was to feature three major World Youth Day events with young people aged 16-35: an official welcoming ceremony July 25, a prayer and music vigil July 27 and a closing Mass July 28.

Some 215,000 young people from more than 170 countries registered for World Youth Day, but organizers were hoping more than half a million would turn out for the final Mass in Downsview Park, a former military base in Toronto.

The pope, who suffers from arthritis of the knee and a nervous system disorder believed to be Parkinson's disease, has slowed down considerably since the last World Youth Day celebration in Rome in 2000. Aides roll him on a wheeled platform through crowds, he has cut back on his appearances and he takes a reduced role in many liturgical events.

But for two years, the pope has made it clear that he would not give up the chance to celebrate World Youth Day with the international gathering in Toronto. The pope instituted World Youth Day as an annual event in 1985; the international meeting is held every two or three years, and this is the eighth time the pope has traveled outside the Vatican to preside over it.

The Toronto encounter will be much smaller than last time, when 2 million young people traveled to Rome. One factor was the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which prompted new restrictions on global travel, higher air fares and apprehension among parents over their children's travel. Some 3,000 youths were denied visas by Canadian authorities.

The largest non-Canadian contingent was represented by more than 52,000 youths from the United States, who arrived in more than 2,000 organized groups.

# Coming of Age



AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

### Things of the past and things that pass

When my oldest son was 5, about a week before Christmas he made one request, offered in the saddest little-boy voice you could imagine: "All I really want for Christmas is a Pound Puppy."

If you're around my son's age (he's 19 now), you might remember what a Pound Puppy was: a sad-looking, flattened out, stuffed dog. Pound Puppies were all the rage for a while, but like all rages they eventually went out of fashion, leaving little kids clamoring for something else for Christmas.

Well, of course, my son got his Pound Puppy. He was just too pitiful to be denied.

Christopher lives away from home now, but on a recent visit he discovered that his old, beloved stuffed dog is still around — being hugged by his 15-month-old little brother. Christopher didn't mind, being the generous fellow he is.

Seeing his Pound Puppy again, however, reminded him of his other childhood toys, and he told me of a recent conversation with friends in which they'd spent the good part of an evening recalling their favorites: Pound Puppies, Transformers, Masters of the Universe and so on.

I wasn't surprised to hear about such a conversation taking place, even between a crew of pierced, tattooed, sports-minded "very cool guys."

When I taught high school, I found that teens loved — really, really loved — talking about their childhood diversions, especially their favorite toys and cartoons.

It was kind of funny and sweet, to tell the truth, seeing these kids reminiscing like they were old geezers chatting about the good old days. I'll bet you know how it is. You probably like to think about your old stuff too.

Why is that?

Teens may not be decades and decades old, but they still have pasts to think about, pasts that have brought them to where they are now. And for most teens, just like adults, the point they're at now is full of a lot more pressures than years past were.

After all, when you were 10 you weren't worrying about college. When you were 6 you didn't have a job to go to or grades to keep up, and nobody made you feel as if every decision you made was going to have a potentially momentous effect on the dreaded rest of your life. And everyone was content to let you play rather than nag you about "responsibility." Right?

No wonder you like thinking about those toys. No wonder (admit it) you don't mind chilling out in front of a favorite cartoon once in a while — when you have time. Sure, you want to grow up, but thinking about the fun you had when you were a kid helps keep you in touch with that very important part of life — fun.

But thinking about all the old stuff should remind you of something else as well. Life goes on. What fascinates you today is probably going to fade in importance in the future. The external stuff that you think is vital and important right now — clothes, hair, music — probably is going to seem outdated, even childish, in 10 years or maybe less.

And once again, you'll look back, just like you look back on your toys today. You'll look back with fondness at the fun you had. You'll look back in embarrassment at how lame it seems now.

But I hope you won't look back in regret for paying too much attention to things that pass and not enough to other things — relationships, love, faith — that do not.



# Working Matters

JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Guest Columnist

### Technicalities

Although I've never considered myself a slave to fashion, I've succumbed to the temptation to comment on the corporate falls from grace that we're reading so much about.

It all seems to be happening at once, as if the Enron debacle opened the floodgates through which more and more companies are flowing. What's going on?

Maybe it's technicalities: If it's within the letter of the law, it's OK. Daniel Gross's July 16 MSNBC column, "Give That CEO a Pay Raise," describes how some companies pay their top executives only $1 million; the rest of the compensation is just perks like "restricted stock, performance bonuses, long-term incentive plans and stock-option grants."

Gross, who writes about Wall Street, notes that Congress passed a law in the 1990s that "penalized companies that paid outsized salaries to their top five officers. ...But the measure excluded from the $1 million limit items that the Internal Revenue Service deems to be incentive-based or performance-based. As a result, the ban encouraged companies to funnel executive compensation into these murky areas, which are far more difficult for investors and the public to understand, and which are prone to abuse."

A technicality: call the money something else, and it's not really income. It's legal, but is it ethical? And others are hurt, like those Enron employees who lost their jobs and their retirement plans.

Gross writes that, "Many companies that currently have no compunction about dishing out option grants worth $50 million would not dare to write $50 million checks to top executives. If Enron had disclosed that it paid Jeffrey Skilling and Kenneth Lay $30 million or $40 million salaries, investors and regulators would likely have raised red flags far earlier. And if Enron cut back on its lavish stock options, Skilling and Lay might not have used accounting trickery to boost the company's share price."

Another example: A few years ago a company sent out announcements that, "You've won $1 million." People thought they'd struck it rich. One man even flew to Florida to demand his "prize." The company had done the minimum by printing all the information, but some of it so small as to be unreadable. Legal? Yes. Ethical? Not likely.

Most of us aren't likely to make millions, so this doesn't really affect us, right? Wrong? Anyone can — little by little — adopt this technically-it's-correct mentality.

It's easy to rationalize. I can take a longer lunch break than authorized. They won't miss me, and I've got these important things to do. Company pen slipped into my pocket? So what; the company has lots of pens.

Or how about faith life — yours and mine? You wouldn't do it yourself, but have you ever heard anyone ask a priest if the wedding Mass they attended on Saturday afternoon "counts" for the Sunday "obligation"? How late can I be for Mass or how soon can I leave before the service is over and still say I attended Mass. How little can I pray and still think I have a relationship with God? Technicalities.

One way to avoid this is to take time for some "fine print" that doesn't have anything to do with being technically correct. Listen to that little voice within. On Aug. 11, we'll hear about Elijah in the cave. God isn't in the wind or the earthquake; he's in the "tiny whispering sound" (1 Kings 19:12) that told him what he must do. That tiny sound can tell us, too.



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

### "The First Thing..."

I am a fan of old movies. I really enjoy seeing familiar favorites from Hollywood's Golden Age. Recently, I was reminded of a wonderful film biography of Sister Elizabeth Kenny starring Rosalind Russell, which prompted a story about the famous nurse in the very first edition of our Three Minutes a Day book series. The story recounts one important even in the Australian nurse's life.

When "Sister Kenny" (1946) was in production, the nurse was called in as a consultant. One day, she described to Russell just how she discovered her treatment for polio. Sister Elizabeth said that she had been summoned to a seven-year-old girl who lived far out in the lonely bush country. The child was in extreme pain, had a high fever and her leg and foot muscles were contracted.

Sister Kenny had never seen this particular combination of symptoms before. She quickly sent a rider to the nearest telegraph station 20 miles away with an urgent message for a doctor, asking his advice. Meanwhile, she spent the night comforting the child as best she could. At dawn the long awaited reply arrived: "The symptoms you describe indicate infantile paralysis. There is no known cure. Do the best you can."

Sister Elizabeth was stunned. The case was virtually hopeless.

At this point Russell, who was preparing to portray Sister Elizabeth on the screen, interrupted: "What did you do? What was the first thing you thought of? Did you tear up a blanket for the hot packs?"

"No," Sister Elizabeth replied. "The first thing I did was kneel down and say a prayer."

I love this story because it demonstrates the most sensible approach to problems I think any one of us could have. Sister Kenny (who, by the way, was not a nun, but received that title or rank when she served as a nurse during World War I) asked for help — first from a doctor who she assumed would have the answer to guide her. When it became clear that he not only didn't have a remedy, but that one did not exist, she turned to God. She trusted God to help her help another.

What she couldn't know was that she would invent a therapy that would help people around the world at a time when no cure existed for a devastating and dreaded disease. She decided to simply treat the symptoms in what seemed to be a simple, logical way using hot, moist applications in conjunction with passive exercise.

Living now in an age when the Salk and Sabine vaccines prevent the spread of polio, it's hard to understand the fear of epidemics that sent shockwaves of fear through many communities. But what I find most intriguing about Kenny's work was that it was an effort to deal with a difficult situation in a straightforward way.

When most of us confront problems we are rarely able to just make them just go away. We cannot cure the pain of day-to-day living nor can we always prevent hurtful and harmful situations from arising. What we can do is deal with life's problems using the reason and the abilities God has given us.

The doctor who responded to Sister Elizabeth got it right: "Do the best you can."

Just don't forget to start with a prayer.

# Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

### The past guides the future

Preserving family stories through various media is important. Through letters, diaries, journals, photographs, audiotape, old 8-milimeter and 16-milimeter film and videotape, legacies are unfolded. Every now and then the family archivist or "griot" (every family should have one) blows the dust off the treasure chest (photo album, or any place where such media are stored), and revisits places of the family's past. They do this not just for nostalgia's sake but to uncover old stories that, perhaps because of current circumstances, might have new meanings and new lessons to teach us today.

It's all about remembering. Father Donald Senior of Catholic Theological Union said, "At the heart of sin is the loss of memory." Author James Carroll said, "Memory is the human faculty that gives shape to experience. Memory provides the narrative structure by which we uncover meaning. Memory is the source of knowledge, understanding and wisdom. Memory imparts compassion ... Memory makes visible what is otherwise unseen. Thus memory is the fountain of biblical belief. For, as the form of the Scriptures themselves attest, God leaves traces of history that can be recognized as such only after the fact."

Family stories, as with the biblical narratives, communicate to us meaning about life. It is a process of narrative that the oral tradition uses to shape events of our ancestry, our childhood — the old stories — into sacred memories. When we record these memories to preserve them we are using the process of memoir.

Peter Gilmour, in "The Wisdom of Memoir" says this: "Narrative serves as a form of knowing, and memoir emerges as a postmodern sacrament. Viewing narrative and memoir this way offers new perspectives on who is a theologian and what constitutes theology ... Writers of implicitly religious memoirs have the ability to recognize the sacred in the secular and to express it in ordinary, everyday terms."

Your family archivists or griots have the important role of preserving and retelling the old stories, and uncovering and telling new stories as revealed from the relics of the past. When in their search they discover sacred traces of history — God in their midst — they must express it in the "ordinary, everyday terms" of family life. For it is in those stories that we learn who we are, and whose we are, and how we are to live.

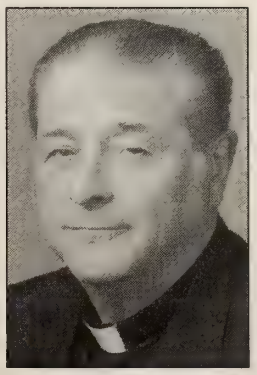
**Questions for reflection:**

*— Who are the archivists or griots of your family?*

*— How has God left traces of history that you have recognized in an old photo, or other media?*

*— When has an old family story taken on new meaning to serve a current need?*

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

### Is marriage preparation really all that important?

*Q. A friend of mine is angry with her pastor for the way he treated her daughter and her daughter's fiance, a Protestant. They told the priest they would like to be married in a local park, a popular place for marriages in our city. They were told they couldn't do this.*

*They were also unhappy over the premarriage meetings they were expected to attend and questions they were asked about their intentions when they get married, which they considered too personal.*

*My friend says it's no wonder young people are leaving the church when they are treated this way. Why couldn't the rules be relaxed for couples like this? Are these actually church rules or just the pastor's? (Ohio)*

A. From the information you give, what the pastor told the couple are not his personal rules. General church law requires that marriages between two Catholics, or a Catholic and another baptized person, be celebrated in a parish church unless the bishop gives permission for the ceremony elsewhere (Canon 1118).

Each diocese, yours included, provides some form of marriage preparation program, which is obligatory for all couples. Usually these include lecture-discussion sessions and a professional "inventory" to help the couple identify and understand their views and expectations about life together, finances, sexuality, in-laws, spiritual commitments and other elements critical for a healthy and strong marriage relationship.

Further questionnaires are filled out sometime before the wedding concerning their intentions for permanence and fidelity and children in their married life, their freedom to marry and other elements that could affect the validity of their marriage, usually not only in church law but in civil law as well.

In my pastoral experience I've not seen couples leave the church over things like this. Just the opposite. By far, most of them not only cooperate with these requirements, they appreciate them and are grateful the church wants seriously to help them deal with the awesome forces in society that threaten to undermine their hopes and ideals.

These regulations reflect the fact that our buildings of prayer and worship are holy places where the most sacred events — and the celebration of the sacrament of marriage is one — should take place; and that the church is obliged to support couples in every way possible to prepare for, and live in, a good and faithful Christian marriage.

Church law (Canon 1063) binds pastors to assist all the faithful of that faith community in preserving and increasing the holiness of Christian marriage. One way they are to do this is to provide instructions for brides and grooms before their marriage concerning the holiness and meaning of marriage, and be sure these truths are reflected in the wedding liturgy.

Interestingly, as I received your question, I happened to note in your own diocesan newspaper a letter to the editor responding to a previous letter similar to yours. The woman's comments are worth repeating.

"Maybe if more young people saw marriage as the sacrament it is rather than a rite of passage that entitles them to a priest and a church whenever they desire them, they wouldn't feel 'pushed' from the Catholic Church.

"I won't deny that sometimes things don't go as well as planned between the priest and the engaged couple due to personality conflicts and previously conceived notions. But I do not feel the majority of priests nor the church deserve the bad rap they get because things didn't go the way the couple or their family specify."

# World Youth Day, from page 1

with and knowledge of Christ himself."

"I don't want to live in a bland world" without hope and direction, the bishop said, adding that he hopes and prays that those in the audience would not "want to live in such a world either."

Based on their loud cheers and applause, they seemed to agree.

So did the participants who stepped up to the microphone during the question-and-answer segment. Of the 10 who had a chance to ask the bishop a question, almost all of them expressed their enthusiasm over just being at the event. Eight of them did not even ask a question, but encouraged the crowd to stick with their faith and their commitment to one another or to consider a vocation or missionary work.

A young woman from the Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa, said she was "energized by everyone here and ready to season the world" and asked Bishop Gregory for his advice in responding to people's questions about the church "in light of recent scandals."

The bishop's answer, "We respond in love and in charity," drew applause from the crowd.

He went on to say that Catholics can have pride in their church, knowing it is "a worldwide community of believers with saints and sinners."

Those who are part of the current sexual abuse scandal are "not all of the church and not most of the church," he added.

The final question posed to the bishop concerned the possibility of going to heaven if someone did not accept Christ in the Eucharist.

Bishop Gregory responded by acknowledging that "too many of our Catholic people have forgotten" about Christ's presence in the Eucharist and urged World Youth Day delegates to take time over the next few days in the various Masses to have a "refresher course" in what the Eucharist means.

Stacey Wagner, a 24-year-old from northern Ontario, said the message she planned to take home with her from the bishop's talk was that she should be "more visibly Catholic" in her job as a Catholic school teacher.

The delegates had a chance to do that during a Mass at the end of the session. They also heard from Bishop Gregory once more during his homily, when he urged them to "take something back home" from their World Youth Day experience and speak courageously to others of the "presence of Christ within you."

*Associate Editor Kevin Murray joined diocesan youth and young adults attending World Youth Day in Toronto. The August 9 edition of The Catholic News & Herald will include his reports.*

# Ultreyas to take place in Charlotte

CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be hosting ultreyas on the following dates and times: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. Aug. 8 for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1:15-2 p.m. on Aug. 18 with a School of Leaders at 1 p.m. and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3 p.m. on Aug. 25 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665.

**PAID VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**
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In its third year, the LIFE Community of Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish is seeking single Catholic young adults in their 20's who would like to volunteer. Our volunteers minister full time and are supported financially during their year of service. For those that may be considering full-time professional ministry or would like to serve in the context of a Catholic setting, this opportunity affords an intern-like experience which helps to form leaders for the future of our Catholic church. The LIFE Community is unique, in volunteer groups, as it is parish based. The parish family is one of the largest in the Richmond Diocese and is vibrant in its response to its Baptismal call. After a period of exploration and discernment, the volunteers begin a ministry based on their discernment, their gifts and talents, and the needs of the parish. Previous volunteers have ministered to the poor and homeless, elderly, youth, music, and parish school. During their year of service, volunteers are invited to grow in their faith through orientation, prayer, formation and the joy of ministering with others. Openings available summer 2002 and applications now being taken. Contact schoolofrel@olmc.org or Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 100 Harpersville Rd., Newport News, VA 23601.

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR:** New Catholic Miscellany. Duties include editing, page design, photography & collaboration with freelance writers. Must be detailed oriented, conscientious of deadlines & willing to travel. Journalism degree desired, 3-5 year's experience using AP style, QuarkXpress & Adobe Photoshop required. Knowledge of Catholicism a must. Excellent benefits. Send resume with minimum salary requirement, non-returnable clips & photos to: Human Resources, 1662 Ingram Road, Charleston, SC 29407.

**COMMUNITY BASED SPECIALIST:** Full-time (12:30-9pm). Working one-on-one with specific residents carrying out treatment according to the resident's Individual Program Plan. Excellent Benefits. Work every other weekend. Requirements: BA or BS degree. Prefer Human Services related with 2 years' previous experience in Developmental Disabilities. Holy Angels, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC, info@holyangelsnc.org,(704)825-4161. Fax(704)825-0553.

**DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION:** Holy Redeemer Parish, located on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The candidate must be a practicing Catholic and possess at least a bachelor's degree in theology or religious education; will have responsibility for parish Faith Formation program for grades K-5, sacramental preparation, RCIA, adult education, and other programs and events relating to these areas; will work closely with Youth/Young Adult Minister. Knowledge of Spanish helpful. Please send resume to: Faith Formation Search Committee, Holy Redeemer Church, PO Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949.

**DIRECTOR OF MISSION ADVANCEMENT:** Excellent opportunity for experienced grant writer familiar with Catholic doctrine and Catholic school environment, annual appeal process and marketing. Must be self-motivated, service minded, able to interact professionally with diverse populace, and travel frequently within SC. Excellent benefits with lucrative paid time off. Qualified applicants fax resume with salary history to HR 843-402-9071 or mail to Human Resources, 1662 Ingram Road, Charleston, SC 29407.

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY:** Full-time position,1500-family Catholic parish near Charlotte. Responsible for five weekend liturgies plus holy days, weddings, and funerals. Adult choir, contemporary choir, cantors, instrumentalists, and handbell choirs. Rogers electronic organ, Yamaha upright piano, and Clavinova digital pianos, two-octave set of Malmark handbells. Ideal candidate is a practicing Catholic with music degree and experience, music performance skill (organ/piano/voice), choral and cantor skills, knowledge of Catholic liturgical music. Salary commensurate with experience. Full benefits. Send resumes to Music Search, Saint Therese Parish, 217 Brawley School Road, Mooresville, NC 28117. Phone:(704) 664-3992; Fax:(704)660-6321; email: jbarnes@saintthere se.net

**DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT:** The Diocesan Office of Development has an opening for a full-time director of development for Catholic Schools. The candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications or related field. Appropriate experience in fund raising and marketing may be substituted for education. Must have ability to use computer software. Responsibilities include managing 2 annual giving campaigns, handling all aspects of production of newsletters and annual reports, and serving as liaison to 2 regional school foundation boards. Please submit resume by July 31, 2002 to: Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

**PRINCIPAL:** Asheville Catholic School, an interparochial school of 250 students in the mountains of western North Carolina with programs from pre-K through eighth grade, seeks a dynamic, innovative leader to work with an established staff in our SACS accredited elementary program. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a strong commitment to Catholic education in the spirit of Vatican II. Candidate must have at least a master's degree in education or educational administration and experience in elementary administration, preferably in a Catholic school. Generous benefit package and salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Resumes and references accepted through August 15. Position available in January 2003. Please send materials to: Principal Search, 12 Culvern St., Asheville, NC 28804.

**RN-MANAGER:** Full-time/part-time, 2nd Shift (3-11:30pm, Mon-Fri).
Supervise care and treatment of children/adults with Mental Retardation/
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**STAFF WRITER:** The Catholic News & Herald seeks a staff writer with the ability to move easily between news and poignant feature writing. Successful candidate will also possess photography skills, an understanding of AP style, experience in a PC environment and a degree in journalism, or comparable experience. Knowledge of Catholicism. Must be available to travel within Western North Carolina. Good benefits package. Send resume, non-returnable clips [and photography samples] to: Staff Writer Position, PO Box 34267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org. Closing date for applications August 30.

**TEACHERS:** Energetic teachers needed. St. Michael's School in Gastonia, NC is accepting applications for a certified 5th grade teacher, and a certified middle school language arts or math teacher. Come be a part of a 60-year tradition teaching in a small, caring environment. Contact our office at (704)865-4382 for an application and more information.

**TEACHERS:** Our Lady of Grace School, Greensboro, is presently accepting applications for Middle School Language Arts and Grade One teaching positions. Please call the school office to receive a teacher application at (336) 275-1522. All interested applicants must have a teaching certificate or be in the process of becoming certified.

**YOUTH MINISTER, HIGH SCHOOL:** wanted for vibrant 4,500-family suburban Atlanta parish: Sunday evening Mass and program (currently Life Teen); also teen O.C.I.A., retreats, adult leader formation, confirmation preparation, and cooperation with colleagues to oversee entire parish catechetical effort. Collaborative skills a must; degree in religious education or related field or comparable experience required; Spanish language facility a plus. Full-time position available immediately. Salary commensurate with qualifications. Send resume and references to: Business Manager, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 535 Rucker Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004; fax (770) 772-0355.

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**In our increasingly interconnected world,**

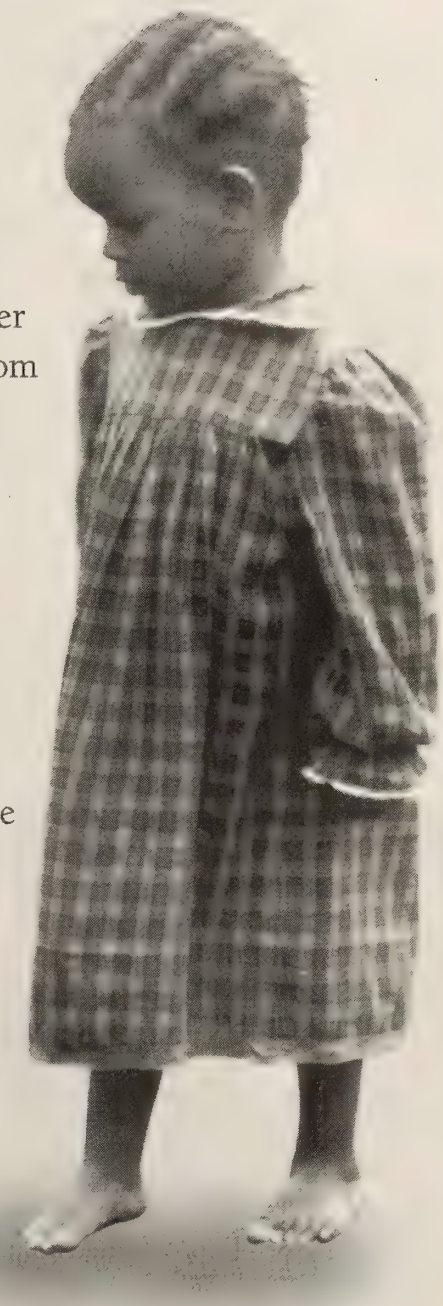
**Can we ignore even one child?**

Within the next eight years, Africa will be home to over 30 million AIDS orphans. Without greater intervention from the world's developed nations, these children will grow up without a home, without hope and without a productive future. As Catholics, the Gospel calls us to respond.

Catholic Relief Services believes that a crisis of this dimension warrants a high level of commitment from the United States. Through the advocacy campaign *Africa Rising, Hope and Healing,* we ask you to join CRS in urging your members of Congress to be generous in their response to the call of Africa.

Put your faith into action on behalf of the children of Africa. Contact your Catholic Relief Services Diocesan Director, or Catholic Relief Services, to find out how you can make a difference.

**Please call Charlotte Diocesan Director Joseph Purello at 704-370-3225.**



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# Woman religious fulfills childhood dream to enter Mercy community

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

ROSMAN — As Jacqueline Dewar rode her bike back and forth to daily Mass as a child, she thought about her future. While most children do not have a clue as to what they will do as an adult, she knew at age 10 that she would become a woman religious after she graduated high school. That thought remained in the forefront of her mind until she entered the convent in 1956.



She learned about being Catholic from her parents' steadfast devotion to their religion. Her father owned a tool-and-dye company in Lexington, Mich.; her mother stayed home to take care of their five girls and also helped her husband with his business. Her father, a convert, sang in the church choir and brought his children to Catholic elementary school and Saturday reconciliation.

"I enjoyed school; we had the Sisters of Mercy who were very good teachers. I decided to become a sister because of their influence," said Sister Jacqueline, who would walk quickly to the convent to carry their lunch and books to school. "They were mysterious because they were all covered up. You didn't know much about them, but they were always so good to us. I can remember sitting at my desk, and the sisters would walk down the aisle and cover us with their veils sometimes. It made me feel holy."

Throughout her teen years, Dewar prepared to enter the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Detroit and did not receive a class ring because she knew she was not going to use it. Her parents, disappointed that their oldest daughter was leaving, told her that she was welcome at home whenever she wanted to return.

"I loved it (convent life)," said Sister Jacqueline. "Looking back, it was hard, but I didn't know any different. That's the way we were in those days; we didn't question everything. It was very rigid because we got up early and went to pray. We ate, went to work and prayed at noon and at night; we took classes during the day."

She was confident that she was where God wanted her to be, so she was content in her new environment. She earned her bachelor's degree in education from Mercy College of Detroit, now the University of Detroit Mercy, and her master's degree in elementary reading in 1970 from the University of Dayton in Ohio. She taught kindergarten through eighth grade and high school faith formation and did mission work after professing final vows in 1964. She thoroughly enjoyed teaching and derived satisfaction at watching the students work through the learning process.

Education was a constant in her life as she moved 12 times over a 16-year period. During this time, Vatican II came barreling around the corner. Much to Sister Jacqueline's delight, the habits were shortened, and other modifications changed their community dramatically.

"I think we became more 'human.' I welcomed the changes with open arms, but it was hard that first time," she remembered. "After that, it was great; however, it was harder for the older sisters because we all had to change on the same day."

She eventually moved into school administration, serving as a principal for several years during the early '70s. After a sabbatical and a few years of parish work, in 1983, she was sent to the rural area of Rosman in Western North Carolina to help with a new clinic. Even though she had no experience in the medical field, she was eager to begin working in her new ministry.

"I had been wanting to work with the poor because I felt that's what Jesus did. Wealthy and middle-class people can get what they want, but the poor don't have a lot of options. I wanted to bring some of those options to the poor," said Sister Jacqueline.

Sister Jacqueline and Mercy Sister Gretchen Hermanny, M.D., began the Frances Warde Health Service, with Sister Jacqueline as the business manager. That title translates into the handywoman, cleaning staff, receptionist and file clerk all rolled into one. The clinic, named after the leader of the first group of Mercy Sisters to come to the U.S., provides basic medical care for many low-income people in the area.

"There are a lot of doctors in the area, but there are many people who are poor and many who would not get health care if we weren't here," she said.

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*


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Brothers and sisters: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

**Living the Faith: Sister helps clients search for solutions through love of God**

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AUGUST 9, 2002 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 11 Nº 41

## Doctor discusses ethics of end-of-life issues

By JOANITA M. NELLEBACH
Correspondent

MAGGIE VALLEY — Quality of life, decisions on what medical treatment to provide, relieving suffering — all are end-of-life issues. These were among the topics Dr. Edmund Pellegrino presented to members of the Diocese of Charlotte Presbyteral Council at its meeting July 30-31 at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center.

Pellegrino, who received his medical degree from New York University in 1944, is professor emeritus of medicine and bioethics at Georgetown University Medical Center and the author of more than 500 articles and 24 books, including "The Christian Virtues in Medical Practice," (with David C. Thomasma, Georgetown University Press, 1996).

"Suffering is different from pain," Pellegrino said. "Suffering is an individual response to pain. People suffer for many reasons — pain is only one. The greatest fear of the dying patient is that they'll be left to die alone. One cause of their suffering is our reaction to them; they pick up on our reaction to them."

Patients also dread the pain that sometimes accompanies terminal illness. However, Pellegrino said, "With proper care, most pain can be satisfactorily relieved. It is moral and legal malpractice not to relieve pain."

Then why wouldn't doctors prescribe as much medi-

See ETHICS, PAGE 13

# WORLD YOUTH DAY
## — 2002 —



Photo by Kevin E. Murray

**Don Tate, 15, of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, waves the American and North Carolina state flags while awaiting the pope at World Youth Day in Toronto.**

**"The world you are inheriting is a world which desperately needs a new sense of brotherhood and human solidarity. It is a world which needs to be touched and healed by the beauty and richness of God's love. It needs witnesses to that love. It needs you — to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world," said Pope John Paul II at the closing Mass July 28 at World Youth Day in Toronto.**

**For World Youth Day coverage, please see pages 9-12.**

## Faith fills this House

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

GASTONIA — "Just knowing I've had the opportunity to impact so many people has changed my life," said Ashley House, who recently completed her reign as Miss North Carolina.

"Miss North Carolina is far more than a beauty pageant," said House. "That's the ceremonial part. We represent the state visiting communities, getting our hands dirty. I believed I could have a positive impact as Miss North Carolina with my platform — the awareness and management of disabilities."

House knows first hand the difficulties associated with disabilities. In 1993, her father, Carroll House, suffered severe mental and physical disabilities following an automobile accident. House and her mother, Brenda, have brought him through bouts of depression and anger as well as assisting him with his physical limitations.

"Helping my dad with just normal things — cutting up his food, making sure he swallows, giving him his medicine, etc. — changed my life in so many ways," House said. "That which does not kill makes us stronger."

House's faith also grew. She turned to God in times of despair. "He was there carrying me every step of the way," she said.

It was from these experiences that House realized her gift for reaching out and helping others.

House grew up in Gastonia and attended St. Michael Church. She graduated from Ashbrook High School in 1998 and was a dean's list student at Gaston College. House transferred to Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., where she was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa National Honor Sorority and a Thomas Jack Lynch Scholarship re-

See HOUSE, PAGE 19

Deacons and wives attend lecture on aging together ...PAGE 4

Charlotte Catholic student examines medical conference ...PAGE 5

Keeping The CODE for life ...PAGE 8

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### Eight bishops propose new plenary council of U.S. church

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Eight U.S. bishops have asked their fellow prelates to consider convoking a national plenary council to promote holiness, priestly celibacy and sound sexual morality in the U.S. Catholic Church. Such a council would be the first in the United States since the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1884, which lasted nearly a month and led to the development of the Baltimore Catechism and strong efforts for Catholic schools throughout the country. In a letter sent to the bishops in mid-July and obtained by Catholic News Service Aug. 6, the group said the bishops "took a first step in dealing with the crisis of sexual abuse of minors" at their June meeting in Dallas. The letter added, however, that the bishops still need to address "the root causes of this crisis" and the challenge posed by Pope John Paul II April 23 when he called on the American hierarchy to "bring a purification of the entire Catholic community ... a holier priesthood, a holier episcopate and a holier church."

### Bush, in Pittsburgh to mark miners' rescue, signs 'born-alive' act

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — On a visit to Pennsylvania to celebrate the lives of nine rescued miners Aug. 5, President Bush, quoting Pope John Paul II, also signed the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act into law, drawing praise from Catholic leaders and guaranteeing basic rights to children born alive during an abortion. "Today we're here to celebrate life, the value of life and most importantly the spirit of America," the president said at a Pittsburgh firehouse, where he addressed an audience of about 300 people. The crowd included the nine men rescued July 28 after they spent more than 77 hours trapped in a flooded, abandoned mine in nearby Somerset County. Members of the rescue team were also in the audience. Later at the bill-signing ceremony, Bush said the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act "ensures that every infant born alive — including an infant who survives an abortion procedure — is considered a person under federal law. This reform was passed with the overwhelming support of both political parties, and it is about to become the law of the land."



CNS PHOTO BY SERGIO DORANTES

**Woman stands with incense outside Basilica of Guadalupe**
**An indigenous woman from Oaxaca stands with incense to offer Pope John Paul II outside the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe Aug. 1. The pontiff beatified two indigenous martyrs, Jacinto de los Angeles and Juan Bautista, who were killed by a mob in 1700.**

### Pope thanks Knights of Columbus for support of church amid scandal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At a time of "painful purification and great suffering" in the U.S. Catholic Church over the clerical sex abuse scandal, Pope John Paul II thanked the Knights of Columbus for their support of U.S. priests and bishops. The pope sent a message to the Knights' 120th annual convention Aug. 6-8 in Anaheim, Calif. The text of the pope's message was released Aug. 6 at the Vatican. "As the church in America seeks to move forward with sincere faith and confidence in the Lord's sustaining grace, I urge all the Knights and their families to intensify their prayers for the authentic renewal of ecclesial life and the preservation" of the church's unity, the message said.

### With war ending, new problems emerge in Angola as country seeks aid

CUBAL, Angola (CNS) — Many can hardly believe it, but peace — for decades an impossible dream — is looming over Angola. A peace accord between the government and rebels, signed last April, is working. The rebels are disarming; demobilization camps have filled with more than 330,000 ex-fighters and their families. But, although the guns have gone silent, the celebrations are muted because of a fresh disaster — one with Catholic missionaries and aid workers, not soldiers, at the frontline. Hundreds of thousands of villagers, for years isolated from international aid, are emerging from their hiding places in the bush. Some are dressed in rags; others are stricken with disease. Most have not eaten for days, sometimes weeks.

### Bishop calls U.S. border policy a 'deadly' failure

PHOENIX (CNS) — The U.S. government's eight-year, $20 billion campaign to cut down on illegal traffic across the Mexican border is a "deadly" failure, according to the chairman of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. In an op-ed piece in The Arizona Republic, a Phoenix daily newspaper, Bishop Nicholas A. Dimarzio of Camden, N.J., cited a new study to support his argument that the border policy "has not only failed" but is "also deadly." The study by the Public Policy Institute of California concluded that the buildup of Border Patrol forces and technology has accomplished some secondary goals, but failed in its primary focus: reducing the number of illegal immigrants in the United States. People who cross illegally are more likely to be caught now, it concluded, but the massive buildup has not cut down on the number of people in the country illegally, and may actually be a factor in them staying in the United States longer, the study concluded. It also noted that by tightening the border at traditional crossing points near cities, the effort has effectively forced those who try to cross to do so in more dangerous, remote places, leading to more deaths.

### Future doctors at Catholic-run medical school serve Third World poor

CHICAGO (CNS) — Junior will always stand out among Sarah Carreon's memories of her 10 days in Haiti. Junior is a bright, happy 8-year-old. "He's just beautiful," Carreon said, despite a disfiguring tumor on his face that has made it difficult for him to eat and breathe and is now eating into his skull. Carreon and nine other students from Jesuit-run Loyola University's Stritch School of Medicine, in the Chicago suburb of Maywood, met Junior at St. Boniface Hospital in Fond des Blanc, a town about 60 miles outside Haiti's capital Port au Prince. The students were assisting two U.S. doctors as part of an immersion program that connects medical students with service opportunities in the developing world. The program is sponsored by Loyola's campus ministry office.

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**September 5**
Episcopal ordination
Philadelphia, Pa.

**September 13 — 11 a.m. Mass**
Installation of Belmont Abbey College President James Gearity, Ph.D.
Belmont Abbey Basilica, Belmont

**September 14 — 6 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. William Church, Murphy

**September 15 — 11 a.m.**
Confirmation
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Hayesville

**September 21 — 5 p.m.**
50th anniversary celebration and Mass
St. John Baptist de la Salle Church, North Wilkesboro

## Diocesan planner

**August**

**16** HOT SPRINGS — The Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy. 25/70, will be hosting a women's Alcoholics Anonymous retreat tonight from 7 p.m. through morning Mass and a light lunch Aug. 18. Trinitarian Sister Eileen McLaughlin will be the facilitator and will lead open discussion, renewal and time for prayer for recovering alcoholic women. For registration and other information, call (828) 622-7366.

**17** ASHEBORO — Glenmary Father Rollie Hautz of the Glenmary Home Missioners will be sharing information about the Glenmarys' ministry in Appalachia, the rural South and the Southwest. He will speak at Masses today and Aug. 18 at St. Joseph Church, 512 West Wainman Ave. Glenmary Father Gus Guppenberger will be speaking at Our Lady of the Highways Church, 943 Ball Park Rd., in Thomasville today and Aug. 18 at weekend Masses. This Catholic society of priests and brothers work exclusively in the U.S. in areas where less than one percent of the population is Catholic and the poverty rate is twice the national average. For further details, call St. Joseph at (336) 629-0221 and Our Lady of the Highways at (336) 475-2732.

**18** BELMONT — An ecumenical youth gathering will take place this evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 807 South Point Dr. Youth will be able to pray and reflect on the upcoming school year, and this will serve as the first meeting for the Queen of the Apostles Church youth ministry. For further details or transportation, call Dennis Teall-Fleming, parish director of faith formation, at (704) 825-9600, Ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

**18** MURPHY — Bach, Telemanan and Handel will be performed at an afternoon concert today at 2:15 p.m. in

### Pope authorizes plenary indulgence for Divine Mercy devotion

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a further sign of his attachment to the Divine Mercy devotion, Pope John Paul II has authorized the recognition of a plenary indulgence to Catholics who participate fully in the devotion on the Sunday after Easter. "To ensure that the faithful live this celebration with intense piety, the supreme pontiff has ordered that the Sunday be enriched with the plenary indulgence," said an Aug. 3 Vatican announcement. The announcement and the conditions necessary for receiving the indulgence were published by the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican court. An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment deserved for sins.

### ABC trying to be more family-friendly in prime time

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — ABC, whose ratings fell drastically last season after "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" experienced a sudden drop in popularity, says it will return to a formula that had put it atop the ratings race in years past. That formula, according to ABC executives, includes airing series during the first hour of prime time when Mom and Dad can watch and not be skittish about their kids gravitating to the set to watch along with them. That hour is 8-9 p.m. in the Eastern and Pacific time zones, 7-8 p.m. in the Central and Mountain time zones. ABC's calling it the "Happy Hour," and ABC Entertainment president Susan Lyne said it may be similar to, but is distinct from, the "family hour" concept that networks struggled to embrace in the 1970s. Lyne added, "What we were trying to do with Happy Hour was to offer an entertaining block of television that was targeted at our core 18-to-49 (year-old) audience but would be fine to watch with a 10-year-old or 12-year-old, should they choose to do that with you."

### Pope beatifies two indigenous martyrs in Mexico City ceremony

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II completed his two-day stay in Mexico by beatifying two Zapotec Indian martyrs from the southern state of Oaxaca, the day after he had given the Americas its first indigenous saint in Juan Diego. It was an emotional farewell to a country that he has visited five times. The pope ended the Aug. 1 beatification service, held in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, with the unscripted pronouncement, "I may be going, but my heart stays with you. Beautiful Mexico, may God bless you." He left the basilica to cheers even louder than those he received upon arrival. The pope said he beatified Jacinto de los Angeles and Juan Bautista, who were killed in 1700 by a lynch mob angered by the pair's zealousness in denouncing pagan practices, because they "gave their lives to defend the faith."



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL JEFFREY

**Malnourished child fed by mother**

**In Luena, Angola, a displaced mother feeds her daughter at a center funded by Medicins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders.) During Angola's 25-year civil war, 4 million citizens became internally displaced — uprooted from their homes to barely subsist in the bush — to avoid battles between government and rebel UNITA forces.**

### Church group in South Korea helps defectors from North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — A church group in South Korea is helping young North Korean defectors adjust to a new life through person-to-person contact. The Seoul Archdiocese's Meeting for Unity group aims to help defectors settle into their new life in South Korea, said Perpetual Help Sister Sophonia Oh Hye-jung, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. The group wants its volunteers to understand that the process of reunification is not fantasy but hard work, Sister Oh said. She said that defectors "don't have any friend or relative on whom they can rely and they really need psychological support. That is why we stress person-to-person relations as one of our main activities." The Seoul Archdiocese's Committee for the Reconciliation of Korean People started the unity group in 1999 to help young defectors settle in the South.

### Vatican publishes decree excommunicating women ordained in Germany

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Seven women who claimed to be ordained Catholic priests have been excommunicated because, despite a Vatican warning, they did not give "any indication of amendment or repentance for the most serious offense they had committed," said an official Vatican decree. "They have incurred excommunication," said the decree published Aug. 5 by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The decree was signed by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the congregation, and by Archbishop Tarcisio Bertone, the secretary. The women, who come from Germany, Austria and the United States, were ordained in late June on a boat on the Danube River. The ceremony was performed by Archbishop Romulo Antonio Braschi, founder of the breakaway Catholic-Apostolic Charismatic Church of Jesus the King. The preface to the Vatican decree said that "as a schismatic" the archbishop has "already incurred excommunication."

### Centrality of Gospel was message of World Youth Day, pope says

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, reflecting on his trip to Toronto for World Youth Day, said the central message of the celebration was that society needs the saving power of the Gospel. The hundreds of thousands of young people in Toronto understood that they should model their actions on Christ if they want to change the world, he said. The pope made the remarks at a Sunday blessing Aug. 4 at his summer residence outside Rome. He had returned two days earlier from an 11-day trip that included World Youth Day events and stops in Guatemala and Mexico.

the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. Instruments of all kinds and a barbershop quartet will provide music for people of all ages. All love offerings will go toward the 2003 WMJS Summer Scholarship program for high school students. Contact Ted and Afra Wade at (828) 837-6261 for further information.

**19** ASHEVILLE — The St. Martin De Porres Pro-Chapter of the Dominican Laity will be meeting tonight and every third Monday at 7 p.m. in St. Justin's Center at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid, OPL, at (828) 253-6676.

**19** MAGGIE VALLEY — Franciscan Sister Mary Ellen McAleese, provincial leader of the Franciscan Sisters of Wheaton, Ill., will be leading a retreat entitled "Wholeness and Holiness; Wellness and Prayer" at the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane this evening through Aug. 25. Sister Mary Ellen will explore the connection of all areas of life and how prayer can enhance one's physical, spiritual and emotional well-being. For reservations and other details, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

**22** BOONE — A series of presentations; sponsored by CSS Elder Ministry and facilitated by Richard Von Stamwitz, a national certified gerontological counselor; are being presented throughout the diocese. Today's two-session presentation will be given at St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way from 10:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. with a provided lunch. For Aug. 19 pre-registration and other information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Elaine Grant at (828) 264-8338.

**25** HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

**26** NEWTON — The Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group will be meeting at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

**27** ALBEMARLE — Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministry in collaboration with U.S. Financial Services will be presenting "The Senior Financial Workshop" this morning from 10-11:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, 416 N. 2nd St. The free educational workshop for seniors 65 and over will focus on ways to reduce or eliminate taxes on social security, protecting assets from nursing homes and probate, alternatives to Wall Street and other elder planning techniques. For reservations and other information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Marlo Wallace at (704) 370-3228.

**28** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**29** MOORESVILLE — The Health Care Committee of St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., will host Dr. Edmund Pellegrino, M.D., MACP, tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Life Center. He will speak on modern technology vs. human identity and Christian beliefs. For more information, call Maureen Sabbagh at (704) 664-3101.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the publication date.*

# Deacons and wives attend lecture on aging together

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

HIGH POINT — As part of their ongoing process of continuing education, over 70 deacons and wives gathered for Dr. Kevin Sodon's lecture on "The Aging Deacon Couple" at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Aug. 3.

Sodon, a Charlotte emergency room doctor and graduate of Belmont Abbey College, said wellness is nothing less than a total unity between spirit, mind and body, and stressed the importance for those in religious vocations to, "Take care of yourselves. You say it all the time and mean it for the other person, yet you neglect yourselves."

Sodon challenged the deacons and wives present to not only recognize the presence of the sacred within, but to bring together the needs of the world while utilizing the unique gifts of individual vocations.

"Why do you need all this stuff?" he asked, referring to material things, and encouraged the couples to "repack your bags" by eliminating non-essentials.

"Take your personal pulse each day by reviewing your own state of bodily health (physical fitness), spiritual health (How does one focus on God?) and emotional health (Is my mind ready to deal with the problems of the day?)," he said. "After taking an account of the task pressures you are aware of, then you must do the same for your significant other."

According to Sodon, the questions should not be "What's wrong with you?" but "What's right with you?"

"In other words, what are the factors in play when you feel the best?" he asked. Participants responded with, "Getting in touch with God," "Feeling alive around children," and "Taking time for self and family."

Of the natural causes of death, Sodon reported, "Eighty to 85 percent were due to heart attacks, cancer and stroke." He emphasized that the older one gets, the more at risk for illness one becomes. Other risk factors included hypertension, exercise, obesity, diabetes and lipids.

To counter these risks, said Sodon, one needs to exercise to build collateral circulation either by anaerobic exercises (such as weight lifting, which restores bone mass while decreasing protein loss) or aerobic exercises (such as cycling, walking and swimming at an intensity that allows an increase in heart rate) for 20-30 minutes per day and three to five times a week.

"This is different than I thought it would be. I'm living this 'Aging Deacon' thing," said Rev. Mr. Eugene McGuirk of Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City. "It is most interesting how Dr. Sodon integrated medicine into the unity of mind, body and spirit."

"At my age, I felt that Dr. Sodon was speaking directly to me," said Bette Steinkamp, wife of Rev. Mr. Ronald F. Steinkamp at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro.

Sodon appears monthly on NBC's "Today Show" and is about to go on a national speaking tour for women's health issues.

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*



Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**Dr. Kevin Sodor, a Charlotte emergency room doctor, answers questions during his "The Aging Deacon Couple" lecture, part of deacons' continuing education class, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point Aug. 3.**


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# Charlotte Catholic student examines medical conference

By SUSAN DeGUZMAN
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — Catherine Ta has been heavily involved with the medical field for most of her life. This may not seem remarkable, except that Ta is only a senior in high school.

Ta has volunteered in her father's medical clinic ever since she can remember and has developed a love for the field of medicine. She eagerly attended the 10-day National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine (NYLF/MED) in Atlanta, Ga., July 21-30. The forum presented information about the medical field and what it takes to be a doctor.

"I found it to be a very rewarding experience. I never knew I could learn so much in such a short time," said Ta.

Ta, a Charlotte Catholic High School senior, was one of more than 400 students from around the country accepted to attend the forum at Emory University. NYLF/MED targets students who achieve a high GPA, show leadership potential and express an interest in medicine.

The forum brought students together with some of the most prestigious physicians, hospitals, research facilities and medical schools in the country. Students learned about a variety of concepts in public health, medical ethics, research and general practice.

The program was rigorous, according to Ta, who participated in panel discussions and a patient simulation, and was part of a medical ethics debate.

The forum allowed each student to choose sessions in areas of interest that they wanted to explore, Ta explained, who was interested in the sessions on internal medicine — her father's field — and plastic surgery, which she has an interest in pursuing.

One of the most interesting sessions for Ta was an HIV/AIDS panel discussion with a guest speaker from the AIDS Atlanta Program. Ta found the speaker to be very dynamic and able to really drill the students with information that was easily retainable.

Thinking she already knew a lot about the subject, Ta reported, "I learned a lot of information about HIV and AIDS, particularly about how fast it is spreading."

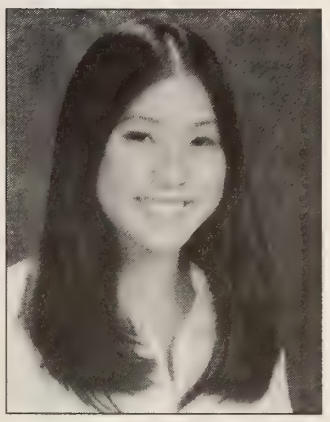
Another favorite session was a trip to Yerkes Primate Research Center a few hours outside of Atlanta where scientists are attempting to develop an AIDS vaccine.

The patient-simulation lesson was also a highlight of the program for Ta. Students worked in medical groups of 20 students and met two or three times a day to conduct research to analyze a fictitious patient's symptoms and then make a hypothesis. The patient was a 34-year-old Vietnamese woman who relied on her daughter to translate. Ta is of Vietnamese descent and works with many Vietnamese patients from her father's clinic.

Ta volunteers in the clinic almost every day during the summer months and whenever she has time during the school year. Many of the patients are from low-income families and a variety of ethnic backgrounds.

Ta found that most of the guest speakers at the forum were very passionate when they spoke about their patients. In addition, she found that many of the students brought up the subject of their religion, particularly during the ethics debates, and how it factored into practicing medicine.

Family and faith have played a large role in Ta's love for the medical field. "We've always been taught to help other people out. That's what the medical field is," she said.



Catherine Ta

"I'm sure that a lot of kids would like to do volunteering at a doctor's office but can't. There are volunteer jobs at hospitals, but you don't always get to work with patients," said Ta, fortunate for her experiences at the clinic.

While much of what she does is paperwork, she has been able to interact more with Spanish-only speaking patients since she learned the language in school.

The program was not just serious business all of the time, said Ta. One of her favorite aspects was meeting many different people from many different places. She also enjoyed living in the dormitories. "I got a glimpse of college life," she admitted.

Ta said that the forum also revealed to some students that the medical field was not what they envisioned. Some went away realizing that medicine was no longer the profession they wanted to pursue, she said.

Giving high school students the insight to make well-informed career choices is what NYLF is all about. The non-profit educational organization has helped more than 50,000 young people since it began 10 years ago. It also offers programs for students interested in law and national security.

While at Charlotte Catholic High School, Ta has been a member of numerous academic clubs including the National Honor Society, the Spanish National Honor Society, and the Beta Club. Ta is a member of the Charlotte Youth Oratorio and a choir member at Our Lady of the Assumption Church. She has also played the piano for 14 years and performed in national festivals.

Next year, Ta hopes to attend college in North Carolina, possibly at UNC Greensboro. It seems likely that medical school is also down the road.

"I would recommend this forum to anyone with an interest in the medical field. It reinforced my interest and opened the window to different opportunities I was unaware of," she said.


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This covenant has been reaffirmed every five years since then. The three bodies have together formed a Covenant Committee to further that relationship. We are looking for people in local parishes who will be willing to assist with gathering and sharing information about our journey together in faith. We ask that you let us know what your parish is doing in this Lutheran-Roman Catholic Covenant, and help us make known what others are doing.

**If you would like to be part of this effort toward the unity our Lord wills for us, please contact us:**

**By mail:** The Lutheran-Roman Catholic Covenant Committee
c/o the Reverend Pierson Shaw
Christ Lutheran Church
3205 South Main Street
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27127-4826

**By e-mail:** pshaw@triad.rr.com

**By phone:** (336) 788-9211

* Opening of the Lutheran Roman Catholic Covenant of North Carolina

### Priest, speed skater among Hispanic heritage award winners

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Mexican-American theologian Father Virgilio Elizondo, Puerto Rican pop singer Ricky Martin and Mexican-American Olympic gold-medal speed skater Derek Parra are among the winners of the 2002 Hispanic Heritage awards. Father Elizondo, professor of Latino theology at the University of Notre Dame, was cited for his "worldwide impact upon Hispanic religion" through his writings, lectures and televised bilingual Masses. A priest of the San Antonio Archdiocese, Father Elizondo is the founder of the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio, which trains people for Hispanic and multicultural ministry. Other award winners announced Aug. 1 by the Hispanic Heritage Awards Foundation are novelist Julia Alvarez, born in the Dominican Republic, and Lisa Quiroz. Quiroz, of Puerto Rican and Mexican descent, is founder and publisher of the magazine People en Espanol. The awards cite each winner as a positive Hispanic role model.

### White House official shares stories of work with Mother Teresa, Bush

CHICAGO (CNS) — The director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives brought an audience of Catholic health care and social service leaders to laughter Aug. 4 in Chicago with stories of encounters with the president and his former work with Mother Teresa of Calcutta. But the White House official, Jim Towey, also made them sit a little taller with pride in their work to solve "intractable social problems" in an environment that is sometimes hostile to faith-based efforts. Towey's morning address to a joint conference of Catholic Charities USA and the Catholic Health Association followed a five-minute videotaped talk by his boss, President Bush, who called the conference participants "prime examples of what I like to call the 'armies of compassion.'"

### Pakistan nun receives Magsaysay Award for work with leprosy patients

MANILA (CNS) — A Catholic nun from Pakistan has been cited for her work with people with leprosy by the Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation. Sister Ruth Pfau, 72, was one of six recipients of the Magsaysay Awards, often referred to as the "Asian Nobel Prize." The other winners announced by the foundation July 30 include Venerable Pomnyun Snim, a Buddhist monk from South Korea; Dr. Cynthia Maung of Myanmar; Philippines Supreme Court Justice Hilario Davide Jr.; journalist Bharat Koirala of Nepal; and Sandeep Pandey, a children's advocate from India. The annual Magsaysay Awards honor the selfless service of individuals or groups in Asia. Each awardee will receive a certificate, a medallion and $50,000 when the awards are presented Aug. 31 in Manila. Sister Pfau, of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary congregation, was chosen for the public service award based on her "lifelong dedication to eradicate leprosy and its stigma" in Pakistan, her adopted country.



PHOTO BY DANA WIND, NC CATHOLIC

**Dancers celebrate the canonization of Saint Juan Diego before Mass at St. Raphael Church in Raleigh, N.C., July 31.**

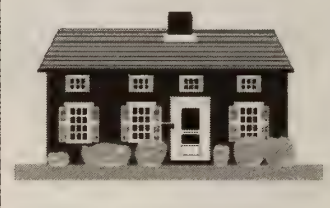
### Miners, rescuers say God was present at mining accident

GREENSBURG, Pa. (CNS) — Death was knocking at Robert Pugh Jr.'s door. So he and the eight other miners trapped more than the length of a football field below the ground prayed "hard, real hard." One recited the first few words of the Our Father and another picked it up. Pugh, meanwhile, thought of his three kids and prayed to God to get out alive. Pugh, 50, and his co-workers were trapped for nearly 78 hours July 24-27 at Quecreek Mine in Somerset County after they accidentally dug into an abandoned mine, flooding their own with millions of gallons of water. "Water was up to our noses," Pugh told The Catholic Accent, newspaper of the Greensburg Diocese. "All we could do was sit there and pray. ... It seemed like it was taking so much time to find us. Time was something we didn't have."

### Lacemaking course brings Sister of St. Joseph closer to roots

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (CNS) — Three weeks alone in France studying lacemaking is not the typical dream summer vacation. But for Sister of St. Joseph Patty Hottin, associate dean of students at Elms College in Chicopee, it was exactly that. Last summer, she acted on her longtime dream, traveling to Le Puy, France, to take an intensive three-week course at the Center for the Teaching of Lacemaking. In an interview with The Catholic Observer, newspaper of the Springfield Diocese, Sister Hottin said it was daunting to live alone in an austere room and take classes in a foreign language. But her desire to learn lacemaking was so strong and deep that she just did it. "I became interested in lacemaking as long as I knew the history of our congregation," said Sister Hottin.


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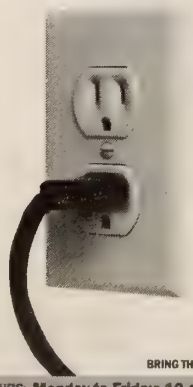
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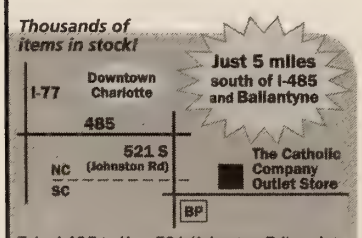
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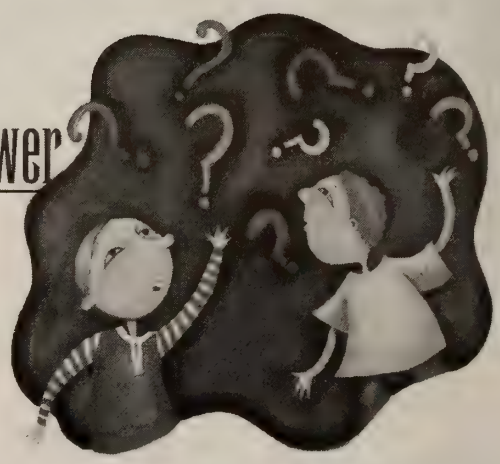
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*Training the trainers*

# Diocese prepares individuals to instruct others to identify and eradicate sexual misconduct

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

HICKORY — From the bishops' June meeting in Dallas came the charter for the protection of children and young people. The charter, overwhelmingly approved on June 14, is designed to become the compass for dioceses as they map out individual plans to combat sexual misconduct by clergy and church personnel.

The Diocese of Charlotte is ahead of the curve.

Diocesan policy calling for continuing education on sexual misconduct was instituted in 1993. Approximately every year and a half, the diocese conducts training for employees, clergy and religious.

Though not the result of Dallas directives, the topic of recent training was the impetus for this specific training session.

"Periodically, we conduct training in the area of sexual misconduct," said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor and director of Human Resources. "The recent (national clergy sexual misconduct) scandal provided the timeliness for this particular training."

A group spent last weekend at the Catholic Conference Center undergoing two days of intensive instruction; training them to, in turn, become trainers.

The 14 individuals — both diocesan employees and volunteers — are the first to be certified to train others as the diocese pledges to institute the VIRTUS program, a course designed to strengthen faith communities through education on sexual misconduct prevention. Sixteen additional individuals will be trained next week at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley. The 30 will then train the approximately 5,000 clergy, volunteers and employees of the diocese.

**"Awareness, communication and timely response are the core principals of this program."**

"Awareness, communication and timely response are the core principals of this program," said Terri Wilhelm, associate director of Human Resources.

"Our goal is to train our diocesan employees and volunteers — especially those who work with children," said Rev. Mr. Todd. "We need our personnel to be aware and know how to respond when and if incidents occur."

"This is a very positive and proactive step," said participant Janice Ritter, acting superintendent of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Charlotte. "Our teachers need strategies in place. The first step is educating people."

To protect the faithful in the future, the national charter calls for dioceses to establish "safe environment" programs; to provide education and training about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children.

"We want the people in the Diocese of Charlotte to take steps, recognize, report, prevent abuse, and to insure it doesn't happen," said Rev. Mr. Todd.

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.*

# Former Vatican ambassador reflects on service

CHICAGO (CNS) — A former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican reflected on her more than 50 years of public service in a talk to the Catholic Health Association convention Aug. 5 in Chicago.

Ambassador Corrine "Lindy" Boggs recounted her memories of being in Washington for both the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and the attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

"In both instances, we as a nation and as individuals have been able to overcome," she said.

A member of Congress for 17 years, she also assessed the prospects for passage of a prescription drug plan for seniors during "this frantic time of year" in Congress.

Boggs also spoke of her four years as ambassador to the Vatican and praised Pope John Paul II's "holistic approach" to easing the pain and suffering caused by hunger, war and other ills.

"The Holy Father gave our government the highest compliment he could pay," she said, by accepting the Congressional Gold Medal. A delegation of U.S. lawmakers presented the honor to the pope in January 2001 for his efforts to defend human dignity and promote peace.

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9:00 Welcome, Fr. Mauricio West, Chancellor
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12:30 "With Hearts, Hands and Voices: A Celebration of Song"
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2. Becoming a Storyteller of the Word (Donna Anderle)
3. Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Liturgy but Were Afraid to Ask (Mark Friedman)
4. Integrating Youth and Young Adults into Parish Worship (Tom Tomaszek)
5. Clinic for Choir Members and Directors (David Nastal) (Part A&B)
6. The Ensemble Group - Many Parts, One Voice (Janet Vogt) (Part A&B)

4:00 Closing Prayer

**Contacts:** Sr. Maureen Meehan, RSM, Ph.D., D.Min., Diocese of Charlotte, (704) 370-3268
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*I shall sing of the wisdom you have taught us;*
*I shall beat the drum in your honor.*
*Let the people dance to the sound of the drum, in honor of you.*
*Bakuba, Zaire*

## Keys to Vibrant Worship:
REGISTRATION FORM

Enclosed please find my registration fee of $25.00 per person, lunch included. Check for $_____for _____ number of people attending the workshop from my parish. Please complete the registration form(s) and return this form along with your registration fee to:

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One form needs to be completed by each person for Workshop Rounds A & B.

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I will be attending the following workshops on Saturday, September 28, 2002 in the afternoon. Please indicate below by number which session you will be attending for each Workshop Round.

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Please return the completed registration form by August 23, 2002 and no later than September 7, 2002. Thank you. Sister Maureen Meehan, RSM, Ph.D.

# Keeping The CODE for life

By SUSAN DEGUZMAN
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — It was Frederick Douglas who said, "It's easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

This famous statement is the basis for the motto of The CODE, a unique pregnancy prevention program for young males. That's right, pregnancy prevention for males, not females.

Run by the Catholic Social Services (CSS) office in Winston-Salem, the program has just graduated its first class of boys this past June. However, the program is now suffering from state budget cuts and those who run it are hoping that area parishes and other public and private supporters will be able to help out.

The CODE targets 10-13 year-old boys of all income levels. Jeff Jones, director of the program, explains the need to work with this age group, "Boys at this age are just learning about their body stages whereas by the time they reach eighth grade, they have pretty much made up their minds about what they're going to do."

Like the Sisters program of CSS, The CODE teaches abstinence before marriage, as well as a host of other values such as respect, honor and trust. It is part of Youth Empowerment Support Services (YESS), which also includes Hand-to-Hand, a program for pregnant teens. The three YESS programs are not funded by the diocese but through the United Way and state grants. YESS Director Constance McVey developed The CODE and also wrote the grant, chosen over others by the state, to fund it.

"I had already been working with young, pregnant girls for so long. Many parents wanted to know what programs were available for young boys, since they are an equal part of the problem," said McVey.

She sought for a program that catered more to boys' interests at this stage of development. Sports seemed to be the answer and she claimed, "I really do think that this is God's idea."

Yet The CODE is far more than just about sports. The boys meet once a week for two hours after school for an entire academic year. Jones and two facilitators begin their sessions with the kids discussing the curriculum, talking about such things as personal and family values, self-esteem, drugs and alcohol, taking responsibility for one's own behavior and decision-making. The curriculum is derived from the nationally known "Wise Guys" program.

Following the discussions, the boys play different sports but must answer questions during their game from what they previously learned. In a basketball game, for example, the shooter who makes a basket is asked a question, such as, "Can you name an STD or disease that you can't get rid of?" Only if he answers correctly will his basket count.

Sometimes the questions are individually answered and sometimes the team may be consulted. Jones commented that, "The boys are much more intense about learning the curriculum so that they can guess correctly later."

Three programs of The CODE were formed last year with a maximum of 20 boys at each location. Eighty percent participation was required for graduation. Many of the boys did not foresee how meaningful graduating the program would be, and were not eligible to participate in the program's summer camp. This year, because there were only 22 graduates, the boys were able to go on a three-day overnight camp to the Great Smoky Mountains.

The CODE was so well received in the community when it started, according to McVey, that there was a waiting list. Jones feels that many more boys will meet the requirements for graduation this year now that they know how the program works.

During the graduation ceremony, many mothers stood up and praised the director and facilitators for being such wonderful role models to the boys, according to McVey. She personally commended Jones' work.

"Part of what he does with the boys is to redefine masculinity, and that it's not a macho thing," said McVey. "He helps the boys see women and girls as people and to be respectful toward them."

Jones' background includes 10 years in the juvenile justice system. The facilitators are both full-time teachers in the school system.

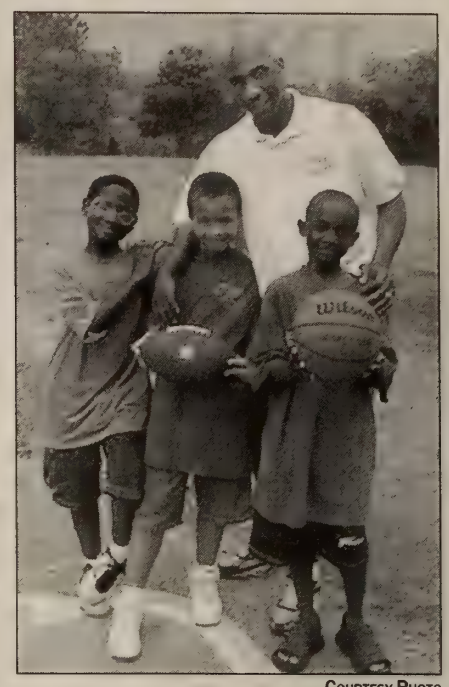
Latham Elementary School, Philo Middle School and Simms Recreation Center were the sites of The CODE last year. Isaiah Smith, a rising fifth-grader from Latham, said about his experience with The CODE, "They teach us things we will need to know in the future. They also teach us to be nice to one another."

McVey felt that The CODE would be a beneficial program for parishes and other religious and non-religious groups. These programs, financed by the individual groups, could be run through CSS, or facilitators of the group's choice could be trained by Jones to run their own program.

The state provided $60,000 to CSS to run The CODE for its first year. This amount served a maximum of 60 boys and paid one full-time and two part-time salaries. The grant was declining, with the expectation that the community would assume increasing financial responsibility with ensuing years. The state funds were terminated abruptly in May.

McVey explained that CSS has stated its support for The CODE and will work to serve as a bridge for as long as possible. She has already applied for assistance from private grants and continues to seek monies elsewhere.

Those interested in supporting The CODE or starting a group may contact Jeff Jones at CSS at (336)714-3212.



Courtesy Photo

**Jeff Jones, director of The CODE, a pregnancy prevention program for boys, hopes to instill values such as abstinence before marriage, respect, honor and trust while the boys are young.**


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# Pilgrims make journey of faith



Photos by Kevin E. Murray

**Above, a crowd of hundreds of thousands attended the July 23 welcome Mass at World Youth Day in Toronto.**

**Below, pilgrims from the Diocese of Charlotte make a three-mile hike to Downsview Park, where they will camp outside for the July 27 evening vigil and July 28 closing Mass with Pope John Paul II.**



By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

TORONTO — When they left North Carolina, each pilgrim had his or her own expectations for their journey — a journey that would, in essence, last long after the trip had ended.

A group of 44 youth and chaperones from the Diocese of Charlotte joined approximately 800,000 Catholic pilgrims from 170 nations at World Youth Day (WYD), a six-day Catholic youth event in Toronto July 23-28. The festivities ended with a papal Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II.

Launched in 1984, WYD is a biennial initiative of Pope John Paul II with previous international gatherings in Argentina, Spain, Poland, Philippines, France, Italy and Denver, Col. Appropriate that Toronto is the Huron Indian word for "meeting place."

Many of the pilgrims, ranging in age from 15 to 30, shared similar reasons for making the journey north: to come to a new place to meet fellow Catholic youth and to leave with a deeper understanding of their faith.

"I've never been on a trip like this before. I want to get to know my faith better and meet other Catholics from around the world," said Jenny Greene, 16, of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte. "I can see how they practice faith a different way and gain insight."

"I saw the last one (WYD) on TV. I want to experience it and energize my faith," said Phillip Wheeler, 30, from Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro.

This WYD's theme was "You are the Salt of the Earth, You are the Light of the World," and focused on baptism and Christian identity, evangelization and transforming the world, and reconciliation with other cultures and generations. The program consisted of speeches, musical performances, a prayer vigil, appearances by the Holy Father and an assortment of social service opportunities.

"This is an opportunity for the youth to jump-start their faith," said Terry Aiken, a youth minister at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, who attended the last WYD in Rome. "It's a chance to make their own personal and spiritual commitment."

"Any chance I get to go on a trip like this, I take it," said Andrew Achter, 18, of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Considering the priesthood, Achter hoped the trip would deepen his spirituality. "I already have a foundation; I just want to build on that."

WYD also featured a 13-foot wooden cross that was carried across much of Canada and to ground zero in New York before reaching its final destination in Toronto. Most of the diocesan group agreed seeing the 82-year-old pontiff would be the highlight of the trip.

"The main thing is to see the pope," said Paul Park, 16, of St. John Lee Korean Church in Charlotte.

"He's a highly respected religious leader," said Greene. "There is so much greatness in him."

They would see the pope soon enough. After traveling together aboard a bus for over 19 hours to their destination in Toronto, they hit their beds to prepare for six days that were purposely geared to change their lives in a positive way.

This is their story. (See next page.)

# Diary of a Pilgrim

TORONTO — Following is a daily recap of the six-day World Youth Day event July 23-28, chronicling the experiences of a diocesan group of young pilgrims who attended the event.

## Day 1

### Mass of Welcome

Carrying the North Carolina state flag, the diocesan group joined thousands of pilgrims at Toronto's Exhibition Place for the Mass of Welcome with Toronto's Cardinal Aloysius Ambrozic July 23. The flag was one of hundreds displayed above a sea of fellow youth.

"It's neat to see all these flags from around the world," said Phillip Wheeler, 30, of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro. "I didn't realize there would be this many people."

"It's really overwhelming to see how many people turned out," said Katie Stowe, 19, of St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Mars Hill.

"I've never seen so many people in all my life," said Mary Frances Ledford, 18, of St. Andrew the Apostle Church. "I just wish we could see the Mass."

The Mass was projected onto jumbo screens and audible through speaker towers. Being in the massive crowd offered opportunity to mingle with others, take pictures and trade pins and flags.

"I've met people from Russia, Spain, Germany, Poland," said Carly Simmons, 19, of Holy Family Church in Clemmons. "I've learned about new prayers, new saints and how they (Catholics from other countries) do things."

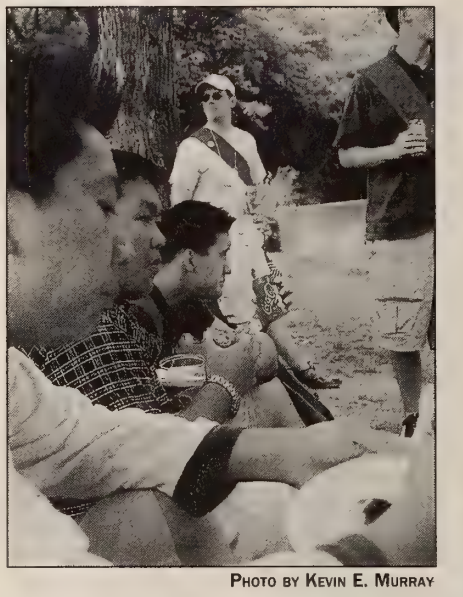
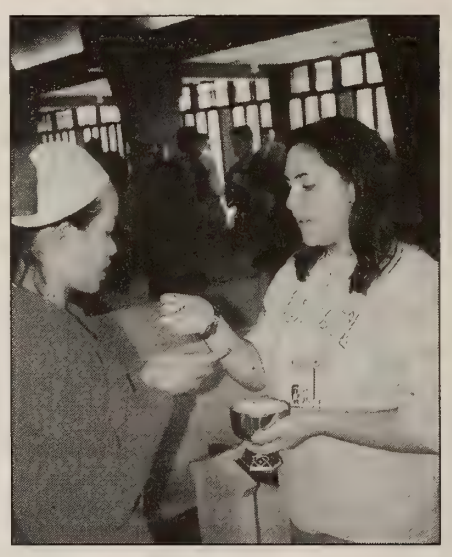


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

**Above, diocesan group members enjoy lunch after catechesis.**





PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

**Above left, Katie Russo, 15, serves as a Eucharistic minister at Mass after a catechesis session. Above right, Pope John Paul II waves to the crowd as he enters Exhibition Place for the welcoming ceremony July 24.**

## Day 2-4

### Catechesis

Each morning included catechesis sessions led by more than 500 bishops, cardinals and archbishops to impart church teachings upon the youth. At St. Bonaventure Church, one of 136 catechesis sites around Toronto, Archbishop Thomas Collins of Edmonton, Alberta, passionately lectured the group on July 24 about being the salt of the earth — about finding zest in their faith and seasoning the world with flavor.

"He grabbed your attention and made you think of how you wanted to live your life," said Katie Russo, 16, of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

"His speech was very inspiring and down to earth," said Andrew Achter, 18, of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point. "He had a way of portraying that he's as human as any one there, which made it more effective."

Australian Archbishop Francis Carroll of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn lectured the group on July 25 about being lights in the world.

"The two (archbishops' lectures) were really different, but they came to the same answers from different directions," said chaperone Capuchin Father Stanley Kobel, parochial vicar of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte.

Archbishop Charles Chaput of the Archdiocese of Denver lectured on July 26, stressing the importance of reconciliation in the world, which starts with the youth reconciling with God.

"Through the sacrament of reconciliation, we don't rely on ourselves; we rely on Christ," said Archbishop Chaput. "And without him, we can't change at all."

The moving lecture left many of the group in silent contemplation.

"It's something you need to reflect on," said Wheeler. "When you're at peace, you're at peace with others."

## Day 3

### Enter the Pope

The pope surprised many by walking down the steps from his plane after arriving in Toronto June 23. Resting on Strawberry Island, a retreat run by the Basilian Fathers on Lake Simcoe, the pope came via helicopter to Exhibition Place for the July 24 welcoming ceremony with an estimated 375,000 pilgrims.

Group members were on hand to see the pope's motorcade. The pope, who blew kisses from his "popemobile," left many in the crowd excited and emotional; the group was jumping, shouting, crying — long after he had passed by.

"I can't describe it. It's an incredible feeling being so close to the pope," said Paul Buchanan, 17, of St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

"My knees are shaking. I can't explain it," said Achter.

"That was absolutely exhilarating," said Ledford.

His voice strong and clear, the energetic pope addressed the crowd about their journey of faith. He allowed repeatedly interruptions from cheers and applause, and he waved, smiled and tapped his hand on his chair in time with chants of, "John Paul II, we love you!"

## Day 4

### Way of the Cross

After catechesis, group members joined tens of thousands for the Way of the Cross — the path Jesus took to his crucifixion — solemnly restaged

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# Pilgrimage

By Kevin E. Murray
Associate Editor



Photo by Kevin E. Murray

**Above, (from left) Carly Simmons, 19; Terri McKendry, program coordinator for youth and young adult ministry; Katie Stowe, 19; and Mary Frances Ledford, 18, carry the North Carolina state flag on the Toronto subway en route to World Youth Day festivities.**



Photo by Kevin E. Murray

**Paul Buchanan, 17, listens to a translation of the pope's speech during the candelit vigil July 27.**

along University Avenue July 26. More than 50 young, amateur actors portraying Jesus, soldiers and other characters followed a script written by the pope, who watched the event from Strawberry Island.

"It was really cool. They did a really good job," said Anne Diener, 16, of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, who was at the first Station of the Cross near City Hall and watched — in the rain — the other stations on a jumbo screen.

"It was neat to watch it, and to see a lot of other people enjoying it," she said.

## Day 5

### Pilgrim Trek and Evening Vigil

Early July 27, the group walked for three hours to Downsview Park, a former Canadian air base where the pope celebrated a candelight vigil ceremony that night and Mass the next morning. They lugged camping gear to spend the night, and the long walk in the hot sun took its toll on many of them.

"It was overwhelming at times. My back really hurt, but God gives you only what you can handle, so I kept going," said Diener.

"I could relate it to Christ's journey to Calgary. That made it easier," said Simmons.

"(Motorists) would honk and wave to us," said Katie Dunn, 17, of St. Matthew Church. "It was cool."

An estimated 800,000 were on hand for the candlelight vigil featuring prayers, songs, Scripture readings, testimonies and a message from the pope.

"The aspiration that humanity nurtures, amid countless injustices and sufferings, is the hope of a new civilization marked by freedom and peace. But for such an undertaking, a new generation of builders is needed," the pope said. "You must be those builders. The future is in your hearts and in your hands."

"He (the pope) said he was getting old and that this might be his last World Youth Day," said Simmons. "That really hit me. I want to see the pope again."

Afterward, the pope said, "You are invited tomorrow. Sleep well. Don't leave." The youth responded with roars of cheers and laughter.

The night was cold, and rain and wind welcomed the sleeping crowd early the next morning.

"Overall, it was a worthwhile experience," said Buchanan. "The trials and hardships of the preceding night only sweetened the anticipation of the pope's Mass."

"It was a more realistic, old-fashioned pilgrim experience," said Ledford.

## Day 6

### Papal Mass

The rain continued into the Mass, to which the pope joked the youth were being "baptized naturally." Shortly after, however, the skies parted to reveal the sun as the massive crowd sang "Halleluiah."

"The world you are inheriting is a world which desperately needs a new sense of brotherhood and human solidarity," said the pope. "It is a world which needs to be touched and healed by the beauty and richness of God's love. It needs witnesses to that love. It needs you — to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world."

The papal Mass was the exciting finale for which many of the youth had hoped.

"It was a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Don Tate, 15, of St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

"It was really amazing how many people were there to worship the same faith as I do," said Jenny Greene, 16, of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte.

"An international gathering like this is truly a reflection of the face of Christ," said Paul Kotlowski, director of youth ministry. "What better experience of God's universal church than in a gathering of the body of Christ from around the globe with its earthly head — Pope John Paul II."

### POSTSCRIPT: Reflections

After the Mass, the group returned to the hotel to pack for the long trip home. Most of the youth agreed the weeklong experience had changed them.

"My faith has been revived," said Diener. "It's like I have more strength now to continue my journey of faith."

"It was a very profound week for me, one of the most beautiful of my life," said Ledford. "I'm taking away a better understanding of the church and a yearn to learn more."

"I enjoyed the experience and the good times," said Tate. "I'm taking new friendships home with me."

"I see how strong we Catholics are and how much we can accomplish together," said Greene.

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org*





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# Charlotte teens cook up means to attend World Youth Day

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Four teens cooked meals, babysat and wrapped gifts to pay their way to Canada to see the pope.

St. Patrick Cathedral youth ministry members Lauren Hege, 15; Katie Russo, 16; Catherine Mobley and Kate VanderWood, both 17, spent eight months raising money to join the diocesan group to World Youth Day (WYD), a six-day Catholic youth event in Toronto July 22-28.

"We heard it (WYD) is a lot of fun, and seeing fellow Catholics from around the world would be a great experience," said Mobley.

"I thought it would be an awesome experience for them to see the Holy Father, and to see many youth from around the world united as Catholics," said Heather McCaa, the teens' youth minister at St. Patrick Cathedral.

The teens heard about WYD in October 2001, but didn't think they could raise the $4,000 needed to go. They began saving their money and came up with a few fundraising ideas.

"Our big thing was the Lenten dinners," said Mobley. "We sold non-meat dinners to the parishioners on Fridays during Lent."

"They were very dedicated," said McCaa. "These teens gave up their Friday nights to spend making and selling dinners."

"Our parents and confirmation sponsors came and helped out a couple of weeks," said Russo.

Unfortunately, Lent came to an end. The teens babysat for parishioners and wrapped Christmas gifts at a Barnes & Noble bookstore for donations.

"That wasn't as successful as we thought it would be," said VanderWood.

"But every dollar helped," added Mobley.

They also went before their parish at Mass and asked for donations.

"I didn't feel bad asking (for money) the first time, but I felt bad doing it again," said VanderWood. "I felt we were asking the same people for more money."

The teens continued to raise the money for the pilgrimage up until June 2002. "We worked right up to the last day of that month," said Russo.

Their efforts paid off. The teens proudly joined the diocesan group and approximately 800,000 other pilgrims to celebrate WYD with the pope in Toronto.

"The people here are so into their faith," said Hege. "It's very inspiring."

"It's awesome to be surrounded by Catholics who have come together to open their hearts to the words of the Holy Father," said McCaa.

"I enjoyed seeing all of the other teens and young adults so enthusiastic over their faith," said Mobley, who had never before been outside the United States.

The teens participated in three days of catechesis sessions with various bishops. At Mass after one session, Russo volunteered to be a Eucharistic minister.

"I never did anything like that before," she said. "It was very different, because they were waiting for you to give them something so special to them."

Seeing and celebrating Mass with the pope was the highlight of the trip for the teens.

"My mom saw him when he came to the States and I was around two, and she kept going on about what a wonderful experience it was," said Mobley. "She hoped I would get to see him one day. Seeing him was amazing. You hear about him all the time and seeing others get enthusiastic about seeing him was overwhelming."

The teens agreed the trip was worth their hard work and fundraising efforts. As a thank you, they are writing postcards to their parishioners back home.

"This trip has been priceless," said Russo. "It's bought us an opportunity to grow in our faith. You can't beat that."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*



Photo by Kevin E. Murray

**Heather McCaa, youth minister at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, distributes Canadian money to youth ministry members Lauren Hege, Katie Russo, Catherine Mobley and Kate VanderWood. The teens spent eight months raising money to join the diocesan group at World Youth Day July 22-28.**



Courtesy Photo

**Good Shepherd Church youth attend WYD**
**Top row from left, Andrew Joyce, Toralf Cross and Lindsey Pfundstein. Bottom row from left, Chris Smith, Allison Alphonso and Ashton Alphonso. The group traveled to Toronto with chaperone Anne Alphonso, church secretary (not pictured).**




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## ETHICS, from page 1

cation as necessary for the terminally ill? Two reasons.

Pain, he said, is often not relieved to the degree that it could be because the physician believes that high doses of medication will make the patient an addict. Also, the physician may fear that he will lose his license if he prescribes the extremely high doses of painkillers necessary to relieve some pain. The law states that drugs must be used properly, and some doctors fear they'll be accused of prescribing the drugs improperly.

But, Pellegrino said, "Your best defense is that you acted to relieve pain, which is a primary ethical obligation for all physicians."

The best interest of the patient also includes deciding when to prescribe certain treatments. What are the criteria for the decision? Age, for instance, doesn't always come into it.

"Age, by itself, is not a valid criteria for giving or withholding treatment," Pellegrino said. For instance, a heart transplant is much less beneficial for an 85-year-old than for a younger person. However, for an 85-year-old with kidney failure and no other medical problems, dialysis is just as effective as for someone half his or her age.

What about quality of life?

"No one is empowered to make a quality-of-life decision for anyone else," Pellegrino told the group. Quality of life, he said, is based on the life the patient wants to live, not "on the kind of life you or I would want to live."

Quality-of-life issues for terminally ill patients include the benefit of the treatments they receive. Care, such as making the patient comfortable, is never futile, but some treatments can have little worth. "If a treatment is futile, we are under no moral obligation to provide treatment," Pellegrino said.

This is not the same as physician-assisted suicide, which Pellegrino said is never acceptable. He reiterated Catholic teaching that it is morally wrong to commit an evil act — in this case, taking life — even if good (relieving suffering) will result. However, no one is forced to use heroic means to keep someone alive.

For a terminally ill patient who is able to make decisions, Pellegrino said, "It is morally valid for you, the patient, to say, 'I don't want to bankrupt my family for a marginally beneficial treatment.' "

However, Pellegrino added, cost of treatment cannot be the only factor in whether or not to continue treatment: "It is morally invalid for anyone else to say, 'This is costing too much money; let's end the treatment.' My covenant is with you, the patient. It doesn't mean what the HMO or society think is valid."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*


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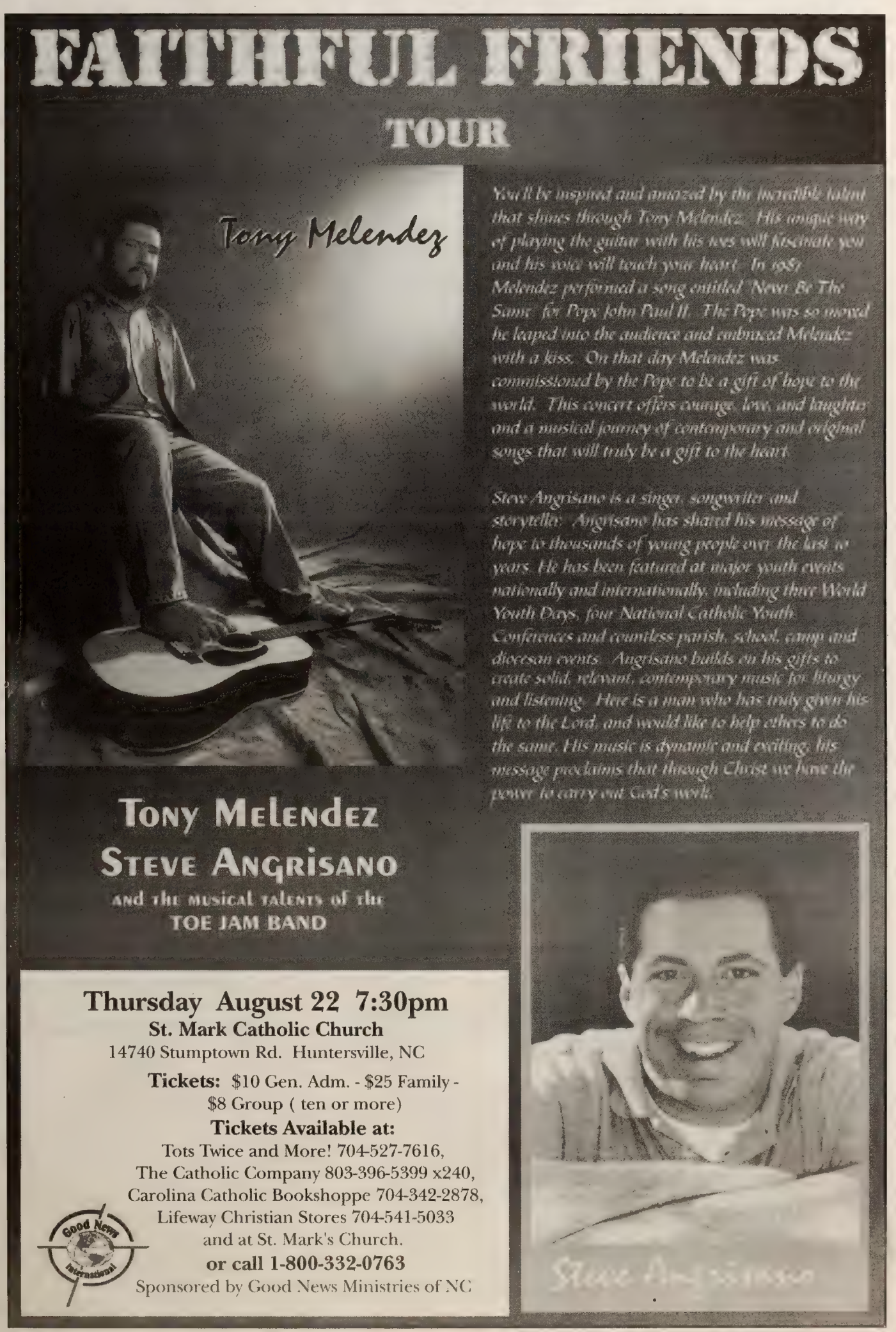
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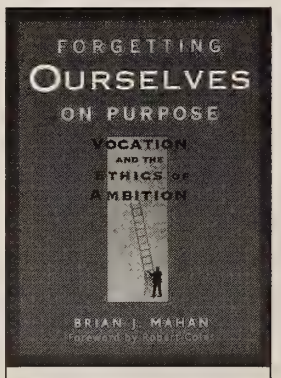


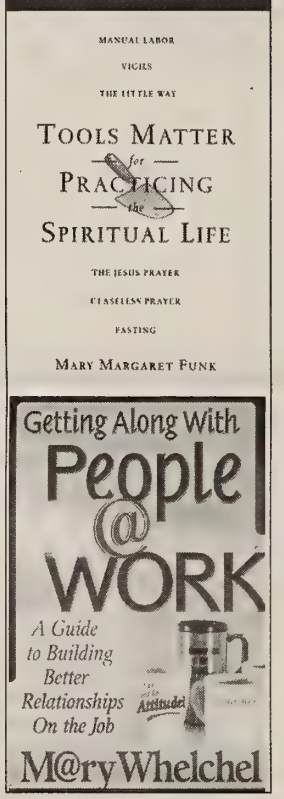
**Book Review**

# Self-help books link Scripture to life

REVIEWED BY
BRIANT T. OLSZEWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Each of these books could be classified as "self-help." How much help you want, in which area you want it, and how much of yourself you are willing to invest in seeking it will determine which text you choose.







"Getting Along" is subtitled "A Guide to Building Better Relationships on the Job." Author Mary Whelchel gives advice about communication, organization, confrontation and other workplace matters with references to Scripture. Each chapter begins with a Bible story and then addresses the topic at hand.

For example, in addressing constructive confrontation, Whelchel opens with the story of Nathan and King David (2 Sm 12:1-14). Later she lists references to Proverbs as ways of handling and executing confrontation.

Whelchel's advice may not be new, but it is sound. The Scripture link encourages the reader to examine workplace situations in a manner rarely presented in other books. The easy-to-read, practical advice makes "Getting Along" a good investment for any office — particularly one in which the employees are doing church-related work.

"Tools Matter for Practicing the Spiritual Life" is an excellent place for one to begin spiritual renewal. Benedictine Sister Mary Margaret Funk provides a volume of tools for tending to one's soul. Those tools are designed to root out distractions from God and to direct our focus to God. Among those distractions are thoughts about food, sex, and things in general.

This book will provide novices in spiritual renewal with many points for reflection on prayer, fasting, penance, humility and spiritual direction. It will also introduce them to the big names in spirituality, i.e., St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Teresa of Avila, and Jean-Pierre de Caussade. Nothing deep, but just enough of an overview from which to delve into further study.

For the reader who wishes to do some very intense soul-searching, "Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and the Ethics of Ambition" is certainly an option. Brian J. Mahan's text often rambles from story to story, person to person, but he manages to keep readers examining their lives by asking where they are and where they want to be.

Readers would be advised to have a familiarity with the works of Walker Percy, Thomas Merton, Leo Tolstoy and William James, as references to them and their works are part of the foundation of this book, which speaks as much to the head as it does to the heart. That combination is one reason why "Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose" might make a good discussion-group text.

While Mahan isn't always easy to follow, he does provide readers with opportunities to think about their lives and examine them in ways they might not have considered. This is not an easy read, but then self-examination and self-transformation aren't easy tasks either.

*Olszewski is editor of the Northwest Indiana Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Gary, Ind.*

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings: August 18, 2002*

August 18, Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

1) Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
2) Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
3) Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Talk about your haunting — maybe taunting — messages! This weekend's Gospel is one of those that I've always preferred to skip over because I don't like the picture it paints of Jesus. He seems so unkind in his remarks to the Canaanite woman. (Is he calling her a dog?)

However, I've learned that the most uncomfortable scriptural passages are the very ones that beg to be examined further. Sure enough, with this one I realize that, actually, the picture I don't like is the one it paints of Jesus' disciples, who, tired of the woman's entreaties, asked Jesus to please send her away.

It reminded me of a conversation I heard in a recent social justice workshop for youth ministers. Unfortunately, it was about to break down into a competition as to who had had the most meaningful experience of service to the poor.

Finally, one person said, "The important thing is that the youth saw how poor some people are and learned to appreciate what they themselves have."

But another responded, "Well, that's good, but they need to realize that they are called to help change the system that allows some people to have so little."

The first, obviously irritated, shot back: "That's not what I'm talking about. They aren't going to be able to change the world."

The Jesus of this weekend's Gospel supposedly was talking to the Canaanite woman. But, really, he was directing his remarks to his disciples — including those at that workshop.

He was saying he had come for them — he offered them the food they needed, but they were lost sheep. They didn't get it. They didn't realize that he was offering them the chance to share it, to be servants of the oppressed, marginalized, suffering people who came among them.

They just wanted to sit with Jesus and "appreciate" him. They didn't see that he wanted them to act — as he wanted the disciples to act in the life of the Canaanite woman.

When they didn't, in his goodness he took care of her — of course. He was Jesus.

But the disciples?

The moment was theirs: to love, to care, to serve. To change the world!

They missed out.

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of August 11 - August 17**

**Sunday (Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:22-23; **Monday,** Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28, Matthew 17:22-27; **Tuesday (Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus),** Ezekiel 2:8—3:4, Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14; **Wednesday,** Ezekiel 9:1-7; 10:18-22, Matthew 18:15-20; **Thursday (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary),** Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10, 1 Corinthians 15:20-27, Luke 1:39-56; **Friday (St. Stephen of Hungary),** Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60, 63, Matthew 19:3-12; **Saturday,** Ezekiel 18:1-10, 13, 30-32, Matthew 19:13-15

**Scripture for the week of August 18 - August 24**

**Sunday (Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Isaiah 56:1, 6-7, Romans 11:13-15, 29-32, Matthew 15:21-28; **Monday (St. John Eudes),** Ezekiel 24:15-24, Matthew 19:16-22; **Tuesday (St. Bernard),** Ezekiel 28:1-10, Matthew 19:23-30; **Wednesday (St. Pius X),** Ezekiel 34:1-11, Matthew 20:1-16; **Thursday (The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary),** Ezekiel 36:23-8, Matthew 22:1-14; **Friday (St. Rose of Lima),** Ezekiel 37:1-14, Matthew 22:34-40; **Saturday (St. Bartholomew),** Revelation 21:9-14, John 1:45-51

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# "Signs" point to frightful fun

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — In the suspenseful thriller "Signs" (Touchstone), writer-director-producer M. Night Shyamalan masterfully builds tension to frighten and unnerve the audience. From nearly the first frame, the viewer is on heightened alert that something — or someone — strange is lurking about, ready to pounce around the next corner.

Shyamalan is certainly a fine storyteller, playing on fears and building dread with each passing minute. His techniques, with Hitchcockian influences, shape the film. He understands that what the audience doesn't see is a lot scarier than what it does.

However, the surprising weak link in an otherwise entertaining film is the narrative. The audience becomes absorbed, anxiously anticipating the outcome of a film that asks whether bizarre, precise patterns carved into a cornfield are a hoax perpetrated by pranksters or the announcement of an alien invasion.

Yet the tale slips into stock scary-movie mode when it isolates the Hess family down in their cellar, cut off from the rest of the world where they fearfully play a wait-and-see game with an unyielding intruder. There is still much to like in "Signs" and it is a credit to Shyamalan that he can keep the audience on pins and needles despite a lightweight story that doesn't provide as powerful a punch as the fear and anxiety that surrounds the viewer.

Of particular interest, however, is that the central character is also struggling with loss of faith after the horrible accidental death of his wife six months earlier. Graham (Mel Gibson) has turned his back on God and faith and no longer considers himself an Episcopalian minister. He angrily refuses to believe in the existence of anything greater than himself guiding and comforting people. But in declaring his hatred of God, he acknowledges that there is a higher being watching over us whom he feels failed him when his wife died.

However, there is little meaningful exploration of this, and the film's pat ending further underlines the superficial manner in which Graham's crisis is treated. Although Shyamalan doesn't probe this as insightfully as one would hope, its inclusion opens the door to viewer reflection on the spiritual life and not waiting until the last moment to nurture it.

The story is set in Bucks County, Pa., where farmer Graham lives with his young children, Morgan (Rory Culkin) and Bo (Abigail Breslin), and his brother Merrill (Joaquin Phoenix). Graham wakes up one day to find five perfect and distinct circles chiseled into his cornfield. The natural assumption is that they are the work of some teen-age hoodlums, but the enormous spheres are flawless, with the stems of the corn stalks bent at exacting angles.

Soon after Graham's discovery, the TV news reports similar findings in India and England; eerily, these circles spring up all over the world. Then odd beams of light, strangely resembling UFOs, hover over Mexico City. Slowly the whole world begins to have the same question Graham and his family have: Is this a hoax or real? And with this, Shyamalan is able to rouse up a world-threatening menace without leaving the family farm.

As the possibility of the world coming to an end looms over the characters, the director incorporates issues of faith and coincidence versus providence, making "Signs" more than a standard sci-fi flick about little green men coming to Earth.

Some of the scariest moments involve not the threat of extraterrestrials, but mundane occurrences. When Morgan has an asthma attack and is unable to get his medicine, Graham holds him, trying to soothe and calm him. The possibility of having one's children harmed in any way is terrifying. Yet Shyamalan balances the terror with a wry, ironic wit that allows the audience to exhale and chuckle before being scared again. A humorous scene involving tinfoil hats captures these giggles-to-goosebumps transitions.

The cast performances are fine indeed. In particular, Culkin and Breslin are natural and convincing as siblings, and there is little doubt that this family really is a family. In a coy move, Shyamalan has cast himself as the town veterinarian and although his performance is not as nuanced and attractive as Gibson's, he does fairly well. Phoenix and Cherry Jones, who plays a local cop, are also top-notch.

Shyamalan shows his preference for old-fashioned moviemaking, no small feat in a special effects-crazed movie world. He keeps it simple but makes every detail count, which is what makes "Signs" stay in the viewer's mind long after the film has finished.

Due to some intensely frightening moments and scattered occasional expressions, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

*Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*



CNS photo from Dimension Films

**Scene from 'Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams'**
**Daryl Sabara and Alexa Vega star in Dimensions Films' "Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

## Movie Capsules

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.

**"The Master of Disguise" (Columbia)**

Dreadfully dull comedy in which a man (Dana Carvey) who comes from a long line of highly skilled camouflage artists must save his kidnapped father from a dastardly thief planning to steal the world's most precious treasures. Directed by Perry Andelin Blake and co-written by Carvey, the film depends solely on Carvey's uninspired mimicking abilities, dragging on interminably and completely devoid of even a mildly involving story line. Some crass expressions and humor with sporadic slapstick violence. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

**"Martin Lawrence Live: Runteldat" (Paramount)**

In this vulgar film directed by David Raynr, comedian Martin Lawrence delivers raunchy standup monologues in which he blathers on about his trials and tribulations of the past few years. But mainly it is an excuse for Lawrence to mouth off in the most demeaning and depraved manner about sex. Explicit and denigrating sexual dialogue with nonstop rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.




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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Pope, at summer residence, reviews visits to Guatemala, Mexico

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — While Pope John Paul II was reviewing his recent trip to Guatemala and Mexico, visitors at his Aug. 7 general audience tried to evoke some of the same atmosphere by chanting in Spanish and waving a Mexican flag.

While the Vatican's list of groups attending the audience included only about 300 Spanish-speakers, most of the 2,500 people gathered in the courtyard of the pope's summer residence joined in the chants.

Not to be outdone, a group from Hungary sang for the pope and his humming along was clearly audible through his microphone. Then, Polish pilgrims sang two songs — one slow and somber, one quick and light — and were rewarded with a big papal smile.

In his main audience address, Pope John Paul said his July 29-Aug. 1 visits to Guatemala City and Mexico City were marked "by a spiritual climate of joy and festivity."

The large crowds at the canonization and beatification ceremonies and along the routes of the papal motorcades underscored the people's faith, their love for the pope and "the enthusiasm of their belonging to the Catholic Church," he said.

St. Pedro de San Jose Betancur, canonized in Guatemala City, was "humble and austere, he knew how to recognize the face of Christ in his brothers and sisters — especially the most abandoned — and for anyone in need he was a man of charity," the pope said.

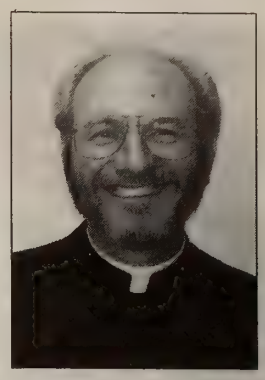
Pope John Paul prayed that the new saint's example would inspire all Catholics "to open their hearts to Christ and to their brothers and sisters."

In Mexico, he said, the canonization of St. Juan Diego and the beatification of two indigenous martyrs show how "one can reach the peaks of holiness while remaining faithful to one's ancestral culture enlightened by the renewing grace of Christ."

The mestizo features of Our Lady of Guadalupe, imprinted on Juan Diego's cloak, "manifest a tender maternal love for all Mexicans," no matter what their ethnic heritage, he said.

The pope prayed that the example of those he canonized and beatified on the trip would give new energy to missionary outreach in the region and spur all believers "to build a new humanity inspired by the permanent values of the Gospel."

# Economy of Faith



GLENMARY FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Polluting our safer world

In 1979, a toxic cloud wafted over I-75 near Richmond, Ky., sending 45 people to the hospital with respiratory problems. The "smoke pot incident" originated at the Lexington Bluegrass Army Depot where officials were testing ways to dispose of obsolete chemical weapons. The inventory included some of the world's most lethal blister and nerve agents that were slowly breaking down while their canisters were becoming brittle.

Despite the 1979 toxic scare, a few years later the Army proposed the time-honored method of on-site incineration to solve the problem of its 500-ton aging stockpile at the Bluegrass depot. Local opponents organized. Their research found that incinerators release toxins such as dioxins and furans, heavy metals, PCBs and scores more unidentified products of incomplete combustion (PICs). Ironically, the weapons designed to protect America were themselves becoming a threat to the nation's public safety.

The possession of chemical and nuclear weapons, as with all forms of modern munitions, raises some questions about the consequences of their production, testing and disposal. While political and moral debate frequently focuses on the use of such weapons, less frequently does the discussion address the unexpected harm this production imposes on Americans' quality of life. In reality, the boomerang effect of producing weapons affects the environment, the poor and ordinary citizens.

First, the environment has become a stakeholder in arms production. The U.S. Climate Action Report 2002, released in June, states global warming threatens heat waves, water shortages, more frequent and violent weather, and rising sea levels. The report admits that human activities are the primary cause of climate change. The questions remain: in the production of chemical and nuclear weapons, how is the waste contained and neutralized? What are the effects of testing and disposing of these weapons on the world's common good, the environment?

Second, pockets of poor in the United States face greater dangers from weapons production than wealthier Americans. For example, the nine chemical weapon stockpile sites are located near communities of color and low-income populations. Until Congress passed the Marine Protection Act of 1972, the Army disposed of obsolete weapons by deep-ocean dumping. Poka Laenui, president of the Pacific Asia Council of Indigenous People says, "The ocean is the great connector rather than divider of us. She is the amniotic fluid from which all life is birthed, not the cesspool for humanity. She is as sacred as land, sky, air and all living creatures."

Finally, ordinary citizens face the unexplored damage to general health. Currently the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission are revising regulations allowing millions of tons of low-level radioactive refuse from the nation's weapons facilities to be recycled into consumer products and building materials. Conceivably, a frying pan or engine block could eventually contain such discarded material. What will be the risk to public health with a constant small dosage of radiation in every day life?

For 18 years, the Chemical Weapons Working Group fought incineration in Kentucky, and consequently advances in technology produced three safer alternative ways of neutralizing the chemical weapons than incineration. Pope John Paul II referring to environmental ethics counsels: "...we must regain humility and recognize the limits of our powers, and most important, the limits of our knowledge and judgment." Basically he cautions: Beware the boomerang effect.



# The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

### Widening the gap between rich and poor

Yet again I am reading a feature focused on how people with money are spending it today. Are you ready for this? They're buying space in the form of houses so huge they have a nickname: McMansions. A recent New York Times headline said it, without explanation: "Big, Bigger, Biggest: The Supersize Suburb." The idea seems to be that if people have a huge house, everybody will know how important they are. And they are, aren't they? After all, they have money!

I guess you already get the idea that I think McMansions, which fall into the category of "conspicuous consumption," are somewhat obscene. Even while families are getting smaller, especially among the rich, housing figures show there is a strong demand for these megamansions. One study reported, "In 1998 the Campbell-Ewald Reference Center listed 'McMansion Mania' as No. 1 on its 'top 10' list of social changes. Their date provided a compelling picture of how much American houses have grown since the middle of the 1980s — 18 percent."

I wonder if some of the millions spent on such personal extravaganza couldn't be put to better use. While two or three people occupy 22,000 square feet of space in their McMansions, nearly a million people in the United States have to search for shelter every night. We don't call them by name. They're just the "homeless."

A survey done in May by the Coalition for the Homeless in New York City pointed out that some 33,887 homeless people sleep in the shelters every night; among these are 7,879 families with a total number of 14,553 children! Maybe homeowners could find some space for them in their megamansions.

One had to experience conscience-pricking when the U.S. Census Bureau released an estimate earlier this year saying that 12 million children under the age of 18, roughly 16 percent of the nation's young ones, live in poverty, defined as a family income of $17,650 or less. What choices are out there for children left out of the "American dream"?

The gap between the rich and the poor — which is always a barometer of basic injustices — is destined to get wider, by a whopping percentage, if Washington politics keep on the present wild course. A year ago we reportedly were supposed to have a $5.6 trillion surplus over the next decade. But then we had the tax cuts that benefited the already wealthy, and we're facing a soaring deficit. And now the Administration wants to phase out the estate tax. If that goes through, we'll have $100 billion less income for government needs in the next decade.

The people getting all that inherited money will be able to keep on buying McMansions, and the poor will get less and less, as is expected when the government runs at such a deficit. Do the heirs of the wealthiest Americans really need massive tax reductions? Isn't this a matter of morals and conscience that our elected officials ought to take very seriously?

Admirably, the U.S. Catholic bishops have taken action to raise awareness of poverty in the United States through their Catholic Campaign for Human Development. We must take seriously what Pope John Paul II wrote in "On Social Concern," his 1987 encyclical: "One must denounce the economic, financial and social mechanisms and structures that are manipulated by the rich and powerful for their own benefit at the expense of the poor."



# Light One Candle

LIGHT ONE CANDLE
MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Knowing our roots, religious and otherwise

Early this summer the Supreme Court made a 5-4 ruling which reopened the always animated discussion of what it means to have a separation of church and state. In this particular case, the court endorsed the possible use of school vouchers. School vouchers make public tax monies available to support the enrollment of students in private and religious schools.

The quest for such vouchers came from the failure of some public education programs to offer quality academic training for children in poorer communities. In fact, most voucher programs have been established in minority neighborhoods. Parents there are overwhelmed by the system's failure to provide effective educational programs for their children. In their frustration, they seek alternatives. In Cleveland, which initiated the Supreme Court case, vouchers of up to $2250 a year place children in private schools. Critics of vouchers call such them a misuse of tax money. They believe these revenues should be used exclusively for public education and that the wall between church and state has been breached by the court's decision.

Let's look at this wall. America was largely settled by European immigrants who had little, if any, religious freedom in their homelands. In fact, their religious choices were almost non-existent. If you lived in a predominantly Roman Catholic country, you either became a member of that faith or lived in a perpetual state of second-class citizenship, if not active persecution. It was the same for people in Protestant nations.

The founders of the United States of America determined that we would have freedom of religious practice. Never again could the state impose a particular religious perspective on its citizens. But these same founders were quite clear about their belief in God, and said so in any number of important documents.

"The Almighty," "our Creator" is spoken of frequently by Washington, Jefferson, Adams and their colleagues. You have to guess that they'd be mystified by the viewpoint that mentioning God in some way violates a person's rights. They sought to free people to worship however they liked. Or not to worship at all. But nowhere did they indicate a desire to erase the very mention of God. This discussion will not end anytime soon.

As a young priest, I was regularly invited to public high school graduations to offer a short prayer and blessing for the assembled. Like most clergy, I went out of my way to keep the reference to God inclusive, not seeking to offend anyone. Now even that possibility is ended. My presence at those commencements in the role of prayer leader is now considered illegal. No one may mention God in prayer because it may offend a graduate who has no particular religious belief. Oddly, I have the freedom to curse and swear at the graduation — that's protected by the First Amendment. But I may not pray!

At The Christophers, we believe that every person can make a difference for the better. The Founders of our great nation surely proved that. Against almost unimaginable odds, they beat the world's most powerful empire to attain freedom, including the freedom of religious expression. Let's continue to make a difference by seeing that our right to that expression remains unrestricted.

In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson said, "We are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights." Was Jefferson wrong? Or should we defend our right to believe, and to speak up for that belief how and where we choose?

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### What about distributing the precious blood in small individual cups?

*Q. I believe my question is on the minds of many Roman Catholics who are familiar with "Protestant" forms of Communion. They distribute the wine in small individual cups, which are then discarded.*

*Many Catholics do not partake of the chalice at Communion time for fear of germs or bacteria left there by others. Couldn't separate cups be an answer for us? (New York)*

A. A number of readers of this column have made the same suggestion. Individual cups would not be acceptable to us for several reasons.

Drinking from the "one cup" and eating from the "one loaf" has always been a living symbol of the unity of faith expressed and accomplished in the Eucharist. (See, for example, St. Paul's reflection on this truth in 1 Corinthians 10:16-21.)

Even though there may be several cups, and it is not often possible to break one loaf for the assembled faithful, we try to preserve that symbolism as much as possible.

Also, again in accord with our theology of the sacraments, the Eucharist always should be ministered by the priest or deacon or other assisting ministers, which is why communicants do not simply go up to the altar and take the host or the cup themselves.

Perhaps the primary reason this method of receiving Communion is not possible for us, however, is that our belief in the eucharistic presence of our Lord in the consecrated bread and wine is significantly different from that of most Protestant churches.

We believe that Jesus Christ is present permanently after the eucharistic prayer at Mass as long as the species (appearance) of bread and wine are present. In other words, our theology is that even after Mass, if what remains appears to sight and taste as wine and bread, the Lord is still present sacramentally.

This is why the consecrated hosts are reserved in the tabernacle after Mass, and the chalice and other cups used for Communion are carefully washed with water, which is then consumed.

Obviously, in most cases at least some small amount of consecrated wine distributed in cups would remain in the cups after individual use. There would be no way to care properly for those remnants before the cups are discarded.

The way the sacrament of the Eucharist now is ministered at Mass has limitations, but I don't think it is likely to change.

*A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about receiving the holy Eucharist is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

### Is your "soul mate" the one?

In our work in marriage preparation, we find among the engaged a pervading belief in the "soul mate" ideal. Though this belief is packaged with great hopes for lifelong marriage, it contributes to the demise of many marriages.

Those who believe that there is a particular someone with whom God intended for them to live their lives may spend a lifetime searching and waiting. Those who believe they have found their soul mates may find themselves disillusioned with that person after they've revealed their "true nature." They may ask themselves "What could God have been thinking?" or "How could I have been so wrong?" It's only a matter of time before they realize that this person is not the soul mate of their dreams. Then they continue their search for Mr. or Mrs. Right in a lifetime of serial monogamy.

In the movie "The Matrix," the protagonist, Thomas (Neo) Anderson, is asked often if he believes he is "the one" — a cyberspace messianic figure who is to save the world from evil. At first he completely rejects the notion that he is the one. Yet, over time and through many trials he discovers that he in fact is that special person. And only when he comes to the full realization that he is the one can he fulfill his mission to save the world.

When we married in 1975, we too believed that our union was destined. There was so much evidence — our needs and desires, our mutual affection, all that we had in common and general consensus from our family and friends. It didn't take very long for this soul mate ideal to crumble. Through much trial and error we found that our marriage was indeed a blessing from God, but not one that was predestined. We discovered that for our marriage to be life giving and lifelong, we had to become "the one" for each other. Our searching had to be within ourselves, not outside.

Because we married very young (23 and 21), we had a lot of growing up to do. Part of that maturation was our becoming independent enough to choose interdependence. We learned that, though neither of us were the other's ideal soul mate, we could develop ourselves and, with God's grace, become "the one" for each other.

The soul mate ideal only works if our searching is within ourselves and our goal is to become "the one" for another person. When two people who have come to that realization meet and marry, they can, with God's grace, become soul mates.

It's not about finding that special someone but becoming that special someone for someone else. Like Neo in "The Matrix," only when a spouse comes to the realization that he or she is "the one" can they fulfill their sacred mission of lifelong marriage in Christ.

**Questions for Reflection:**

*a. What do you believe regarding the "soul-mate" ideal?*
*b. How has this shaped your life?*
*c. Are you "the one"?*

# Staff writer moves on to teaching

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic News & Herald bids farewell to Staff Writer Alesha M. Price, who leaves the publication with the printing of this edition.

Starting this week, Price will be teaching English at Vance High School in Charlotte.



Staff Writer
Alesha M. Price

Hailing from Thibodaux, La., Price joined The Catholic News & Herald in June 1999. In addition to writing articles, Price's responsibilities included photography, the weekly Episcopal and Diocesan planners, and her long running Living the Faith series on diocesan deacons and women religious.

She has received acclaim in May 2000 when she secured a Catholic Press Association honorable mention award for her November 1999 story on Pauline Leeper, a Belmont woman who was a civil rights activist and Vietnam War protestor.

"Alesha has a real gift with her ability to verbally unfold a story for the reader," said Joann Keane, editor of the weekly diocesan newspaper. "While the newspaper has a void to fill, students at Vance High School gain a teacher with a penchant for the intricate details of the written word."

"I have enjoyed getting to know the people at the pastoral center and in the Diocese of Charlotte," said Price. "What has been most fulfilling for me are the relationships I have developed with people through writing stories."

In addition to working at the newspaper, Price has: volunteered with the Urban League of Central Carolinas Young Professionals Group; served on the planning committee for Theology on Tap, a program sponsored by the diocesan young adult and campus ministry department; served as coordinator on the planning committee for Sankofa, a yearly cultural retreat for teens sponsored by Our Lady of Consolation Church and the Kabaka Drummers and Dancers; served on the media relations committee for the National Gathering for Black Catholic Women.

"Working for the church has been fulfilling both spiritually and professionally," said Price. "I will greatly miss working with everyone."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

# Diocesan priest charged with sexual misconduct, released on bail

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

SALISBURY — Father Richard Farwell, a diocesan priest most recently serving in ministry outside the Diocese of Charlotte, turned himself in to Rowan County authorities Aug. 7. He was charged with allegedly taking indecent liberties with a minor. He was released on a $3,000 bond, and is represented by private counsel.

Father Farwell had been serving in ministry outside the diocese [at his request] since 2000. Specifically, he worked in ministry with Food for the Poor in Deerfield Beach, Fla.

In April, Food for the Poor fired Father Farwell following receipt of an allegation of sexual misconduct filed in Rowan County. At that time, the Diocese of Charlotte placed Father Farwell on administrative leave. Removing a priest from active ministry is standard policy for the diocese in cases of alleged sexual misconduct.

In February 1999, the alleged victim made an allegation that Father Richard Farwell had molested him once 19 years ago when the alleged victim was between 10 and 12 years of age. Father Farwell denied the charge and the alleged victim was informed. The diocese sought to verify the claim; the alleged victim would not purse the claim stating he did not want his name publicly revealed.

In April of this year, the Diocese of Charlotte received a letter from the alleged victim's mother stating her son was now ready to come forth. The diocese then contacted the alleged victim to verify the information was received from his mother. In accordance with diocesan policy, the incident was reported to the Rowan County Department of Social Services and also referred to a diocesan committee for review.

Father Farwell, ordained in 1981, served parishes in Charlotte, Salisbury, and had been pastor in Lincolnton prior to his leave to serve outside the diocese.

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org*

# Revival promises traditional renewal of spirit

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE - An old fashion tent revival, "Revival of the Spirit 2002: Do You Know My Jesus?" will take place at Our Lady of Consolation Church (OLC) Aug. 16-18.

"Past revivals have served the intent to bring people back to the church, to foster ecumenicism, and as the theme says, to revive and renew the spirit," said Rev. Mr. Todd, vice chancellor and vicar for African American Affairs Ministry, which is sponsoring the revival.

Unlike the last two years, the revival will take place in OLC as opposed to outside under a tent.

"The format is still the same," said Rev. Mr. Todd. "There will still be a concert before preaching on Friday and Saturday, and a Harambee Mass on Sunday morning."

The three-day event will feature revivalist Father Tony Ricard, pastor of Our Lady of the Sea and St. Phillip the Apostle churches in New Orleans and instructor of church doctrine at Xavier University.

OLC's Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir with provide the music at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 17 and Pinn Memorial Baptist Church Gospel Choir from Philadelphia, Pa., will perform at 6 p.m. Aug. 17; Father Ricard will preach after the concerts on both nights. People are encouraged to come out early Aug. 17 for an "old fashion fish fry" from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Harambee Mass with Father Ricard will begin at 11 a.m. Aug. 18, with music provided by both choirs.

"Even though the revival is sponsored by the African American Affairs Ministry, all are invited and welcomed," said Rev. Mr. Todd.

For more information, call Rev. Mr. Todd at (704) 370-3339.

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**STAFF WRITER:** The Catholic News & Herald seeks a staff writer with the ability to move easily between news and poignant feature writing. Successful candidate will also possess photography skills, an understanding of AP style, experience in a PC environment and a degree in journalism, or comparable experience. Knowledge of Catholicism. Must be available to travel within Western North Carolina. Good benefits package. Send resume, non-returnable clips [and photography samples] to: Staff Writer Position, PO Box 34267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org. Closing date for applications August 30.

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## PRAYERS AND PETITIONS

In Thanksgiving to St. Jude for prayers answered. CP and In Thanksgiving to The Holy Spirit for prayers answered. CP

## HOUSE, from page 1

cipient.

As a Catholic at a predominately Baptist university, House discovered that 20 percent of the student body was Catholic. Yearning to bring them together in a faith community, House founded the Campbell University Catholic Community and served as president. The community was slow going at first with just 20 students bonding through volunteer projects at a mental health facility and with the Disaster Relief project.

But the word spread and the next year the group topped 75 students. House and her community members secured permission for a Catholic priest to speak at a Cultural Enrichment Program — a first at the university. The group also planned social activities, extending invitations to the student body. As non-Catholics attended the events, preconceived notions about Catholicism diminished on campus.

"These experiences strengthened by faith," said House. "Bringing Catholics together for worship and prayer creates an indescribable energy. When you expose others to the faith and experience an awakening within them, it's a wonderful feeling."

House began entering pageants during her years at Ashbrook High School, where she never experienced the thrill of winning but enjoyed the activities and socializing accompanying the events. Following graduation, scholarships and community service programs offered by the pageants were the magnets that attracted House to the local competitions.

In 1999, she won the Miss Mount Holly pageant and was third runner-up for Miss North Carolina. In 2001, she won the Miss Lincoln County pageant and then the Miss North Carolina pageant.

As Miss Lincoln County, House created the Angels Among Us program at Holy Angels in Belmont. She recruited area high school students to interact with high priority residents — those who receive few visits from family and friends.

"High school students were exposed to something they had never seen before," said House. "They experienced a strengthening of faith."

House also expanded her interests to the governmental aspects regarding the disabled. Assisting lobbyist John Tote of Raleigh, she spent time in the House of Representatives and senate initiating new legislation.

During her reign as Miss North Carolina, House covered the entire state to speak to school groups on character education. She stressed the importance of staying in school and striving for one's dreams. As guest speaker for the DARE program graduations, she encouraged students to continue to say no to drugs.

House has fond memories of visits to the Ronald McDonald Houses. "Just my presence renewed their sense of hope," she added. "Families were grateful that I cared to be a part of the program and spend time with their children."

The Children's Miracle Network touched House's heart in a new way. As the celebrity for the telethon, she mingled with hospitalized children and manned the phone lines. She witnessed the tremendous faith of the children and families despite their circumstances.

"When they announced that within six hours $800,000 had been pledged, Miracle Children were jumping up and down with joy, bringing me to tears," said House. "I couldn't believe I was part of such a great cause."

House was particularly touched by Guilford County's Haley Crabtree, whom she met through the Children's Miracle Network. Eight-year-old Crabtree has cerebral palsy. Feeling like an outcast among her classmates, she asked House to speak at her school. House told her classmates about the hardships of disabilities. She explained that those with disabilities are just like anyone else — get to know them and you will find a great friend.

Several weeks later, Crabtree called House bubbling over with enthusiasm — she had received a birthday party invitation. "To know I had changed just one life makes ever thing I did worthwhile," said House.

House plans to complete her undergraduate degree at UNCC. Her goal is to become a lawyer to focus on improving legislation for the disabled.

"As Miss North Carolina, I went wherever needed. But for all I gave, I received tenfold," she said.

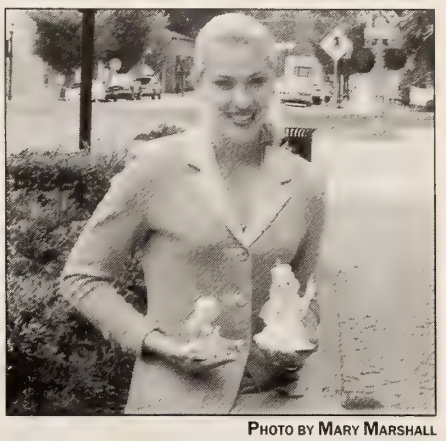


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# Sister helps clients search for solutions through love of God

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

ASHEVILLE — After assuming the responsibility as one of the caretakers of her siblings and her invalid grandmother, Trinitarian Sister Marie Frechette thought that the life of a woman religious was almost simple in comparison. The oldest of five children had many responsibilities while growing up in Cape Cod, Mass., but she also had a memorable childhood. She was greatly influenced by her grandparents, French-Canadian Catholics on her father's side, and gained her mechanical and electronic inclinations from her maternal grandfather.



Trinitarian Sister Marie Frechette

"I got my gift for tinkering from my grandfather. I used to fix radios as a teen and would rent them out to transient help who would come to work in Cape Cod," said Sister Marie with her northeastern accent still prominent.

With the ocean as a backdrop keeping time like a metronome, young Frechette would attend Mass every Sunday morning. The family car would leave home whether everyone was present or not, and on several humorous occasions, a couple of the Frechette children went to church without shoes because they were running late.

Frechette's religious influence came mainly from her family. She had a modern home life in the midst of the 1950s and 60s with a two-income household and her father who cooked the meals. Her father was a chef who worked at area restaurants and at the town high school, where he cooked only what most of the students liked. He had a positive reputation, was a devout Catholic and served as the neighborhood coach with children coming from all over to spend their recreation time with him

"He was like the Pied Piper: We would follow him everywhere. He was a true leader because he wasn't someone who would make you do things," said Sister Marie. "He would kneel on the side of his bed, pray in French and would continue to pray even while we jumped all over him. He taught me how important it was to pray in the language of your heart."

Her mother, who worked nights at the telephone company, was also a role model for the teen. "Between the two of them, they nurtured my faith life. There was always that influence of the church," she said.

Frechette and her sisters and brothers would faithfully attend faith formation classes even in the dead of winter. She admired the Trinitarian Sisters who taught the classes, and she eventually began teaching one class a week. "I would help them (the sisters) with chores and liked hanging around them. I was one of their nuisances," said Sister Marie.

Inevitably, one of the sisters asked the teen if she would consider becoming a woman religious, and that set her wheels in motion. It was not a foreign concept for her because she had received her calling a couple of years before but had ignored it. Frechette thought that she did not belong in the motherhouse, but after talking with the reverend mother, she felt that it was the right decision.

She entered the Missionary Servants of The Most Blessed Trinity (Trinitarian) convent after high school graduation in 1965. Her family was shocked and worried that she had not made the right decision but supported her choice. She adjusted well to life in the convent and assumed her new responsibilities with a seriousness and dedication to her order.

"When I took first vows, I had it in my mind that those were formal for me," said Sister Marie, who professed final vows in 1973. She attended classes in Scripture and theology while working in the infirmary and the kitchen, making meringue for desserts.

She realized that teaching was not where her skills could best be used but realized that her love came from home visits with the families of faith formation students. "I realized I liked talking to people and figured I would capitalize on that gift," she said.

Sister Marie's current work as area director of Catholic Social Services, Western Regional Office (CSS) stemmed from the early development of her communication skills. In 1972, she began working for Catholic Charities in Greensburg, Pa., as a caseworker and supervisor for 13 years. During this time, she received her bachelor's in psychology from Seton Hill College in 1976 and earned her master's in social work from the University of Chicago in 1979.

She was transferred to Pensecola, Fla., where she was the coordinator of counseling services for CSS. This was one of her most fulfilling assignments because she had the opportunity to organize community prayer and bereavement support groups in her spare time. In 1993, the community sent her to the mountains of Asheville to work for CSS as the director.

"I grieved for Pensecola but love it here. I believe God lifted me on eagle's wings," said Sister Marie, who works with clients in areas such as adoption and counseling. "I have had wonderful opportunities of seeing God's face in all of the people I meet every day. I love doing counseling and like solving problems and puzzles. When people come to me, we talk about how they can solve their problems and see solutions."

*Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.*


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**Old Fashion Tent Revival!**

**" Revival of the Spirit 2002: Do You Know My Jesus? "**

***with Rev. R. Tony Ricard, New Orleans, Revivalist***

**Friday, August 16 through Sunday, August 18**

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*Performances by*
**The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir**
*Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, Charlotte, NC*
**Pinn Memorial Baptist Church Gospel Choir**
*Philadelphia, PA*

SCHEDULE

**Friday, August 16**
**6:30 p.m.**
Music by The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir
**7:30 p.m.**
Preaching by Fr. Tony Ricard

**Saturday, August 17**
**11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
***Old Fashion Fish Fry***
**6:00 p.m.**
Concert by Pinn Memorial Baptist Church Gospel Choir

**7:00 p.m.**
Preaching by Fr. Tony Ricard
Music by Pinn Memorial Baptist Church Gospel Choir

**Sunday, August 18**
**11:00 a.m.**
Liturgy and Closing Mass with Fr. Tony Ricard
Music by the combined Gospel choirs

**For information, call Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd**
**(704) 370-3339**

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Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor? Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid? For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

— Romans 11:33-36

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

AUGUST 23, 2002 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 11 Nº 42

**Parishioners pay tribute to retiring pastor**

...PAGE 7

# Youth 'Come to the Water'

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

BRYSON CITY — From meditating about water to taking a dip in the old swimming hole to breaking down the barriers that separate one from God, 47 young people from 11 parishes in the Smoky Mountain and Asheville vicariates participated in "Youth Rally 2002: Come to the Water" at Swain County Recreation Park Aug. 4.

Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry, and Catholic Christian musician Greg Walton facilitated the sessions for high- and middle-school youth.

The rally offered fellowship and fun in Christian community as the youths explored their faith based on the theme of living water, renunciation of evil and spiritual renunciation — self-denial that leads to asceticism.

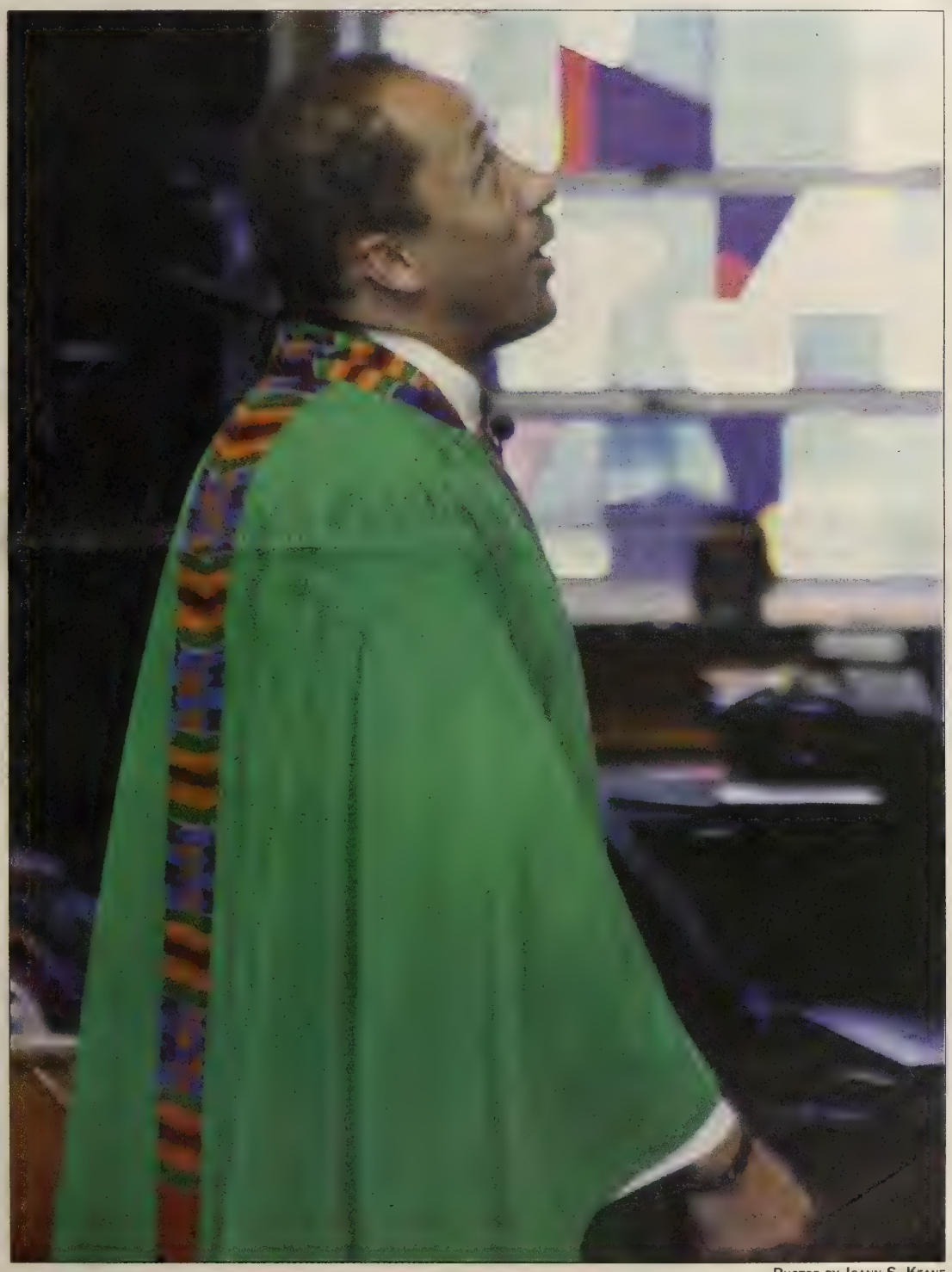
Is this too heavy for middle and high schoolers to deal with? Kotlowski doesn't think so, although for the middle schoolers he talked about renunciation more in terms of ecological conservation.

"Throughout history," he said, "young people have been attracted to the renunciation gospels. Young people can hear the message more eagerly than some of us who are willing to rationalize."

Quoting Jesus in John 7:38, Kotlowski told the groups that, "If anyone believes in me, out of his heart shall flow living water. That's the theme for today — living water. At baptism

See WATER, page 13

# "Revival of the Spirit 2002: Do You Know My Jesus?"



Photos by Joann S. Keane

**Father Tony Ricard looks to God during the Harambee Mass at the weekend tent revival at Our Lady of Consolation Church Aug. 16-18. For story and photos, see pages 10-11.**

# Unveiling the mystery of Mystagogia

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

BROWNS SUMMIT — The Diocese of Charlotte contracted The North American Forum on the Catechumenate (NAFC) to give a seminar focusing on Mystagogia at The Summit: an Episcopal Center Aug. 8-10.

Mystagogia is the continued catechesis of newly initiated Catholics (neophytes) that leads them into a deeper, stronger understanding of their faith that they have accepted through the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). The period of Mystagogia is one in which the neophytes discover how they fit into the church and how they should practice their faith as Catholics.

Dr. Cris Villapando, director of Faith Formation in the Diocese of Charlotte, said there was a needs' assessment on the implementation of the RCIA process in the United States conducted by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Office of Evangelization between 1993 and 1996.

According to this USCCB, 50 percent of the respondents did not have a post-baptismal instruction process simply because those involved didn't know what to do.

Kathleen Lyons, director of Religious Education and RCIA coordinator for the Diocese of St. Augustine, Fla., said, "This was part of the process we seem to fall apart on. It is difficult to encourage new Catholics to come back to the Mystagogia sessions. But it is

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**In prayerful rememberance: Honoring the victims of Sept. 11** ...PAGE 5

**Ascension lifts youth toward God** ...PAGE 8

**Tiffin Room honors sisters who served Living Waters** ...PAGE 12

### Presidential adviser discusses role of faith-based organizations

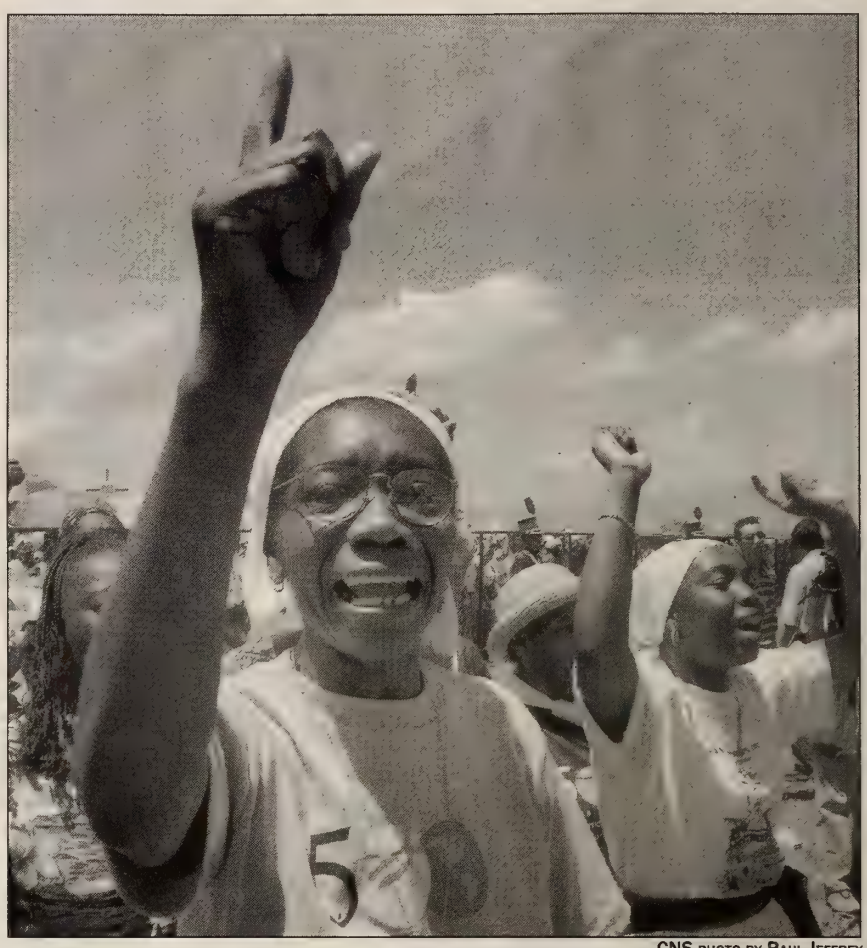
WASHINGTON (CNS) — A special adviser to President Bush said that the major issue in community revitalization is balancing the independence of faith-based and grass-roots organizations with the need for accountability to the government. Catholic organizations are not immune to this situation but tend to be easier to deal with than other faith-based organizations because of the church's structure, said Stephen Goldsmith, a Harvard professor who was appointed by Bush to head the Corporation for National and Community Service. Goldsmith, who also is former mayor of Indianapolis, made the comments in a lecture on "Putting Faith in Neighborhoods: Making Cities Work Through Grass-Roots Citizenship," sponsored by the Heritage Foundation in Washington Aug. 15.

### Campus Catholic community can help students cope, keep faith strong

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. (CNS) — The first year of college is an adventure for new students as they make new friends, learn new things and take on new challenges, said Joseph Varacalli of Nassau Community College. But it is also a stressful time, and Catholic students should seek out what parish community is available — on campus or nearby — that will help them cope with all kinds of challenges, said Varacalli, who is a sociology professor at Nassau and founder of the college's Center for Catholic Studies. Many students who are away from their parents and their home for the first time experience homesickness, and many face questions about their faith and the temptations of alcohol, drugs or sexual promiscuity, he added. "As Catholics, our faith teaches us the importance of community and solidarity," Varacalli told The Long Island Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

### Vatican to comment on U.S. sex abuse charter soon, says spokesman

KRAKOW, Poland (CNS) — The Vatican is still reviewing the charter on sex abuse adopted by U.S. bishops in June and hopes to issue its response sometime "soon," a Vatican spokesman said. The spokesman, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, made the comments to reporters Aug. 17 during Pope John Paul II's visit to Poland. He was reacting to a published report that said the Vatican was about to issue a negative response to the norms. Navarro-Valls said speculation about the Vatican's answer was premature. "No decision has been taken yet because the document is still being evaluated. We hope to be able to communicate soon to the bishops the answer to their request," he said.



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL JEFFREY

**Women sing at celebration for 500th anniversary of Mass**
**Women sing during the Aug. 14 Mass for the 500th year since the first Eucharistic celebration took place on the Americas' mainland near Trujillo, Honduras. The anniversary marked the date in 1502 when a Mass was believed to have been celebrated on the site during Christopher Columbus' fourth and final voyage to the Americas. The women are descendants of Caribbean Indians and African slaves.**

### Speaker hopes national congress will empower young black Catholics

CHICAGO (CNS) — Empowering young black Catholics is a special mission for Father Anthony Bozeman. "For the last couple of years, we've been losing ground (in the black Catholic movement)," he said, adding that this year "we're being called by our baptism to use our black Catholic gifts" of music, expression, vigor and spirituality. The Philadelphia priest will focus on that mission as one of a host of presenters at the National Black Catholic Congress in Chicago Aug. 29-Sept. 1. Other presentations will focus on such topics for black Catholics as spirituality, youths and young adults, education, social justice, Africa, racism and HIV/AIDS. The national gathering is held every five years. Its mission is "to establish an agenda for the evangelization of people of African descent and to improve the spiritual, mental and physical conditions of black people."

### Church official says CMSM abuse document not in opposition to bishops

DETROIT (CNS) — The response to the clergy sex abuse crisis adopted Aug. 10 by the heads of men's religious orders might not be identical to what the U.S. bishops adopted for diocesan priests, but the differences just take into account the special nature of religious life, the Archdiocese of Detroit's key spokesman on clergy sex abuse said Aug. 12. "It would be unfortunate to see the position of the religious superiors that met in Philadelphia (Aug. 7-10) as being in opposition to the bishops or the Dallas charter," said Msgr. Walter Hurley, who has been appointed by Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit as his delegate for sex abuse policy reform in the archdiocese. Members of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men said they will abide by the bishops' policy barring priests who have sexually abused minors from any public ministry, though the organization's president sharply criticized the "zero tolerance" policy as " a war slogan" not suited to church leadership. Unlike the bishops, who spelled out laicization as the normal response to a priest who abuses a minor, the CMSM delegates focused on developing "more effective methods of intervention, care, treatment and follow-up supervision of institute members in need of treatment and continuing supervision for sexual abuse."

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**September 5**
Episcopal ordination
Philadelphia, Pa.

**September 11 - 7:30 p.m.**
Memorial Mass for 9/11 victims
St. Patrick Cathedral

**September 13 — 11 a.m. Mass**
Installation of Belmont Abbey College President James Gearity, Ph.D.
Belmont Abbey Basilica, Belmont

**September 14 — 6 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. William Church, Murphy

**September 15 — 9 a.m.**
Confirmation
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Hayesville

**September 21 — 5 p.m.**
50th anniversary celebration and Mass
St. John Baptist de la Salle Church, North Wilkesboro

## Diocesan planner

**September**

**1** CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will be gathering today at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 545-8133.

**2** CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating its regularly scheduled charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. instead of Sept. 9. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on Oct. 7., the first Mon. of the month. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

**4** ALBEMARLE — The Forever Young Club of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, 416 N. 2nd St., will be having a meeting and a covered dish lunch in the Family Life Center this morning at 10 a.m. For further details, call Mary Garris at (704) 982-8427.

**4** CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will be having a meeting with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information about the senior group or bingo every Thursday night at 7 p.m., call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**5** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Ladies' Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

### Msgr. Higgins' legacy hailed in first Labor Day message since he died

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a message marking the first Labor Day since the death of Msgr. George G. Higgins, Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington called on all Catholics to carry on the late priest's "rich legacy" of support for Catholic teaching on work and workers' rights. "Let us continue his efforts to secure a living wage and greater respect for the dignity and rights of workers," said the cardinal, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Policy, in the statement dated Sept. 2 but released in mid-August in Washington. "In telling the truth, in building bridges among peoples, in standing with the poor, and in solidarity with the church's teaching on the importance of the labor movement, Msgr. Higgins calls us to reform and renewal, to leadership and service," he said. Msgr. Higgins, who died May 1 in Illinois at age 86, was America's foremost labor priest for half a century. For decades he was the author of the bishops' annual Labor Day statement.

### Cuban defections in Canada seen as harming church-state relations

HAVANA (CNS) — Catholic officials are worried that the decision of 23 Cuban youths to remain in Canada after World Youth Day will damage church-state relations in the Caribbean nation. "The church respects the options in something so personal as the decision to emigrate, but it can only express its sorrow in this case, which affects our families, all of society and the church," said Bishop Carlos Baladron Valdes of Guantanamo-Baracoa, who headed the 200-member youth delegation to Canada. Several church sources said the defections could result in government reprisals against the church, such as restricting future exit visas to laity wanting to go to religious meetings in other countries. They said Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana had convinced Cuban President Fidel Castro to allow a large group of Cuban youths to leave the country for the religious event.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Pope smiles at meal with former schoolmates**
**Pope John Paul II smiles as he shares a meal with old school friends at the archbishop's residence in Krakow, Poland, Aug. 18.**

### New document says targeting Jews for conversion is unacceptable

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Campaigns that target Jews for conversion to Christianity are no longer theologically acceptable in the Catholic Church," says a new joint Catholic-Jewish document. The 12-page document, "Reflections on Covenant and Mission," was made public Aug. 12. It was the result of a March 13 consultation in New York of the National Council of Synagogues and the U.S. Catholic bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, the bishops' moderator for Catholic-Jewish relations, called the reflection "a significant step forward in the dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Jewish community in this country." He added, "Here one can see, perhaps more clearly than ever before, an essential compatibility, along with equally significant differences, between the Christian and Jewish understandings of God's call to both our peoples to witness to the name of the one God to the world in harmony."

### Shroud of Turin undergoes secret restoration work for conservation

TURIN, Italy (CNS) — Promising a press conference and extensive documentation in September, Cardinal Severino Poletto of Turin has confirmed conservation work on the Shroud of Turin. Workers, under the direction of a Swiss textile expert, removed 30 fabric patches that had been sewn onto the shroud in 1534 to repair fire damage. The removal of the patches — and of a fabric backing initially attached to support the shroud — was carried out in almost complete secrecy between late June and late July, the Archdiocese of Turin said. Many people believe the 17-foot-long cloth, which bears the image of a crucified man, is the shroud in which Christ was buried.

### Pope, president honor Knights of Columbus at annual convention

ANAHEIM, Calif. (CNS) — In messages sent to the Knights of Columbus convention in Anaheim, Pope John Paul II and President Bush hailed the work of the fraternal organization in trying times. The 120th annual convention, held Aug. 6-8, marked the centennial of the founding of the first Knights' council in California. More than 2,000 attended, including more than 70 cardinals, archbishops and bishops from North America and the Vatican. Bush, in a video message, hailed the Knights as "advocates for life," and thanked them for their role in healing the nation following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The Knights, he said, "were among the first to step up" by creating the Heroes Fund, which from Sept. 12 to Nov. 1 collected and distributed more than $1 million to the nearly 400 families of lost rescue workers.

### Our Lady of China mosaic dedicated at national shrine in Washington

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new Our Lady of China mosaic, depicting Mary and the Christ Child with Chinese features and in traditional Chinese garb, was dedicated during a special Mass Aug. 3 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. The 13-foot-tall mosaic, which includes the Chinese characters for faith, hope, love, and unity below the image of Mary and the Christ Child, was crafted by Italian artisans. It was installed recently on the west wall of the shrine's Great Upper Church. The 1,800 Chinese Catholic pilgrims and other guests who attended the dedication came from the Archdiocese of Washington and Texas, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey and other locations. As the dedication began, Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick spoke a few words in Chinese and the crowd applauded. "There is no one closer to Jesus than Mary," the cardinal said in his homily. He also asked for prayers for the people of China.

**5** WINSTON-SALEM — The Healing Companions is a grief support group for the bereaved. They will be meeting tonight and Sept. 19 in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

**8** CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

**8** CHARLOTTE — The Third Order of Discalced Carmelites is open to men and women 18 years and older who wish to deepen their relationship with God. The group meets this afternoon from 2-4 p.m. at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. For more information, call Joyce at (704) 536-5049.

**8** WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., will have the first Life Teen Mass today followed by a huge party for all teens and their families. For more information, call (336) 682-5575.

**9** CHARLOTTE — The bereavement support group will meet tonight from 6-7:30 p.m. and every first Monday in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. This support group is for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. For details, call Ruth Posey, CSS counselor, at (704) 370-3238.

**9** FRANKLIN — The Women's Guild of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., will be having their monthly meeting tonight at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

**9** MAGGIE VALLEY — Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, will host Charity Sister Fran Grady and Freeman Owie as facilitators of "The Wisdom of the Holy Spirit and the Great Spirit." This retreat, beginning this evening through Sept. 13, will connect, celebrate and honor the mystery of creation and Christianity and Native American traditions and customs. For further information, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

**10** CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Arthritis Support and Education Group will meet this morning from 10-11 a.m. in Room D of the parish ministry center located at 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

**14** CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo community will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight and every second Saturday of the month for a school of leaders at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For further information, call Ky Do at (704) 532-9094.

**14** CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be sponsoring a CPR class for toddlers, infants and adults today from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. To sign up or for more details, call Ellen Tommasi at (336) 766-5989 or Ruthe Hollodick at (336) 940-5511.

**15** MOORESVILLE —New parish life center celebration (dinner, tours and Stewardship Fair) will be held today after the 5:30 p.m. Liturgy at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. Call (704) 664-3992 for more information.

**19** MOORESVILLE — A series of presentations; sponsored by CSS Elder Ministry and facilitated by Richard Von Stamwitz, a national certified gerontological counselor; are being presented throughout the diocese. Today's presentation will be given at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., from 10:30 a.m.- 2 p.m. Parish-provided lunchtime will begin at 12:15 p.m. The topic, "Commentary & Discussions: 'Blessings of Age - A Pastoral Message on Growing Older Within the Faith Community'", will be presented in two sessions. For Sept. 12 pre-registration and other information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Marlo Wallace at (704) 370-3228.

*Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the publication date.*

# Conference geared to help reconnect with faith

ASHEVILLE — "Where is That in the Bible?" and "Why is That in Tradition?" are the titles of two books by Patrick Madrid, Catholic author, speaker and publisher. They are also two of the questions that he and others will address at the "Triumph of the Cross" conference in Asheville Sept. 13-14.

Hosted by St. Barnabas Church in Arden, "Triumph of the Cross: Building Catholic Families, Building a Catholic Culture" included "Catholic Grandparenting," "Living The Faith In Your Home," "Moral Imagination Of Children" and 15 other workshops.

The theme of the conference is threefold: to inspire Catholic families to live their faith in their homes; to address various aspects of the culture in terms of Catholic faith; and to celebrate the priesthood and religious life.

Madrid, who is editor of Envoy magazine and the author of several books on Catholic apologetics, will address the conference on Friday evening following Mass and will be the principal speaker on Saturday.

Father Ray Williams, pastor of St. Mary Church in Sylva, is scheduled to speak on Catholic literature. "Conferences like this one help us to reconnect with our Catholic faith," said Father Williams. "You'll also discover that you're not the only one yearning for something deeper."

Helen Gordon, an active member of The Nazareth House — a family ministry program in Asheville — agreed. "Here is an opportunity for people to begin to realize the absolute treasures of their faith," she said. "This faith is a veritable banquet, so overflowing that the table is literally splitting, and we need to share its delights with others."

Teens as well as adults are encouraged to attend "Triumph of the Cross." Several workshops and talks will be directed to young people in high school and college.

In addition to the speakers and workshops, both the Friday evening session and the Saturday session will begin with Mass. Throughout the day on Saturday there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and an opportunity for reconciliation.

With the help of Father Roger Arnsparger of St. Barnabas Church, The Nazareth House and Saints and Scholars Bookshop have coordinated efforts to bring the conference to Asheville.

Priests at all local parishes are invited to the conference both to participate and to help hear confessions during Saturday's sessions.

The cost of registration is $10 per adult and $5 per teen. Preregistration is strongly encouraged.

*For more information call Saints and Scholars Bookshop at 1-828-251-5558 or Saint Barnabas Catholic Church at 684-6098. If you wish to register by phone, call Saints and Scholars Tuesday through Friday afternoons.*

# Young missionaries strengthen faith in Peru

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

CHULUCANAS, Peru — "I had the time of my life helping people that are less fortunate than me," said Chris Nagel, a rising senior at Charlotte Catholic High School.

Nagel was one of 17 from CCHS and Villanova University in Pennsylvania who traveled to Chulucanas, Peru in July. The trip was a pilot program of the Augustian Secondary Education Association, whose goal was to bring young people together to continue and expand the works of their missionary in Peru.

Organized and led by Capuchin Franciscan Father Steve Hoyt, who leaves Sept. 17 to become a missionary in Zambia, the group visited and expanded their understanding of missions and helped build a children's park.

Traveling with Father Hoyt, who was chaplain and spiritual director at CCHS for the past four years, was Augustian Father Jim Cassidy, principal of CCHS; Andrea Hines of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte; Randy Hines, a recent graduate of CCHS who will attend Northwestern University this fall; and rising CCHS students Chris Nagel of St. Mark Church in Huntersville and Ryan Burke of St. Peter Church in Charlotte.

Father Cassidy spent many years at his order's missionary in Chulucanas. Today, he devotes his summers to visiting parishes throughout the country raising money for the mission's human development projects. He also sells dolls made by the people.

"The world has an impact on students," said Father Cassidy. "This was an opportunity for our students to impact the world. They got a first hand feeling of how the majority of people in the world live. As future economic and political leaders, students need to see the third world.

"Our students immediately immersed themselves, getting involved with the projects, playing soccer with the kids, and spending time with the children. I'm very proud of them," he said.

The students prepared for the expenses of the trip through car washes and selling note cards. The Charlotte Catholic Foundation offered a grant and people assisted with donations.

The bishop and municipality of Chulucanas funded the materials for a park for children living in a shantytown where homes consist of bamboo and mud.

"We brought in logs for benches, set cement, dug holes and planted trees," said Burke. "The children named the park — The Dawn of the New Mountain — at a ceremony where they bubbled over with appreciation and excitement."

The people are very generous and loving," said Nagel. "They showed me that faith and love are far more important than materialistic things. I learned the meaning of teamwork and trust; that's all you need to survive, no matter how bad things are."

Burke discovered another world, one free of the materialistic American culture. "The people are so poor but so giving," he said. "Most don't have jobs. They are kind and loving, such good people. It was nice to see; it wasn't all about money."



Courtesy photo

**Peruvian children play in a park built with the help of a group of 17 student missionaries from Charlotte Catholic High School and Villanova University.**

When the group visited a local hospital, Burke saw people lining the hall. "Their hospital compares in size to a small wing at our hospitals," he said. "I wouldn't want to be sick there."

Ambulances stationed in various areas up to six or seven hours away transport those in need of care to the facility. People often turn to a priest asking for transportation.

"My attitudes have changed," Burke said. "We're here at a private school with nice cars and clothing. I realized some things don't matter that much. Why not send them some money rather than purchase a nicer pair of shoes? It's really not that important to have a BMW."

Burke hopes to return next year. "They need our help and are very appreciative."

"We visited a mission site run by the Sisters of Mercy of Philadelphia," said Father Hoyt. "Their goal is to promote the dignity of women by teaching them skills such as sewing and cooking. Women are also taught how to raise farm animals."

The women are brought together to build self-esteem. "Here they realize their gifts and talents and how these talents can benefit themselves, their families and their communities," said Father Hoyt.

"We also witnessed a strong lay ministry movement that is essential for the church to survive with so few priests and religious," he said. "Pope Paul VI stated, 'If you want peace, you must work for justice.' We saw that come alive in our visit. It was a humbling experience. The people are so warm, generous, and accepting."

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# Many lend helping "Hands" for Holy Angels

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

BELMONT — The Reverend Mother in the Sound of Music told Maria, "When the Lord closes a door, somewhere he opens a window." When state and Medicaid funding cuts closed a door, the innovative staff of Holy Angels Foundation opened a window to help alleviate those cuts. The response to their appeals warms their hearts.

Although the ministry of the Sisters of Mercy supports Holy Angels — a private, nonprofit corporation founded in 1956 that provides innovative programs and services for children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation, some of whom are medically fragile — with an annual sustaining gift, Holy Angels must raise $1.7 million to meet their annual budget.

"Our needs may be overwhelming but the response to these needs is also overwhelming," said Lynne Reyburn, vice president of the Holy Angels' Foundation. "Holy Angels is a love story. People hear about us and respond. Everyone here is touched by the generosity and this is our opportunity to say 'thank you.'"

Through appeals to corporations, students and the Knights of Columbus, more than $125,000 has been raised.

By reaching out to the community under the newly formed Corporate Advisory Committee co-chaired in Mecklenburg County by Gerald Healy, principal of Holy Trinity Middle School, and Robert Healy, CFS, Allmerica Financial; and in Gaston County by William Seabrook, Holy Angels informed corporations of their needs asking for assistance.

Knowing that the quality of care for Holy Angels residents can't be sacrificed, corporations pledged nearly $60,000. "We're humbled by the generosity of these corporations," said Reyburn. "It is our hope that our corporate friends will continue to support us because we know more cuts will come our way."

The committee will host a fundraising event in uptown Charlotte on Oct. 28, featuring Don McCauley, former UNC star athlete who was recently inducted into the NCAA College Hall of Fame.

In addition, Holy Angels Foundation staff engaged schools in a "Hands Around Our School" campaign. Staff members visited schools showing the Holy Angels video and speaking at assemblies to educate students and teachers about living with a disability. They involved students in disability enactments whereby students tried to maneuver wheelchairs, endure the difficulties of blindness by placing a bandana over their eyes and experience the frustration of buttoning their shirt or tying their shoes when a sock is placed over their hand.

Students were then asked to support Holy Angels by selling "hands" for donations of $1 or 50 cents. Donors' names are added to the logo and the bright colored paper symbols stretched throughout schools' hallways.

St. Gabriel School students raised $4,679. Charlotte Catholic High School under the leadership of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes added $4,041 to the fundraising project. And in Gaston County, Tryon Elementary School, Page Elementary School and W. C. Friday Middle School raised over $6,000. This school year, Holy Trinity Middle School, All Saints Elementary School, St Patrick's Elementary School and Catawba Heights Elementary School are eagerly preparing for their campaigns.

"Hands Around Our School" impacts the philanthropy segment of general character building in the Catholic schools," said Reyburn. "Students learn empathy and become motivated to help."

An annual appeal also went out to the Knights of Columbus councils to link up with their Operation Lamb "Tootsie Roll" campaign. Holy Angels earmarked their needs such as adaptive equipment and special educational supplies and materials. The council selects the project(s) to support. Fortunately, Holy Angels is high on their list. The councils supported the purchase of a digital scale and automatic blood pressure machine.

"The support of the Knights of Columbus throughout the state is very significant in that we serve residents from the entire state," said Reyburn. "Holy Angels is the only Catholic facility of its kind in North Carolina. We're grateful to the various councils that are also personally connected with us, volunteering at Christmas parties and donating gifts. They also host a barbeque and boat ride at Camp Hope, an Easter egg hunt, and a staff luncheon."

Programs at Holy Angels include Holy Angels Residential Center, Fox Run ICF/MR (Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded) group homes (three six-bed homes and one eight-bed home), Community Group Homes, Little Angels Child Development Center, Great Adventures, Camp Hope and Cherubs Café & Candy Bouquets in downtown Belmont.

If you would like to help: Contributions may be sent to Holy Angels, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., P.O. Box 710, Belmont, NC 28012. Gifts to Holy Angels can be designated on your United Way pledge card if you company allows open designation (Holy Angels does not receive UW funding). For additional information, call (704) 825-4161, ext. 302.

# In prayerful remembrance

By THE MOST REV. WILLIAM G. CURLIN
Bishop of Charlotte

*There are certain moments in one's life that remain "frozen in time." Sept. 11, 2001, is such a moment!*

*Few can forget where they were and how they heard news of the terrifying acts of death and destruction that occurred last Sept. 11 in New York, Northern Virginia and Pennsylvania. Scenes of people leaping out of the burning Twin Towers before they crumbled to earth, and the gaping wounds where planes had plowed into the Pentagon and a farming field are forever etched into our memories. Additional names of the dead continue to be announced.*

*Many people are preparing fitting memorial services this coming Sept. 11 to commemorate those who lost their lives that terrible day, especially those who gave their lives in trying to help others trapped in the Twin Towers and those who gave their lives in Pennsylvania and thereby saved many lives from further destruction in Washington, D.C. Truly, it seems impossible to adequately commemorate the victims of that day of national tragedy.*

*Long ago, Cardinal Newman wrote, "There are some things that are too deep within our souls to describe in human language." Let us then turn to Jesus to speak what is in our hearts. The triumph of his life over death is celebrated in every Mass. What more worthy manner in which to remember those who died that day of national tragedy and to beg God's healing grace for their loved ones?*

*On Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2002, I cordially invite you to join with me in a Mass of Remembrance at 7:30 p.m. in St. Patrick's Cathedral. I also ask every parish to offer a special Mass on that day of national remembrance.*

William G. Curlin


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# Diocese welcomes director of evangelization

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — On Aug. 5, the Diocese of Charlotte welcomed Frank Villaronga as the new director of evangalization and adult education.

"It's basically a three-pronged position," said Villaronga. "I'll be directing the lay ministry program, coordinating the LIMEX program — the graduate level theology program out of Loyola University — and I'll be developing evangelization for the diocese."

Villaronga felt the latter of his responsibilities would be the most challenging. "The other two areas already have programs in place," he said. "I'll be finding ways of evalgelizing and meeting the challenges of the 21st century."



Frank Villaronga

Hailing from the Archdiocese of Miami, Villaronga considers himself a product of the "crazy Miami culture," which he describes as very multicultural and always changing.

"I have experience with the needs of Miami. I'm new to Charlotte and I'm not pretending what will work in Miami is going to work in Charlotte," he said. "My first priority is going to be to get to know the diocese and see what the needs are, and then look at developing programs that will meet those needs."

With a bachelors in English (minor in Spanish), a masters in divinity and a doctorate in ministry, Villaronga served the Archdiocese of Miami for over five years as coordinator of young adult ministry, two years as director of pastoral center services and two years as educator and consultant for the office of lay ministry. He also taught a world religion analysis course for six years.

"It is such a pleasure to welcome Frank to the diocese," said Father James Hawker, vicar for education and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill. "His educational and pastoral experience equips him so well to fulfill the role of director of evangelization and adult education.

"The fact that Frank is bilingual is significant," added Father Hawker. "He is totally familiar with both the Anglo and Hispanic cultures, and he is eager to learn about and collaborate with the various other Catholic cultures within the diocese."

"Adult education is something that I feel I am called to and I have brought different dimensions of that to my positions in the past," said Villaronga. "Evangelization has always been something that I've tried to bring into all of the different positions, especially with young adult ministry. I was trying to get them to see the importance of outreach and evangelizing, and seeing it as the mission of the church and something we're all called to by virtue of our baptism."

Villaronga heard a calling to the seminary. He spent five years in study up until two months before his diaconate ordination.

"I entered the seminary feeling that I had a vocation to ministry, and I was discerning exactly what that call was," he said. "After five years, I came to the conclusion that the ordained ministry were not was God was calling me to, but I did feel called to ministry as a lay person so I made that commitment."

One thing he has tried to do, he said, is to empower lay people. "It's not just about learning things about your faith, but actually putting them into practice and taking part in the mission of the church," he said. "Jesus didn't say go out and learn, he said go out and spread the Gospel."

Villaronga will be out spreading the word — he intends to spend a year getting acclimated to the needs of the diocese by visiting the various vicariates and parishes.

"In the two weeks that I have been here, the people have been very friendly and outgoing, and I have felt very welcomed," said Villaronga. "I have a strong sense this is where God wants me to be."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*



Courtesy Photo

**Denver council installs new Knights**

**Holy Spirit Church Knights of Columbus Council 10389 in Denver, N.C., installs new slate of officers for Columbian Year 2002-2003 at a ceremony July 13. Back row (left to right): David Folety, outside guard; Robert Zollo, trustee; Kurth Dohmann, warden; Michael Ceril, recorder; Thomas Keene, chancellor and Operation LAMB director; Robert Johansen, treasurer; Peter Ferrara, trustee; Donald Richmond, financial secretary. Front row (left to right): Fred Myers, District 20 deputy; Stephen Lisi, trustee; Robert Ladousier, grand Knight; Father Joseph Ayathupadam, chaplain and pastor; Patrick Keene, deputy grand Knight and program director; Gordon Hirshman, lecturer; Paquale Lisi, advocate. Missing from photo is Paul Rizzi, inside guard.**

**In native Poland, pope seen as moral authority, not aging icon**

KRAKOW, Poland (CNS) — When Pope John Paul II came home to Poland for the ninth time, his compatriots gave him their cheers, their smiles and above all their attention. The 82-year-old pontiff returned the affection and also brought a demanding spiritual and social message, challenging Poles to hold fast to Gospel values that risk slipping away in their new society. For four days, the combination of the crowd's energy and the pope's charisma worked a special kind of magic. Once again, despite his frailty, he connected with the country that has been transformed so dramatically during his papacy. "Poland is still listening to this man because they love him and they trust what he says," said 20-year-old Janusz Grochola, a Krakow student.

**Sibling nuns named 2002 'Pacem in Terris' award winners**

DAVENPORT, Iowa (CNS) — Siblings and fellow Franciscan Sisters Dorothy Marie Hennessey and Gwen Hennessey of Dubuque have been named the 2002 winners of the "Pacem in Terris" Peace and Freedom Award, given by the Diocese of Davenport. The award will be presented by Davenport Bishop William E. Franklin Oct. 3 in Christ the King Chapel at St. Ambrose University in Davenport. In a letter to the nuns about the award, Bishop Franklin said, "Your lifelong commitment to live the Gospel, your nonviolent witness for worldwide peace and your activism for social justice for the past three decades affirm the values espoused by the 'Pacem in Terris' encyclical." Sister Dorothy, 89, has been a Franciscan for more than 70 years and Sister Gwen, 69, for more than 50 years. Both nuns were jailed at a federal work camp in 2001 for a November 2000 peaceful protest at a military base in Fort Benning, Ga.

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|---|---|
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| Rev. James King | 1978 |
| Rev. Msgr. Hugh Dolan | 1981 |
| Rev. John J. Murray | 1997 |

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# Parishioners pay tribute to retiring pastor

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

SYLVA — Three 6-foot-long tables in St. Mary Church Hall were loaded with food, and more kept arriving. A fourth table held two bowls of punch and the white-frosted congratulatory cake.

Parishioners filled the room to tell Father James Cahill how much they loved him. This was May 18, and Father Cahill would be retiring the next month.

As the reception began and everyone joined hands for prayer, Father Cahill tried to shift the spotlight: "I'd like to just say that this is your day."

Cries of "No!" and "Doesn't work!" came from around the room. The parishioners weren't to be deterred from honoring the man who had been their priest for 11 years.

"Of all the priests I've known, he's probably the closest to Jesus," said Bill Barr, who had joined St. Mary three months before. "Love and forgiveness are his middle name. He's wonderful with children. When he walks out of church at the end of Mass, they grab his hands and walk out with him."

"His sermons," said Joby Upson, 14. "I mean, he gets into it so much he almost cries sometimes. He was talking about how we should respect our parents, and that made me think; how if they say 'No,' it's no, and that made me really think."

"He's just holy," Sandra Beauchemin said. "My 5-year-old, Trey, had his kindergarten picture, and he said, 'Wait 'til God sees this.' That speaks volumes, when your child thinks Father (Cahill) is God."

It might seem that Father Cahill brought years of pastoral experience to St. Mary, but the Sylva parish was been his only pastorship.

He had attended Jesuit schools, which influenced him to become a priest. Ordained in 1961 in Weston, Mass., and originally a member of the Jesuits, he started his priestly career in the classroom.

After teaching junior and senior high school in Washington, D.C., Father Cahill moved to the Diocese of Charlotte in 1986; he was parochial vicar at St. Patrick Cathedral for five years, an assignment that he credits with preparing him for his work in Sylva.

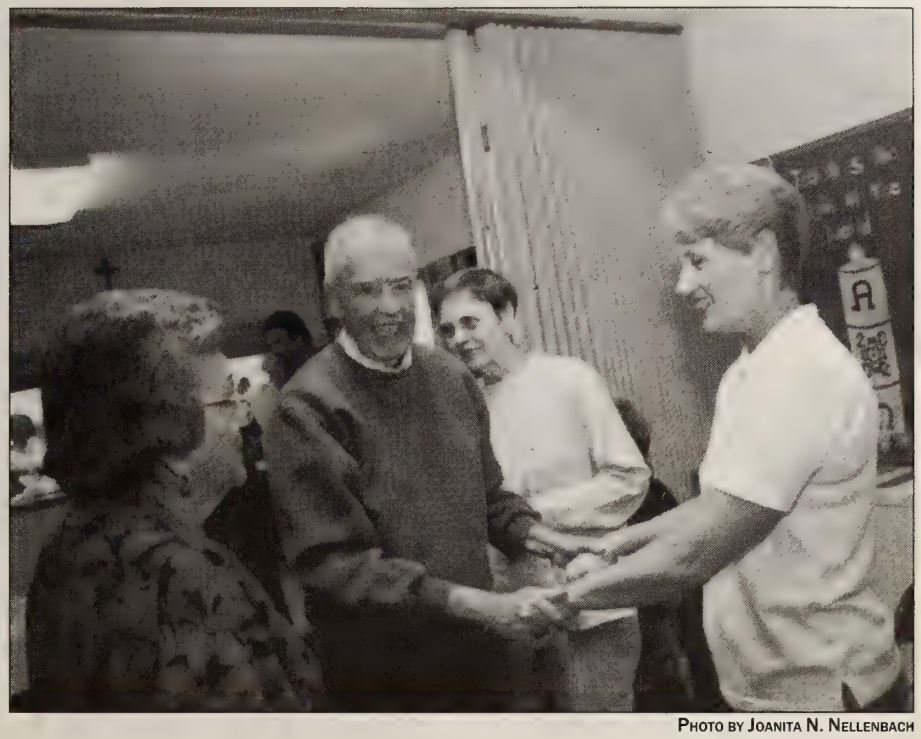


Photo by Joanita N. Nellenbach

**Father James Cahill greets parishioners of St. Mary Church in Sylva at his retirement party May 18, one month before his official retirement.**

"I was just ready," he said of becoming a pastor. "In these entire 11 years, these people here are just wonderful. They keep this parish going. Lots and lots of people do wonderful things. They're overwhelmingly good."

Among those things is a group that visits shut-ins and people in nursing homes. Parishioners created a memorial garden and raised money for a new organ to honor fellow parishioners who had died. They also started Dollars for Those in Need.

"In 1996, we needed a couple of thousand dollars immediately for a parishioner," Father Cahill said. "The group now raises $8,000-$10,000 a year for needs."

He said he hears of a need and "the money just seems to show up; this is money for anyone, regardless of (denomination). I'm not a money person. I don't like to ask for money, and I haven't had to. I just can't begin to tell you how wonderful these people are."

"It's his humility, and through his humility he teaches you humility," said Jeanette Hayes, a parishioner for eight years. "My husband converted because of Father Cahill. Father Cahill never says, 'Money, money, money.' He says, 'We have these obligations, and this is what we have to do.' "

"He made me feel at ease," Carl Hayes said. "I had been married before. My wife was Catholic, and my kids were raised Catholic, but I never had any desire to change. Of course I was younger, and your priorities change. Then we came down here, and there was just something about Father Cahill."

Then Carl wound up in the hospital for 23 days. Doctors discovered his esophagus had torn loose from his stomach.

"Father Cahill was really faithful to him," Jeanette said. "Through his humility he taught Carl that life is short and you need to have a commitment to God."

"I thought I had control of my life," Carl said. "I found out I didn't have control. When something like that happens, you realize that there's somebody who's there to pull you through, and that somebody is God."

"That's when he started to pay attention to life, and Father Cahill was the director," Jeanette said.

Others who joined the Catholic Church while Father Cahill was pastor included Brendan Ferguson, 15, who, with brother Daniel, were baptized in 1999. "I chose to come into the church," Brendan said. "He baptized me. I had my first reconciliation and my first communion with him. He really cares about our youth group."

On the day of the retirement party, parishioners crowded around a table to look at two albums some of them had helped to compile. The albums, a gift for Father Cahill, were packed with 11 years of pictures: youth events, weddings, confirmations, first reconciliations and communions, parish trips — a family enjoying life together.

"It's been such a wonderful thing being a pastor here for the people, coming to this group of people whom I love so much," Father Cahill said before the party.

"His loving kindness, he's so sincere, there's nothing phony about him," said Pauline Watson, a parishioner for 18 years. "If you listen to his homilies, he makes you think. He's wonderful to go to for confession. He makes you feel so comfortable. It's just like talking to your father."

Father Cahill wants to continue serving and has decided to remain in Sylva to help out in area parishes and to visit the sick. "I very much want to keep my hand in," he said

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

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## Ohio priest honored for ministry to police, locals and at ground zero

COLUMBUS, Ohio (CNS) — The International Conference of Police Chaplains has awarded the John A. Price Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement Chaplaincy to a priest from the Columbus Diocese.

Conference officials said Father Leo Connolly is a role model for other chaplains and praised him for his volunteer work at ground zero after Sept. 11.

Father Connolly, chaplain for the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Columbus, received the award in July at the conference's annual training seminar in Anaheim, Calif.

The International Conference of Police Chaplains is an interfaith, nonprofit organization that helps agencies develop chaplaincy programs. It has more than 2,500 members in 12 countries.

"Chaplain Connolly exemplifies the type of caring, compassionate chaplain that law enforcement agencies need," said Dan Nolta, president of the conference, in presenting the award.

Nolta said that Franklin County Sheriff's officials are grateful for Father Connolly's calming presence and 24-hour availability, and often use him as a hostage negotiator.

He said the priest is unassuming and dedicated, but added, "The efficient but quiet way he goes about providing chaplaincy service to his department does not hide the immense love and concern he provides for his department of over 900 personnel."

"His program serves not only the members of his department, but the community as well," Nolta said.

# Ascension lifts youth toward God

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — The worship center at St. Luke Church vibrated as the teen group Ascension took the stage Aug. 10 with their theme song, "Go Make a Difference."

What's their mission? They're spreading the word of the Lord through music. And they're lovin' it. Smiling faces, swaying bodies, hands signing to the words — this group of happy, hip teens knows who they are and where they're going. Wrapped up in their gospel music, they enrich the spirits of those witnessing their faith.

Dressed in kaki shorts or pants, sporting Nike tennis shoes and identifying themselves by their navy t-shirts highlighted by words from their theme song encompassing a treble clef intertwined around a cross, the 22 energetic teens ranged in age from 13 to 21.

Ascension began four years ago when three teens, befriended through a youth group, yearned to transform their Friday evening jam sessions into an organized group with performances. Maria Conrad, Chris Cosentino and Brian DuBois (who is now an Appalachian University student) realized they needed adult sponsorship and sought the assistance of parishioners Frank and April Ryder, who accepted the challenge and have reaped the benefits of these vibrant youths.

The group grew rapidly as teens who play guitars, trumpet, flutes and drums and love to sing came aboard. Through their music, they focus on praising God, playing at Masses and concerts within the parish community. Last year, they began touring and traveled to Sparta in an outreach effort.

For the past several years, Marti Dushak, St. Luke Church director of music and keyboard accompanist, has coordinated the group with the assistance of April Ryder.

"Ascension models the open arms of Jesus," said Dushak. "Members' faiths deepen as each realizes we're all God's children. Music is important but what's most important is that we are a small faith community where no one is excluded."

The teen's music choices radiate their thoughts, such as "Share Your Bread with the Hungry," "Awesome God," "Shout for Joy" and "I'm Yours, Lord." They plan the choreography, with some opting to testify on Scripture verses as they apply to teen's lives.

"By ministering to one another and the community, we feel closer to God," said Julie Walz, who sings and plays the trumpet and will leave the group soon to attend North Carolina State University. "With so much negativism in the world, our group is a beacon in the night."



Photo by Mary Marshall

**Ascension, a musical group of 22 youths ranging in age from 13 to 21, performed at St. Luke Church's worship center Aug. 10.**

Jonathan Fung, an eighth-grade student at Crestdale Middle School, couldn't wait for his thirteenth birthday so he could join the group. A talented musician, Fung plays the guitar, bass, drums, piano and trombone.

"When I saw the group at church, it was awesome," he said. "I was anxious to become a member; I knew it would be good for me. It's more than just music. Each performance is preceded by devotion with a thought to concentrate on while performing and to improve our lives in general. Tonight's thought dealt with being ourselves and not pretending to be something else."

All relate that they are a group of best friends. "We are close knit; something you'd never find with another group of teens," added Conrad. "We have a definite moral code and serve as role models for other parish teens."

Ascension serves as the teen's home away from home. "We share our stresses and understand what each other are going through," said Walz. "We praise the Lord and are enlightened."

Her brother, Chris Walz, who is a sophomore at Independence High School, will keep the family name alive within the group. A talented tenor, he sees the group as his escape from the everyday world.

"At Monday evening practices, I'm able to release all that's happened throughout the week," he said. "Music allows me to be free of worries and cares. I praise God singing, lifting up my voice. For me, Ascension is very spiritually rewarding."

Laura Donaldson, a sophomore at Sun Valley High School, said, "This is the only place where I can be myself. Here, I can be as loud as I want praising God. Through the group I have become a better Christian."

"Musically, socially and spiritually, the group stimulates growth within its members," said Alan Gomiz, a sophomore at Butler High School.

These teens are delivering the message of their theme song, "We can make a difference; we are the light of the world."

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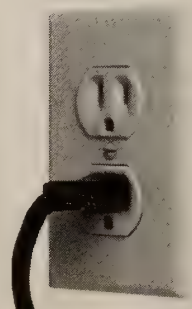
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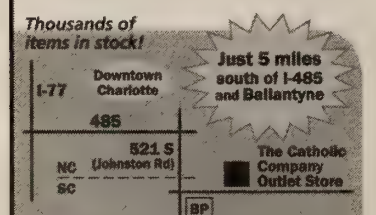
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# Sapphire Valley parish gets needed room to grow

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

SAPPHIRE VALLEY — The symbol of a new era at St. Jude Church has substantial fieldstone pillars out front and facilities that let parishioners get together as they've never been able to do.

The new parish hall, completed last December, means that RCIA sessions no longer meet in a store in Cashiers, three miles away; the parish council can conduct its meetings at a table in the parish center, rather than in pews in the church.

"They built this so they could have their own family life center," said Father William M. Evans, sacramental minister at St. Jude and at Our Lady of the Mountains Church in Highlands. "They're willing to do whatever they need to be a contributing entity to the diocese."

Parishioners gathered Aug. 18 for a Mass, blessing and reception to dedicate the new hall.

Concelebrating with Bishop William G. Curlin were Father Carl T. Del Guidice, pastor of St. Jude and Sacred Heart Church in Brevard; Father Evans; Father Paul Byron and Father Raymond Berg, former St. Jude pastors; and Msgr. Ted Malanowski, visiting from the Diocese of Norwich, Conn.

"I congratulate you for the sacrifice you made for this wonderful parish family," Bishop Curlin said. "When you go out of here today, remember you take Jesus with you."

In the 30 years since Bishop Michael Begley concelebrated the first Mass in St. Jude, the church community has grown from less than 20 families to 60 families year-round and 180 families May-October. It became clear that the church needed to upgrade its facilities.



Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**Bishop William G. Curlin blesses St. Jude's new parish hall. Others participating in the ceremony are Father Paul Byron (left) and Father Raymond Berg, former St. Jude pastors; Peter J. Pioli, master of ceremonies; Father Carl T. Del Guidice, pastor of St. Jude; Father William M. Evans, sacramental minister at St. Jude; and Bradley Dunn and Emma Driver, who held the bishop's miter and staff during Mass.**

The new 4,200-square-foot addition has four classrooms and an office upstairs; downstairs a social hall and kitchen look out onto a patio.

"This (project) actually started about 1998," said David Klingel, who, with wife Deanna, headed the campaign to raise the money for the new hall. "Bob Juback was the one who did all the legwork to get approval from the diocese, and he worked with Allen Brown to design the parish hall."

To finance the hall, parishioners pledged $340,000 in seven weeks.

"The original design had only the downstairs to be completed and a big empty space upstairs for future development," Klingel said. "We realized we needed to finish the upstairs, so we went back and raised another $85,000."

"These people are wonderfully generous," Father Evans said. "They're willing to share what God has given them with one another and with the parish. Even if they don't live here all year, they think of this as their parish."

Since the new center opened, parishioners Bob and Elaine Silva don't need to keep Silva's Sport Shop open one evening a week for RCIA sessions. Faith formation is in the new classrooms rather than private homes. Father Evans started a Scripture class that has 16 students. They're finishing Revelation and plan to continue, beginning with Genesis and going through the whole Bible.

Now there are parish banquets, a monthly pancake breakfast after the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass and a potluck supper one Thursday a month.

"We had people who did not know each other," Father Evans said. "Now they're all getting together."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

Thank you for allowing us to be part of the team that built your beautiful new Parish Hall. Working with everyone involved – the Church itself, the building committee, the architect – was indeed an honor and a privilege. We are extremely proud of the building and sincerely hope the parish of St. Jude Catholic Church is enjoying their new facility.

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# Revivalist encourage

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — According to Father R. Tony Ricard, to have good church you need three things: *good preaching, good song* and the *frenzy.*

"The *frenzy* is when you are so excited about your faith and what God has done for you that you want to celebrate with everything you have — mind, body and soul," he said. "At that moment, you don't care what people think. It's all about celebrating God."

Father Ricard, a priest and renowned revivalist from the Archdiocese of New Orleans, La., supplied the *good preaching* at "Revival of the Spirit 2002: Do You Know My Jesus?" — an old fashion revival sponsored by the African American Affairs Ministry, celebrated at Our Lady of Consolation Church (OLC) Aug. 16-18.

"The theme means coming to know Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior with the same conviction that Simon Peter had when Jesus asked him, 'Who do they say I am?' and he responded, 'You are the Christ!'" said Father Ricard, pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea and St. Phillip and the Apostle churches in New Orleans.

Reminiscent of the earlier days of outdoor preaching, this year's event was the third annual revival to again provide *good song* by OLC's The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir and Pinn Memorial Baptist Church Gospel Choir from Philadelphia, Pa.

"They were two of the best choirs I've heard in my travels," said Father Ricard. "The blessing was to bring the two denominations together to praise God."

The past president of the National Black Catholic Seminarians Association, Father Ricard is the core instructor of church doctrine for the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University and the ninth-grade theology teacher for his alma mater, St. Augustine High School in New Orleans. He has held positions on several diocesan and national boards and was recently appointed as the archdiocesan liaison for African-American vocations to the priesthood.

He said he felt blessed to be able to do what he does; preaching "the Good News" has brought him to 49 states and 13 nations. "I still get blown away by what God does and how he uses me," he said.

Over the course of the weekend, Father Ricard passionately stressed the theme of the revival — to truly know Jesus.

"My hope is that people walk away with a renewed sense of living, serving and knowing him as a real, living God," said Father Ricard. "By knowing that Jesus understands our sacrifices and where we are in life, we better understand his sacrifices for us."

Father Ricard stressed the importance of prayer, community, the domestic church (family) and being ministers of God.

"We've got to pray, because that's what we do as a people. If we pray, God will take care of the rest," he said.

Father Ricard said it's important to remember what God has already done for us — in our own lives as well as historically. "If God has touched you before, he'll touch you again," he said. "And when the hand of God is upon you, nothing can stop you. All we have to do is take up the call. All of us are called to be ministers of the Lord and to spread the Good News."



Photos by Joann S. Keane

And you don't need to use big words, he said. "Talk about what you know and God will do the rest." Father Ricard added that while it may be hard work, "in God and his word, we find ultimate rest."

Both choirs performed together at the Sunday Harambee Mass, which began with drums and dancing. Dressed in African-inspired clothing, complementing the cloth material and decorations draped on the altar, people moved and clapped their hands to the music. Capuchin Father Jude Duffy, pastor of OLC, concelebrated the Mass and with Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor and vicar for African American Affairs Ministry, and Rev. Mr. Charles Knight of OLC serving.

"In the midst of it all, Jesus can make it right," said Father Ricard. "If one person walked out of the revival filled with the spirit and closer to God, then it was a success."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*





**Above left, a woman dances into Our Lady of Consolation Church at the start of the Harambee Mass Aug. 18. Above right, a woman reflects on Father Tony Ricard's homily during the Mass.**

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# closeness with God





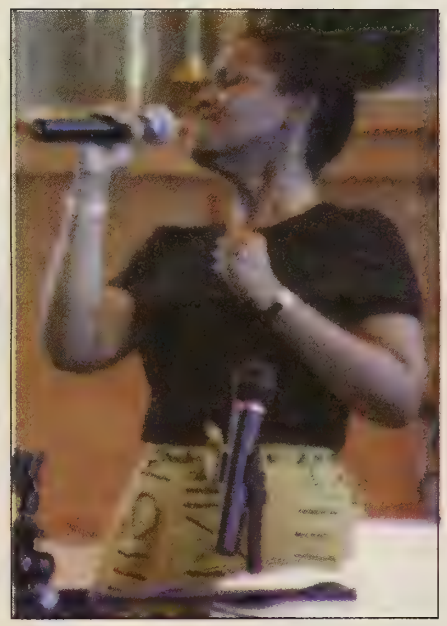


All of us are called to be ministers of the Lord and o spread the Good News. And when the hand of God is upon you, nothing can stop you," said Father Tony Ricard during the tent revival at Our Lady of Consolation Aug. 16-18. Below, two women ritually "sweep" the church at the start of the Harambee Mass Aug. 18.



Above and at right, gospel music and song filled Our Lady of Consolation Church during the Harambee Mass Aug. 18, inspiring many to stand up, clap their hands and sing along. Below, Father Tony Ricard poses for photographs after Mass.








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### Black Catholics were first in nation to hold lay congress

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Black Catholics in the late 1800s were the first to hold a national lay Catholic congress in the United States.

About 200 delegates answered Daniel Rudd's call in 1889 for such a gathering of black Catholic leaders. Congresses were held annually for four more years, but after the one in 1893 they abruptly ended.

Other national organizations then took up the cause of black Catholics.

In the early 1900s, the Knights of Peter Claver, the Federated Colored Catholics, and the National Catholic Interracial Federation were formed. Their annual conventions maintained the spirit of the earlier congresses, giving lay black Catholics a forum where they could speak for themselves on issues of evangelization, spirituality, education and the plight of African-Americans.

Beginning in the 1960s, organizations such as the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, the National Black Sisters' Conference, and the National Black Lay Caucus — united for a time under the umbrella of the National Office for Black Catholics — continued advocacy on behalf of black Catholics.

But none has been as closely linked to the church hierarchy and nationwide diocesan offices as the National Black Catholic Congress office.

After a group of lay leaders, with the help of African-American bishops, revived the idea of the black Catholic congress in 1984, an office for the gathering was established in 1985 in Baltimore.

The congress is supported by a 19-member board of trustees which represents the nation's 11 active black Catholic bishops, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, the National Black Sisters' Conference, the National Black Seminarians Association, the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver, the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators and the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University in New Orleans.

The congress works in close cooperation with the U.S. black bishops, one of whom is elected by his brother bishops as president of the congress board of trustees and two others are elected as trustees.

# Tiffin Room honors sisters who served Living Waters

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

MAGGIE VALLEY — The meeting room at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center isn't called simply "the meeting room" any longer. As of Aug. 11, it's officially the Tiffin Room.

The new name honors the Franciscan Sisters of Tiffin, Ohio, who operated the reflection center for its first 22 years. They served at Living Waters from 1977-1998, when Augustinian friars arrived in Haywood County to staff St. Margaret and St. John churches and the center.

"When we remembered it was the 25th anniversary of the center, we wanted to especially do something to remember the sisters," said Augustinian Father Terrance W. Hyland, Living Waters' director. "We saw that the feast of St. Clare (of Assisi) was on a Sunday, so that was perfect."

About 40 people gathered in the Tiffin Room for the dedication. Many were St. Margaret parishioners; at least 10 were Tiffin Sisters. Some had worked at Living Waters or been stationed nearby, others attended retreats there. A reception in the dining room followed the ceremony.

What eventually became Living Waters started as Falling Waters Motel, on the bank of Jonathan Creek, in 1962. Michael William Murphy had purchased 19 acres of land in Maggie Valley. He built the motel and operated it for a number of years. Retreats were held there even before Murphy deeded the building to the Diocese of Charlotte in 1975.

Murphy built St. Margaret Church, dedicated in 1968, on a hill above the motel (and he was ordained there in 1972.) And, on a hill above the church, he built the House of Prayer, which burned in February 1977 — a few months after it opened. The Franciscan Sisters arrived in 1977 and continued the retreat work, using Falling Waters for retreatant lodging and holding conferences held in St. Margaret.

Falling Waters was remodeled and enlarged. Sister Jane Schmenk, the director, was thinking about a new name for the retreat center, and Franciscan Sister Jean Linder suggested Living Waters to reflect the center's mission.



Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**Franciscan Sister Jane Schmenk and Augustinian Father Terrance W. Hyland install a plaque naming Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center's meeting room as the Tiffin Room.**

"The theme that we've chosen for our blessing and rededication ceremony is the theme of thanksgiving," Father Hyland told the dedication attendees. "We're thankful that Living Waters has served this area so well for 25 years. Thanks to Father Murphy, whose vision this was. Without his vision, none of us would be here.

"In a special way we want to thank the Sisters of Tiffin, who served for 22 of those 25 years. Not a retreat happens that someone doesn't ask, 'How are Sister Jane and all the sisters?' But most of all we thank the good God for this place of reflection and peace and for the many blessings of this ministry. Many people have had their lives blessed by coming here."

Sister Jane and Father Hyland then placed a dedicatory plaque near one of the Tiffin Room's doors.

"It's just an honor for us, and the plaque is beautiful, and to have it on Sunday when so many of us could be here," said Sister Yvonne Fischer, a member of the Tiffin Franciscan Council.

The dedication, Sister Jane said, "just reinforces in my mind the kindness and gentility of the Augustinians."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*





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## WATER, from page 1

we are buried, and we rise from the water. We receive the spirit of adoption, which makes us sons and daughters of God. We become heirs to the kingdom of God, we become God's adopted children."

Water had some solid imagery, with river rocks that Joseph Holt, youth minister at St. Joseph Church in Bryson City, had collected.

"The rock lived in the river for hundreds or thousands of years," Kotlowski said. "The rock was probably rough, but the water had its effect. We need to pray that God will smooth us."

Each student selected one of the rocks from their water-filled container. They would take their rocks home at the end of the day after painting on symbols of their baptism — symbols that showed they take their baptisms seriously.

Streams, crosses, God's hands appearing from a cloud, words like "Savior" appeared in bright colors on the gray rocks. For Lucas Millsap of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, the rock was a powerful symbol of what he learned at the rally. "I got kind of an idea of where my faith is and who I am," he said. "I learned that I'm actually the lamb, and God is my shepherd. That's what I painted on my rock."

"God chooses us," Walton said in his presentations. "St. Jerome says there are two conversions, conversion by water in baptism and conversion by tears in repentence."



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

**Youth were invited to take a dip in the Swain County Recreation Park pool during "Youth Rally 2002: Come to the Water" Aug. 4.**

Walton used music to get across a message about spiritual blindness and the barriers people erect between themselves and God: "We erect barriers between us and God when we choose to sin; we need to tear those walls down. I guess that's my mission today, to tell you that God isn't just for your grandma and your pastor. Holiness is for all of us."

Walton talked about the courage necessary to live and likened life's stumbling blocks and overcoming them to the wicked witch in "The Wizard of Oz," who tries to entice Dorothy and her friends from the Yellow Brick Road. "The Yellow Brick Road is like the path we're supposed to follow, which is God's word," Walton said.

He talked about his sister, who has been clean for 12 years after a long bout with drug abuse.

"I liked the songs and the stories behind the songs, especially about his sister and how she's OK now," said Caroline Jackson of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville. "The sister was a drug addict. Someone invited her to church and now she's clean."

At the end of a day that included sessions interspersed with lunch, a dip in the recreation park's pool and impromptu soccer on the grass, everyone clapped in time to the Mass's entrance hymn, "I Could Sing Your Love Forever." All joined in singing, "Every move I make, I make with you. Everywhere I look I see your face. ...Oh my God, this love, how can it be?"

Father Terry Hyland, director of Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley, celebrated Mass in the park's pavilion, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Carl Hubbell of St. William Church in Murphy.

"We come to the water in our own individual ways to be changed, to be cleansed, to be refreshed," Father Hyland said in his homily. He spoke of the Eucharist as thanksgiving: "If we don't have some kind of hunger, it's going to be very difficult for us to appreciate and be thankful for the Eucharist. ...Think about your attitude: Do I have an attitude of gratitude?"

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

# Keys to Vibrant Worship:

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**Saturday - September 28, 2002**
Lenior-Rhyne College
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8:00 Registration opens, Hospitality, and Resource Exhibits

9:00 Welcome, Fr. Mauricio West, Chancellor
Morning Prayer and Keynote Session:
Spirituality, Community and Culture.
(Conference Team) *Spirituality shapes our expectations and experiences of the liturgy. Liturgy shapes our spirituality and experiences of life. What do we bring to the liturgy? How do we call upon our worship to shape our lives? How do we, as ministers, assist others in developing their spirituality and worship?*

11:30 Lunch

12:30 "With Hearts, Hands and Voices: A Celebration of Song"
*Sing with us as we take a look inside the spirituality of music for liturgy and prayer and explore new musical resources.*

1:30 Workshops – Round A (Choose One from the following list )

2:45 Workshops – Round B (Choose One from the following list )

1. Approaching Intercultural Liturgy: An American Perspective (Bro. Rufino Zaragoza)
2. Becoming a Storyteller of the Word (Donna Anderle)
3. Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Liturgy but Were Afraid to Ask (Mark Friedman)
4. Integrating Youth and Young Adults into Parish Worship (Tom Tomaszek)
5. Clinic for Choir Members and Directors (David Nastal) (Part A&B)
6. The Ensemble Group - Many Parts, One Voice (Janet Vogt) (Part A&B)

4:00 Closing Prayer

**Contacts:** Sr. Maureen Meehan, RSM, Ph.D., D.Min., Diocese of Charlotte, (704) 370-3268
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*I shall sing of the wisdom you have taught us;*
*I shall beat the drum in your honor.*
*Let the people dance to the sound of the drum, in honor of you.*
*Bakuba, Zaire*

## Keys to Vibrant Worship:
REGISTRATION FORM

Enclosed please find my registration fee of $25.00 per person, lunch included. Check for $_____for _____ number of people attending the workshop from my parish. Please complete the registration form(s) and return this form along with your registration fee to:

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One form needs to be completed by each person for Workshop Rounds A & B.

Name:
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_____ _____

I will be attending the following workshops on Saturday, September 28, 2002 in the afternoon. Please indicate below by number which session you will be attending for each Workshop Round.

Workshop Round A _____
Workshop Round B _____

Please return the completed registration form by August 23, 2002 and no later than September 7, 2002. Thank you. Sister Maureen Meehan, RSM, Ph.D.

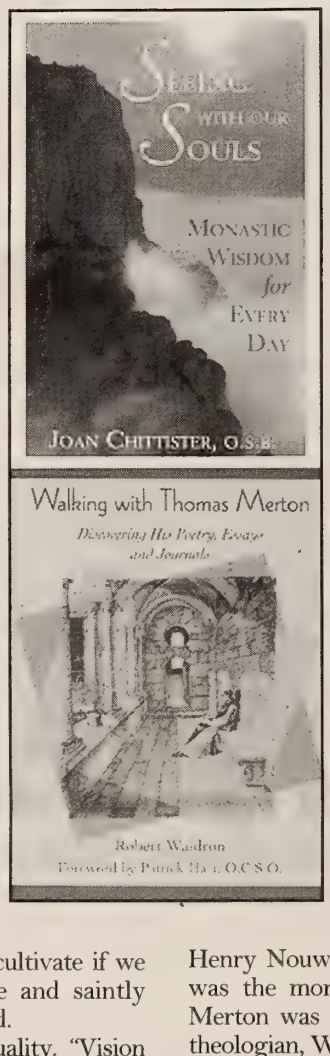
**Book Review**

# Books reveal art of contemplation

REVIEWED BY WAYNE A. HOLST
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister's "Seeing With Our Souls: Monastic Wisdom for Every Day" is a collection of spiritual maxims based on the "lectio divina" or divine readings — a traditional discipline linking the Scriptures with the pursuit of personal transformation. Sister Chittister adroitly blends traditional wisdom with modern life.

Robert Waldron's "Walking With Thomas Merton: Discovering His Poetry, Essays and Journals" is a selection of reflections composed during a three-month period leading up to Waldron' leadership of a retreat centering on Merton's works.




Developing the art of contemplation is a common theme of both books.

"Contemplation is essentially a listening in silence," says Waldron. Sister Chittister, on the other hand, writes contemplative themes for active people who may not be able to pray like monks but who, nevertheless, quest for spiritual wisdom in their lives.

Sister Chittister's book investigates qualities that each of us must cultivate if we truly desire to be unique and saintly people in a changing world.

Vision is one such quality. "Vision asks the questions no one else seems to know exist," she says. "Vision gives meaning to life," she continues. "It propels us through difficulty when the goals we set are greater than the obstacles we must face in achieving them. True happiness comes through fidelity to a worthy purpose."

Imagination is another. "Our dreams keep us going." To achieve the dream of our lives is to be able to let go of the rest of it. Imagination and courage go together. "It's not what we know but how we put things together that makes the difference, ... (since) imagination is more important than knowledge," she writes.

A third quality, gentleness of spirit, comes to us when we are embedded with life at its depths. "No amount of trivia can upset equanimity of soul," she says. Gentleness is not innate. It must be learned. We need to assert ourselves, but come to do it gently.

Waldron, meanwhile, is an English professor who, after 31 years of teaching, decided to retire in order to concentrate on writing, lecturing and conducting retreats on themes relating literature and Merton, his lifelong spiritual mentor.

Waldron's book is able to demonstrate, with charm and substance, why Merton's poetry and prose are so fascinating. "Teach me to be attentive," wrote Simone Weil. That is what Merton is able to do for us. Taking time with him, we learn to attend to many small and obscure things in life that would otherwise pass us by or we may overlook.

Merton demonstrated through his own vocation how the world of the monastic could become engaged with the world outside in a special way. He opened Eastern mysticism to many Westerners, for example, and was heavily involved in matters of politics and social justice.

Waldron offers interesting comparisons and contrasts with another 20th-century spiritual master, Father Henry Nouwen. While Father Nouwen was the more charismatic personality, Merton was the better philosopher and theologian, Waldron believes. "Both men had strong libidos," says the author, but each, as vowed religious, channeled their sexual energies into writing and speaking. "But the fact of the matter is that both men were men of love. And in the end what else matters?"

The appearance of these books is a reflection of growing popular interest in spiritual disciplines. Sister Chittister and Waldron help readers mine rich veins of contemplative wisdom from the Benedictine and Trappist traditions. They help us see that the church has a profound spiritual heritage that, in the hands of talented writers, can be creatively presented and interpreted to modern seekers.

*Holst writes from Alberta where he taught religion and culture at the University of Calgary.*

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings: Aug. 25, 2002*

**August 25, Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Cycle A. Readings.
1) Isaiah 22:19-23
Psalm 138:1-3, 6-8
2) Romans 11:33-36
3) Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"You're sure there's light at the end of the tunnel and not a train," I said, with perhaps a bit too much cheerfulness, to the archbishop of Santa Fe, Michael Sheehan. We were standing near the press credentials table at the June bishops' meeting in Dallas. I was referring to a speech he'd made not too long before about his own experience bringing integrity to the church's handling of multiple sexual scandals in Santa Fe. His leadership after being named archbishop there had been exemplary, and the painful work of restoring the focus of the local church had been long and difficult — but ultimately cleansing, ushering in a new time of evangelism and Christ-centeredness for the Catholics of northern New Mexico.

The director of vocations for his archdiocese projected five years ago that he expected to have more than 35 men in the seminary studying for the priesthood by 2002. Though he said his prediction was met with laughter, his expectations were more than met. The actual number of seminarians after five years was 50.

After I'd reintroduced myself to Archbishop Sheehan, the former bishop of Lubbock, Texas, where I had met him some years back, he smiled and said, yes, that was correct. It was light out there at the end of the tunnel.

In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They give various replies, then Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter replies, "the Son of the living God!"

Jesus tells Peter that the Father himself has revealed this truth to him. "I for my part declare to you, you are 'Rock,' and on this rock I will build my church, and the jaws of death shall not prevail against it." And we know that not too long after that, the speaker of these words and the author of life itself was crucified, only to rise again after three days.

There is always life after death, always light after darkness, always a way made for the reviving of spirits for the righteous who have humbled themselves and sought the Lord's grace and forgiveness and power.

**QUESTIONS:**

*When have you seen God revive your hope or the hope of others after a difficult time?*

# Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of August 25 - August 31**

**Sunday (Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Isaiah 22:19-23, Romans 11:33-36, Matthew 16:13-20; **Monday,** 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12, Matthew 23:13-22; **Tuesday (St. Monica),** 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 14-17, Matthew 23:23-26; **Wednesday (St. Augustine),** 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18, Matthew 23:27-32; **Thursday (The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist),** 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, Mark 6:17-29; **Friday,** 1 Corinthians 1:17-25, Matthew 25:1-13; **Saturday,** 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Matthew 25:14-30

**Scripture for the week of September 1 - September 7**

**Sunday (Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Jeremiah 20:7-9, Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 16:21-27; **Monday,** 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Luke 4:16-30; **Tuesday (St. Gregory the Great),** 1 Corinthians 2:10-16, Luke 4:31-37; **Wednesday,** 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Luke 4:38-44; **Thursday,** 1 Corinthians 3:18-23, Luke 5:1-11; **Friday,** 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, Luke 5:33-39; **Saturday,** 1 Corinthians 4:6-15, Luke 6:1-5

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## Video Reviews

*NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

**"The Business of Strangers" (2001)**

Disturbing drama in which an ambitious older executive (Stockard Channing) and her disaffected young assistant (Julia Stiles) become locked in a power struggle while stuck for the night at an airport hotel and end up taking out their pent-up anger on an unsuspecting businessman (Frederick Weller). Despite commanding performances by the leads and an often absorbing plot, writer-director Patrick Stettner's dangerous psychological game turns into the brutal abuse of an innocent man initially for revenge, then just for kicks. Savage scene of abuse, a few sexual situations, lesbian undertones, recurring rough language and brief profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (MGM)

**"Change of Habit" (1969)**

Three coy nuns don civilian clothes to work in a Spanish Harlem ghetto clinic run by Dr. Elvis Presley, who, unaware of the convent's experimental program, naturally falls in love with one of them (Mary Tyler Moore). William Graham directs with plenty of sentimentality, cliches and stereotypes of the 1940s that some modern nuns may not appreciate. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. (Universal)

**"Collateral Damage" (2002)**

Over-the-top action movie in which an L.A. firefighter (Arnold Schwarzenegger) whose wife and son were killed by a terrorist bomb single-handedly takes on the terrorists in the Colombian jungles before rushing back to Washington to prevent a further terrorist attack. As directed by Andrew Davis, characterization and a credible plot are all-but-abandoned in depicting an indestructible hero whose pursuit of personal vengeance is tempered by the need to destroy murderous terrorists. Frequent violence, ethnic stereotyping, some profanity and a few instances of rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Warner Home Video)

**"The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings" (2001)**

Visually splendid adventure tale set in the mythical realm of Middle-earth where a humble Hobbit (Elijah Wood), assisted by eight faithful companions (including Ian McKellen), embarks on a perilous quest to destroy a ring which possess the ultimate source of dark power. Based on the first book of J.R.R. Tolkien's trilogy, director Peter Jackson's fantasy is true to the epic struggle of good versus evil and uses magnificent effects and location shots. Yet its myriad characters prove daunting and the narrative grows repetitive. Many scenes of battle violence with several frightening images. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Pictures Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (New Line)

**"The Time Machine" (2002)**

Poor adaptation of H.G. Wells' classic sci-fi novel in which an 1890s scientist-inventor (Guy Pearce) creates a time machine and hurtles 800,000 years into future where the human race is divided into the above-ground Eloi who are hunted by the subterranean and monstrous Morlocks (led by Jeremy Irons). Intermittent sci-fi violence with a few grisly images and scantily clad women. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Pictures Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (DreamWorks)



CNS PHOTO FROM FOX SEARCHLIGHT

**Scene from movie 'The Good Girl'**

**Zooey Deschanel and Jennifer Aniston star in a scene from the film "The Good Girl." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**


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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Pope tells pilgrims he was touched by Poles' display of affection

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Smiling and basking in the afterglow of his trip to Poland, Pope John Paul II told pilgrims he was moved by the affection and intense participation of the huge crowds that turned out in his homeland.

The display of affection continued at his summer villa outside Rome Aug. 21, where several hundred people cheered, chanted, prayed and serenaded the pope during a general audience.

The pontiff tapped his hand and hummed along with their music, and at one point seemed to encourage a cheering contest when he remarked, "Let's see who's stronger, the Mexicans or the Italians." He later gave the edge to the Italians.

He looked relaxed and happy as he delivered his talk in the courtyard of the villa in Castel Gandolfo, reviewing the highlights of his Aug. 16-19 visit to his home Archdiocese of Krakow. He said he felt he was able to "embrace all of Poland" during his stay.

The pope said the main purpose of his trip was to promote the Divine Mercy devotion inspired by a Polish nun, St. Faustina Kowalska, who died in 1938. He recalled that one of her favorite prayers was expressed in the words, "Jesus, I trust in you."

"How many times as a worker and student, and later as a priest and bishop, in difficult times in Polish history, have I repeated this profound and simple invocation, confirming its effectiveness and power," he said.

He said the mercy of God was something beautiful that can bring people closer to the faith. That's why, during his visit, he dedicated his country, the church and all of humanity to Divine Mercy, he said.

At the end of his talk, the pope offered a prayer that Mary would help bring unity to the church, to families, to nations and to the world.

The pope was scheduled to spend the rest of August and September at Castel Gandolfo, holding weekly audiences, Sunday blessings and encounters with dignitaries and bishops.

# Coming of Age



AMY WELBORN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Your choices

When a new school year begins, most kids experience a strange mix of feelings: They feel a sense of freedom, and they feel trapped.

Freedom because, of course, it's a new year with new classes, teachers, responsibilities, maybe even a new school.

Trapped because hardly any of that stuff mentioned above has been chosen by you, the actual person who will take the actual classes and read the actual books. It's what's been chosen for you, either by your parents or school administrators or through a sneaky conspiracy involving both.

Aren't you tempted to think you'd be so much happier if you just had more freedom to figure out what to do with your own life?

Maybe, but we're not into fantasy here, we're into reality. The reality right here and right now is that there are aspects of your life that are structured by other people. Fighting that fact only brings frustration. The better question: What freedom do you have within the constraints of that structure? What choices are you going to make?

Let's think about some of those choices.

Sure, you're going to sit through required classes. But how miserable that experience will be is partly up to you. Are you going to be open to the material being taught or closed to it? Guaranteed, the more closed you are, the unhappier you'll be.

What's going on after school? OK, maybe some of those hours are dictated by necessity. Maybe you have to have a job to help the family out or pay tuition. Maybe you have to spend time at home doing chores or helping with your siblings. But apart from that, it's really up to you, isn't it?

But sometimes, kids feel just as trapped by that round of action as they do by their school schedule. They might feel trapped by their parents' expectations that they'll be great baseball players, dancers or musicians, years after themselves losing interest. If that's your story, if you'd really rather be doing something else, or you're just tired, get brave and talk to your folks honestly about it.

Be sure to tell them that you really, really appreciate all the ways they've helped — their money, their volunteer time, their encouragement — but that you think you'd like to (gulp) drop it for now. You need a break. You'd like to try something else. It can be a hard decision, what with parental and peer pressure and all, but believe it or not, you have a choice about what to do with your free time.

You should be able to, after all. It is your time, isn't it?

There are lots of other parts of your life where you have choices. You have choices how to treat people every minute of every day. You have choices about what to watch, read and listen to.

So no, your life is not one big prison. Parts of it might be determined by others, but — news flash — that's not going to change when you grow up. You'll have more freedom, but you'll also probably have something else — called a "boss."

So as a new school year begins, sure, keep working for that authentic freedom God created you to enjoy. Clear your life of unnecessary activities that make you feel trapped. Bring the right attitude to your obligations, being open to the possibility that God put you in that situation for a reason. If you're closed to that possibility, you might never figure out what that reason is.

# Letters to the Editor

### No tolerance for intolerance

How ironic that the article about Sheets Christian School ("Religious intolerance cheats Catholic student's education," July 26, 2002) appeared in the same edition of The Catholic New and Herald as an article about children sharing faith in vacation bible school ("Children share faith in Vacation Bible School").

As a practicing Catholic, I have never heard a priest express intolerance for any religion. In a time when the world is being torn apart by differences, this is not the time to be expounding about the differences between us. A bumper sticker I saw on my way to work this morning says it all: "There is no tolerance for intolerance!"

For the 33 years Jesus was on this earth, he walked amongst the prostitutes, the tax collectors and the non-believers, always showing love and compassion, never intolerance! I will pray that the Good Lord shows his tolerance of Sheets Christian School Principal Dan Hightower when he takes his place in heaven!

— Salvatore L. Cancello, Charlotte

### Intolerance is one problem too many

My problem is that I have never been emotionally involved as I am regarding the article about Ben Holmes ("Religious intolerance cheats Catholic student's education," July 26, 2002). This situation is not only a direct affront to Catholics; it is more importantly against all teachings of Jesus Christ.

Why is it that Baptists, and some others, continue to scream that we Catholics worship idols? Do they not know that we were the first Christians, and there were no other Christians but Catholics until near the 1500s, and that these Catholics wrote the New Testament? But most of all, do they not hear and heed the most important of all Christian doctrines, that which Jesus proclaimed: "I give you a new commandment: that you shall Love one another as I have loved you."

The members of the Baptist Church have always been divisive and have not been able to recognize that they have problems even among themselves. Yet they have they audacity to say, according to the article, that Ben Holmes would have to attend Blaise Baptist Church in order to follow their premise of home, school and church needing to complement one another. That is pure unmitigated untruth, using their own practices as example even within individual Baptist churches.

I do hope and pray that I, and others, may take some action to enlighten others who took this cruel, inhuman and unloving action against a young man in his formative years.

I wonder if Principal Hightower has pictures of his family, and albums that he shows and tells others about. Idol worship indeed! Perhaps they may even be interested in genealogy, which could be a form of worship, in my opinion.

— H. Larry Gore, DVM, CAE, Asheville

### Letters to the Editor

*The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less.*

*To be considered for publication, each letter must include the address and daytime phone number of the writer for purposes of verification.*

*Letters may be condensed because of space limitations and edited for clarity, style and taste.*

*Send letters to: Editor Joann Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37262, Charlotte N.C. 28237.*



# Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Building hope

In some ways, last year seems like a lifetime ago. So much has happened to our New York community, our nation and the world at large. Early in 2001, in one of my Light One Candle columns, I told the story of the Buddhas of Bamiyan, two ancient monuments which towered over a valley in Afghanistan until they were demolished by the fundamentalist Taliban leaders who said that idols were forbidden by their faith.

There was a worldwide outcry from people of many countries and religions, including Islam, condemning the wanton destruction. Still, the minister of information and culture at that time was quoted as saying, "It is easier to destroy than to build."

Who knew just how far those who lived by those words would go?

Months later, we watched as four passenger planes were turned into bombs, the Pentagon attacked and the twin towers of the World Trade Center obliterated, killing almost three thousand of our neighbors. Now as we approach the first anniversary of that horror, the Taliban is gone, a new government is trying to hold Afghanistan together and there is news about the Buddhas — and the people — of Bamiyan.

For more than a decade, several hundred people have been living in man-made caves that surround the remains of the giant Buddhas. They leave only when fighting comes too close. After the Taliban was overthrown, the people felt safe enough to return to the caves.

Driven by poverty, homelessness and desperation, families eke out a living, farming tiny plots of land or working at the bazaar in the nearest town. The caves are literally holes in the walls, carved out of the sandstone cliffs by the Buddhists who built the statues. The tiny "rooms" were originally intended for meditation, but today, they have become homes. There is no clean, running water, yet when it rains no one can leave the caves because of the danger from torrents washing down the cliffs. There is no electricity, so the only light comes through cracks in the door or oil-burning lamps. Land mines left from years of war create constant danger with every step. Fortunately, several aid groups from different countries are distributing food, locating a source of clean water and providing some jobs repairing roads.

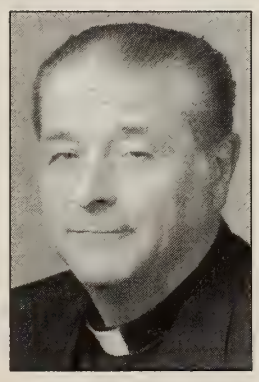
Now there is another sign of hope.

Recently, at the request of President Hamid Karzai, members of the Afghan ministry of culture and Unesco, the United Nations' cultural agency, met to decide on priorities for rebuilding the country's ravished heritage. In addition to restoring several museums, the cliffs at the Bamiyan site will be stabilized and the 600 niches once decorated with Buddhist wall paintings will be protected. In time, they plan to rebuild the great Buddhas.

Locals are hopeful that the renewed interest in the area will mean the possibility of more jobs, as well as desperately needed clinics and schools. They realize from bitter experience that there will be no quick fixes.

I truly believe that the grief and suffering so many experienced on Sept. 11 has made us all better neighbors, not just to the folks next door, but to those who, like Jesus at his birth, are sheltered by the rock walls of a cave half a world away from us. What they want — and need — is a helping hand and a chance to build, to create and to light their own candles of hope rather than curse the darkness imposed on them by those who would rather destroy.

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### The Mary Magdalene of the Gospels

*Q. During Mass on the feast of Mary Magdalene (July 22), the priest told us that the Mary Magdalene who went to the tomb and found it empty (John 20) was not the same Mary who was a repentant sinner (Luke 7).*

*I was always taught it was the same person and that Mary Magdalene is the patroness of penitent sinners. Is there more than one Mary Magdalene in the Gospels? (Illinois)*

A. No, there is only one Mary Magdalene in the Gospels, but your priest was correct.

The Gospels mention Mary Magdalene by name several times. She is also referred to as Mary of Magdala, a town on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee between Tiberias and Capernaum.

We are told (Mark 16:9) that Jesus expelled seven demons from her. She was one of the women ministering to the needs of Jesus (Luke 8:2), and she witnessed his crucifixion (John 19:25) and burial (Matthew 27:61).

Finally, on the Sunday of the resurrection, she was a witness to the empty tomb, and the risen Jesus appeared to her alone (John 20:1-18).

Sometimes Mary Magdalene is identified with the penitent sinner you mention, who anoints the feet of Jesus and bathes his feet. That woman is not named, however.

It's true there is a long tradition in Christian writing and art that portrays the repenting sinner as Mary Magdalene, perhaps because Mary was the one from whom Jesus expelled the demons. But there's no reason in the Gospels for making that connection, and it is generally considered unfounded.

The other woman with whom Magdalene is sometimes confused is Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha of Bethany. It is she who is said to have "the better part" in her relation with Jesus (Luke 10), and she is much involved in the story of the raising of her brother from the dead (John 11).

In spite of traditions otherwise, and the paintings and sculptures through the years depicting the "Repentant Mary Magdalene," from all the evidence we have these Marys were three different people.

Mary Magdalene herself is without doubt one of the most distinguished women involved with the earthly life of our Lord. Next to the mother of Jesus, she has the primary role of all women in the Gospels.

She figures prominently in five of the six stories of the resurrection, all except John 21:1-23. In John (and, along with some other women, in Matthew and Mark) she is the first witness to the rising of Jesus from the dead.

She is honored as a saint, not only by the Catholic and Orthodox churches, but also by the Church of England, the Episcopal Church in the United States and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

How this woman became misconstrued as the public sinner of Luke 7 is a matter of some fascinating conjecture.

*A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about receiving the holy Eucharist is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

# Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

### Black sheep can have silver linings

What do we do with family history that is ignoble? How should we report the life and times of an ancestor who lived dishonorably? Black sheep stories get buried and die because of shame, painful memories and sometimes because we just don't know what to do with them. Very often we put a good spin on these family stories so that the beneficiaries derive a healthy family-esteem. However, accentuating the positive so much that we deny the negative can disinherit us from rich life-lessons from the sins of ancestors.

When we forget such history we are in danger of repeating it. Stories of ancestors' ill-gotten gain offer incentives to heirs to re-appropriate that gain justly. Stories of incest, cowardice and disloyalty, for example, offer incentives to raise ourselves and do better, and to seek reconciliation.

When such stories are buried, not only do descendants lose the life-lessons that can be learned, they miss opportunities to witness God's action in their lives. For to embrace the contemptible characters of our ancestry requires that we humble ourselves.

Andrew's paternal grandfather (Papa) abandoned his wife, fathered children with other women and was a pathological liar. He was also arrogant and not very nice to children. There is a tendency with some in the family to ignore those character flaws. Some family members only report aspects of his life that the family can be proud of. Some family members never speak of him.

However, our efforts to embrace Papa posthumously in total has helped us to better understand and appreciate Andrew's father, his aunts and uncles, and his grandmother. Papa's story clarifies our family life. It has helped to strengthen our sense of loyalty to marriage and family. It has us cherishing the truth; and it awakens us to our own sinfulness. But, most of all, it keeps us humble and pushes us toward a life of reconciliation — a life dependent on God.

Our challenge is to forgive each other, including those who have died and those ancestors we have never met, for they are a part of us. Our struggle to love them is the same struggle to love those who are with us.

In their book Your Mythic Journey, Sam Keen and Anne Valley-Fox say this about listening to the all the voices of our ancestors: "Hearing the multiple voices within yourself will remind you that you belong to a special clan. Your people still inhabit you. They will help you to celebrate your myths, sing your songs, and tell your legends."

**Questions for reflection:**

*— What stories from your family history have been buried?*

*— Who are the characters?*

*— Who do you need to forgive?*

*— What life-lessons can be learned from those stories?*

# MYSTAGOGIA, from page1

important to ground the neophytes into participating in more than just Mass. They need to find themselves in ministerial work. Mystagogy helps them find that connection."

The local coordinator for the Brown Summit seminar was Linda Licata, a team member for the NAFC and a member of the Diocesan RCIA Commission.

The NAFC team assembled for this event were Father Rick Conway, pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Andover, Mass.; Kathy Kuczka, liturgy and music director at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Alpharetta, Ga.; and Margie Sullivan, pastoral associate for Holy Family Church in Virginia Beach, Va.

Sullivan reiterated that Mystagogia was the weakest aspect of the entire RCIA process but that it should be a period of time for the neophytes to meditate on the Bible, celebrate the Eucharist and put Christian charity into practice. While the sessions should continue after the neophyte's baptism from one to three months, Sullivan stressed that Mystagogia is a life-long process.

Father Conway agreed. "Mystagogia is a period wherein the neophytes deepen their grasp of the Pascal Mystery. Even though the instruction should last from Easter Vigil to Pentecost, learning the faith takes a lifetime. In fact, meditation, the Eucharist and works of charity must be ongoing from the 'Inquiry' process through to death."

Likening the process of Mystagogia to her own marriage adventure, Kuczka told of the constant need for communication, talking and questioning for the neophytes. "It is a process of constant reality checks," she said.



PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**North American Forum on the Catechumenate team member Margie Sullivan does a visual walkthrough of the seven steps of the RCIA program with participants Thomas Sims of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte and Ruth McNicholas of Holy Trinity Church in Knoxville, Tenn., during a seminar emphasizing Mystagogia in Brown Summit Aug. 8-10.**

In response to this, Dick Bennett co-director of the RCIA program at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, said, "I am an example of what Kathy (Kuczka) was talking about. I came into the church in 1989 as a candidate from the Methodist church. The RCIA program became a natural ministry for my wife and I and we have been doing it now for four years. I am here to better understand the mystery of Mystagogia and to learn how to make neophytes better participants in the ministries of the church."

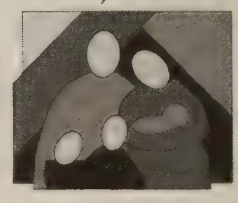
"This process is about apprenticeship into a discipleship wherein the neophytes walk hand in hand with their sponsors, learning what it means to be a Catholic Christian by sharing life with those who are already struggling through their own discipleship," said Father Conway. "The entire community must be involved. At the same time each of these neophytes should become an icon (as one more presence of God) for the community."

Another participant in the seminar, Evelyn Strickland of St. Mary Church in Goldsboro commented, "We do have programs, but we can't be riveted to that program. There is a need for flexibility here. Each of us needs to let go and let God help them grow in their own way."

*Contact Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

### Despite mishaps, Uzbek youths recall highlights of WYD celebration

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan (CNS) — Their passports were confiscated and they almost failed to find accommodations after arriving in the wrong city. But for two spirited, young Uzbek women on their way to the July 23-28 World Youth Day in Canada, these inconveniences were more than made up for by the warmth and kindness of local Catholics and fellow pilgrims, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. "The Vatican Embassy obtained visas for us from the Canadian Embassy in Moscow. But upon the request of the Canadian authorities, our passports and those of other Asian pilgrims were kept by the authorities during our flight to Canada," said Kamilla Usmanova, a 23-year-old church organist. "We were told later this was because some Hindu travelers during a flight had eaten their passports and later pretended to be refugees," Usmanova said.

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# Charity sister heals soul, body, mind through ministry

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

ROSMAN — Charity Sister Carol Hoban says she had a childhood like most others growing up in a small town. Her religious life was not out of the ordinary, but she entered the convent because she wanted to serve God by serving those in need.

She lived next door to her family's store in Saddle Brook, N.J., where she helped her father by serving customers, slicing cold cuts, running deliveries and stacking shelves. Her mother, a homemaker, made all of the salads for the store's deli. The store served as a central point in the town because of its accessibility, and Hoban grew as the town expanded and matured.



**Charity Sister Carol Hoban**

Sister Carol said that her faith life was not "unusual." Catholicism corralled all aspects of her existence, and what she learned in school was reinforced at home. "School influenced faith life, and the church also influenced it. All of my friends were Catholic, and we all went to the same school; we were doing the same things," said Sister Carol, who attended Catholic elementary school staffed by the Sisters of Charity.

Becoming a woman religious entered her mind during her senior year in high school. She was interested in nursing because she wanted work in a profession that helped people. So logically, she entered a community with nursing as one of its focuses. The Charity Sisters were her choice because she had exposure to them in church and in school.

"Thirty-five to 40 years ago, there weren't that many options for women, at least not in a small town in New Jersey. I probably would have gone to nursing school or college, but I heard my calling late in my senior year," she said. "I felt it was what I was supposed to be doing; it felt right. My calling evolved; I don't think the reason I joined was the reason I stayed. It is an evolution process as you move through life."

Hoban entered the Sisters of Charity convent in Convent Station, N.J., in 1959, a few months after graduation. She attended nursing school at St. Raphael Hospital in New Haven, Ct. until 1972. During that time, she professed her final vows in 1966.

Her work in the medical field led her to West Virginia with the Southern West Virginia Regional Health Council, which served nine counties with mobile units and clinics. However, her path diverged, and she was led down unfamiliar and unplanned territory.

She was elected to the province council as a counselor for six years and was subsequently named as the provincial for the next six years. The province spans six states, Washington D.C., and the Virgin Islands, and Sister Carol worked with her order's day-to-day operations. The counselor positions assist the provincial — or head of the council — with administration, personnel and other areas for the women religious doing ministry in a particular area of the country.

Sister Carol was excited about her new ministry but kept her first love of nursing close to her heart by working one day a week in New York City in a cancer prevention clinic. "I didn't feel like I could drop out of work and drop back in," she explained. "I kept up with professional reading for my own benefit." She also earned her master's in nursing in the 1970s.

In 1986, she came to North Carolina to Rosman for a short period to see if the mountains and the Jersey girl would be a good fit. She began working at Frances Warde Health Service and found that working with people who desperately needed medical care but were lacking in funds was what she wanted to do.

"I wasn't sure I would be able to do this kind of work after doing community administration, but I wanted to come to a place that was just starting and the philosophy was we would help people without the advantage of insurance and medical benefits," said Sister Carol. "I found that I had to do what I had been asking other people to do."

Additional classes at the Mountain Area Health Education Center, where she earned a family nurse practitioner certificate, have aided in her work with patients suffering from hypertension, respiratory infections, diabetes, arthritis and other diseases and ailments. On the average, she may see 10 to 15 people a day, but she is able to spend time with patients and become acquainted with them on many levels. The link between people's spiritual, mental and physical lives is very present to Sister Carol, and she believes that healing must take place in all areas of a person's life.

"I think people heal themselves, or God heals them — whatever one's belief is. There is more research now that advocates the position that many illnesses are stress-related (because) the spirit isn't peaceful," she said. "Being a woman religious, I see the connection first hand between mind, body and spirit; and I have the opportunity to be with people and help in the healing process."



Photo by Joann S. Keane

**Sister of Mercy celebrates golden jubilee**
**Bishop William G. Curlin stands with Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, who was honored for 50 years of service as a woman religious on Aug. 16 at the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center. Sister Timothy serves as vicar for Women Religious in the Diocese of Charlotte.**

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# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

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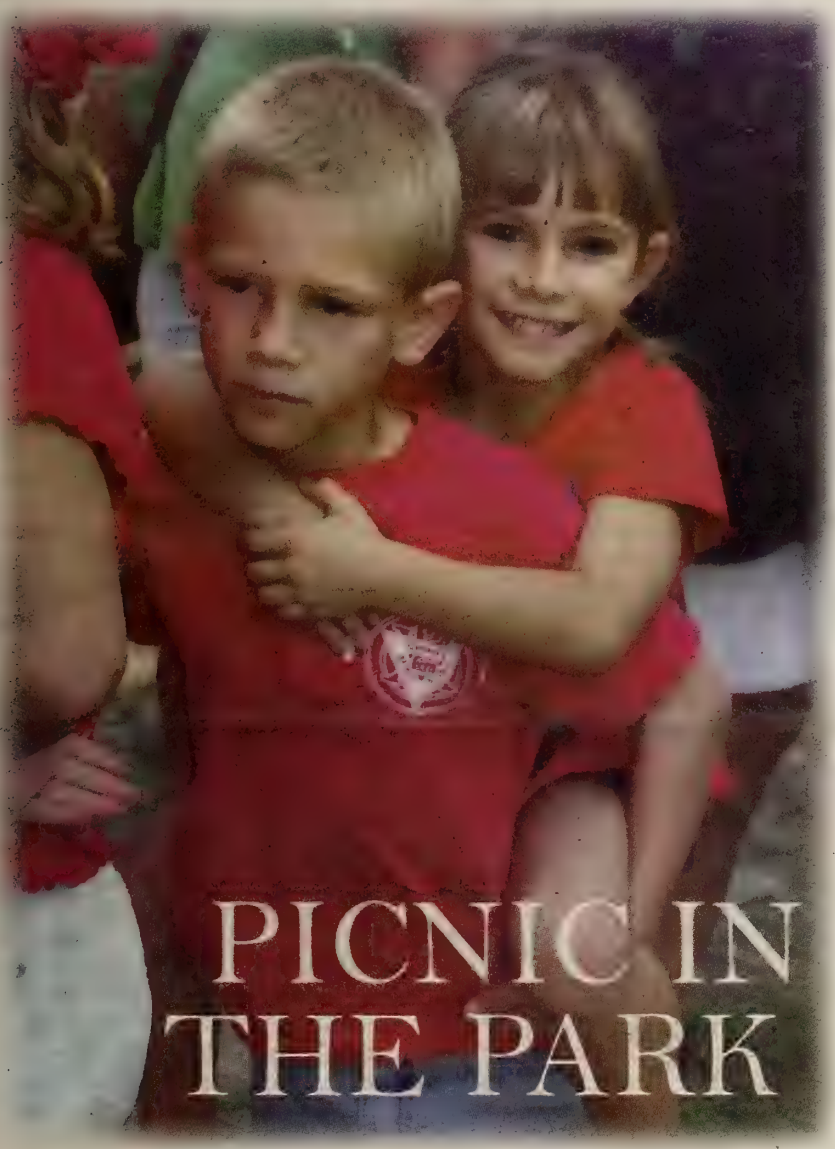

## Back to School

*It's that time of year again. For stories and photos, see pages 4-7.*

## With Gratitude

The diocesan Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection will be taken in parishes Sept. 7-8. The annual collection funds the living expenses of retired diocesan and religious priests who serve here.

*See page 8 for details.*














PHOTOS BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**Families of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Albemarle enjoy food, games and fun at the annual parish picnic in Cannon Park Aug. 25.**

## Bishop anticipates retirement, new ministries

BY JOANN S. KEANE
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Any day now, Bishop William G. Curlin expects to hear of his retirement.

He celebrated his birthday on Aug. 30, and in accordance with canon law, diocesan bishops are required to present their request for resignation to the Holy Father at the time of their 75th birthday. The bishop submitted his letter June 5, and said it usually takes about three months to hear from the Vatican on this matter.

Once Pope John Paul II accepts Bishop Curlin's retirement, the bishop immediately ceases being the Ordinary, *the bishop of the diocese.* Within eight days, the priest consultors of the diocese — a collegiate body of advisors — must meet to elect the priest who will serve as apostolic administrator of the diocese in the interim, until a new bishop is officially appointed by the Holy See.

The bishop envisions his release from the responsibilities of bishop for the 46-county diocese as an opportunity to serve in other ministries. "I am very interested in working with the poor and homeless ... the sick and dying," said Bishop Curlin. "That's what I did before becoming a bishop."

The bishop is ready to hand over the crosier to his successor. "I entered the seminary 52 years ago, have been a priest 45 years and have been 14 years a bishop," said Bishop Curlin. "Age, even though the spirit is willing, takes its toll."

Bishop Curlin was appointed third bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte on Feb. 22, 1994, and was installed on April 13 of that year.

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.*


**Psychologist professes monastic life at Belmont Abbey**
*...Page 9*

**Remembering September 11**
*...Page 10-11*

**Art project paints new lives for homeless**
*...Page 13*



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### Bishop Sean O'Malley named head of Palm Beach Diocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Bishop Sean P. O'Malley of Fall River, Mass., as the new bishop of Palm Beach, Fla. His appointment was announced in Washington Sept. 3 by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, papal nuncio to the United States. In Palm Beach, Bishop O'Malley succeeds Bishop Anthony J. O'Connell, who resigned in March. Bishop O'Malley is a Capuchin friar. He was professed as a member in 1968, and ordained to the priesthood in 1970. In 1984, he was named coadjutor bishop of the Diocese of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. The following year, he became head of the diocese. Bishop O'Malley had been bishop of Fall River since 1992. Born in 1944 in Lakewood, Ohio, Bishop O'Malley attended St. Fidelis Seminary in Butler, Pa., and Capuchin College and The Catholic University of America, both in Washington.

### Catholic campus ministers reach out to college students nationwide

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As dormitories filled, bookstore shelves emptied and class lists were finalized, college and university campus ministers nationwide were employing both novel and traditional means of bringing faith development into higher education. With a projected 15.6 million students enrolled in colleges and universities this fall, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, campus ministers have never faced a greater challenge — or had such an expansive opportunity. The college experience offers adventure, as well as new challenges, according to Joseph Varacalli, founder of the Center for Catholic Studies at Nassau Community College in Garden City, N.Y. He mentioned homesickness, academic demands, professors with conflicting values and intense temptations from alcohol, drugs, and/or sexual promiscuity as potential challenges to incoming students. "Students tend to be influenced by the ideas that are thrown at them," he said. "College can be a life-changing time. It's important for the Catholic student to be aware of this and to be prepared."



CNS PHOTO BY KARIN VON VOIGTLANDER, CATHOLIC COURIER

**Sudan refugee at Catholic charities center**

**Refugee Awak Malith, right, of Sudan reflects on his experience at the Catholic Family Center in Rochester, N.Y., where he awaits resettlement by the Catholic Charities program. He recently came to the United States and is among those known as the "lost boys" or "walking boys" of Sudan, the thousands of young men found wandering in refugee camps as a result of war in their homeland and surrounding countries.**

### U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan get 15,000 'military rosaries'

DALLAS (CNS) — Rosary makers across the Dallas Diocese are closing in on their goal of making 15,000 "military rosaries" for the U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan since the terrorist attacks Sept. 11. The red, white and blue rosaries were the idea of Our Lady's Rosary Makers of America International, based out of St. Monica Parish in North Dallas. The group started by assembling about 100 per week in December. The ambitious project quickly picked up steam when nearly a dozen parishes, schools and lay groups joined over the next couple of months. More than 12,000 rosaries have been assembled and mailed with a booklet on how to say the rosary, according to Rosary Makers member Donna Hunter. She said help has come from members of six parishes in Dallas and two in Richardson, as well as the Missionaries of Charity in Dallas, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and teens participating in the diocese's Mission Possible summer service program.

### Lots of Irish-Catholic tales to tell in new show, actress Hunt says

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — Bonnie Hunt, the Catholic star and executive producer of the new ABC comedy "Life With Bonnie," will have no shortage of stories to tell in the sitcom, which will air 9-9:30 p.m. Eastern time Tuesdays this fall. Hunt plays a wife and mother who also hosts a morning TV talk show in Chicago. Each episode will have an entirely unscripted talk-show segment with guests famous or not-so-famous. The show's writing staff is also developing a series of fake clips from "movies," seemingly part and parcel of every interview talk show these days. "We're having so much fun writing them," Hunt told TV writers in Hollywood. Another aspect that will be explored is the Catholicism of Bonnie's fictional family. There's a crucifix on the wall in the master bedroom, and Hunt's character wears one at home and on her talk-show job. "I can't wait to use all this stuff from my childhood. It's endless," Hunt said.

### Pope renews appeal for 2004 'Olympic truce' to help quell conflicts

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II renewed an appeal for an "Olympic truce" in 2004, saying the games' spirit of peaceful competition could help quell conflicts throughout the world. The pope made the comments in a meeting Sept. 2 with the new ambassador from Greece, the country that will host the next Summer Olympics. The pope said the return of the Olympic games to Athens offers a unique opportunity "to overcome hatred and to bring individuals and populations together." He said, "On that occasion, I call for a durable truce against all violence, so that the peaceful spirit and healthy stimulation which are the foundations of the Olympic Games are spread throughout all areas of society and on all continents." The pope said he hoped that in a troubled and uncertain world the Olympics would be a joyous reminder that all people belong to the same human community.

### Greek director wins prize for spiritual filmmaking at Venice festival

VENICE, Italy (CNS) — A top Vatican official awarded an annual prize for spiritual filmmaking to self-professed agnostic director Theo Angelopoulos during the annual Venice Film Festival. Presenting the Bresson Prize Aug. 31, U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, called the Greek director "truly gifted and insightful." Archbishop Foley said, "Theo Angelopoulos receives this award today for having presented with grace and sensitivity themes which touch people's souls and paradoxically help them on their 'odissea infinita' (infinite odyssey) to that eternity which is our never-ending day with God." Angelopoulos, 67, accepted the prize but noted he did not share the archbishop's religious beliefs. "I am not a believer," he said, "but I absolutely respect the beliefs of others."

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## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:*

**September 11 - 7:30 p.m.**
Memorial Mass for 9/11 victims
St. Patrick Cathedral

**September 13 — 11 a.m. Mass**
Installation of Belmont Abbey College President James Gearity, Ph.D.
Belmont Abbey Basilica, Belmont

**September 14 — 6 p.m.**
Confirmation
St. William Church, Murphy

**September 15 — 9 a.m.**
Confirmation
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Hayesville

## Diocesan planner

**September**

**10** CHARLOTTE — 7 p.m. today at St. Gabriel, 3016 Providence Rd., there will be an hour of prayer in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11 tragedy. We will honor and thank our military, police, fire and emergency personnel. The main sanctuary will be open for prayer today and tomorrow. There will be a special Mass at noon on the 11th.

**11** CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will conduct a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with Bob Parker on accordion and lunch in the parish center. Donations are accepted during the meeting. For information call Bobbe Conlin (704)643-1376 or Gloria Silipigni (704)821-1343.

**11** HUNTERSVILLE — St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., will celebrate today at 7 p.m. a Memorial Mass for all victims of the 9/11/01 tragedy and their families. Call (704)948-0231 for information.

**11** WINSTON-SALEM — On this anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1918 S. Main St., will have a holy hour at 7:30 p.m. today. This will consist of adoration, exposition, benediction and opportunity for confession. Call Sr. Kathy Ganiel (336)722-7001 for details.

**12** CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will host Ultreyas: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., 7-8 p.m. tonight (adults only with shared snacks); St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., Sept. 15 with School of Leaders at 1 p.m. and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., 1:30-3 p.m. Sept. 22 with childcare and family potluck. Questions? Call Dan Hines (704)544-6665.

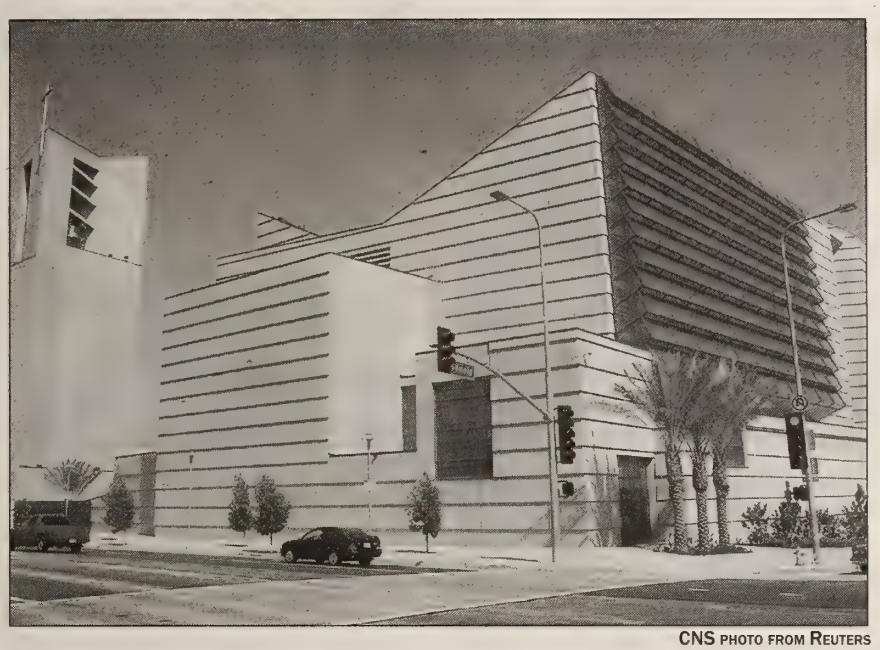
**13** MAGGIE VALLEY — Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Ln, hosts Fr. Terry Hyland

### League: Priest right to refuse marriage to Planned Parenthood worker

OTTAWA (CNS) — Canada's Catholic Civil Rights League praised an Alberta priest's decision to refuse a Catholic wedding for a woman who worked for Planned Parenthood. The league said in an Aug. 29 statement that it was predictable that Father John Maes of Medicine Hat, Alberta, would be "held up for scorn by the media" for refusing to officiate at the wedding. "One of the strengths and reasons for the growth in the Catholic Church in Canada and throughout the world is the fact that we stand by our principles and are not swayed by the fashions of the moment," said Thomas Langan, league president. "The truth of Catholicism goes deeper than simple selfish needs of the moment," he said. Celina Ling, a Catholic, and Robert Symmonds, a non-Catholic, were to be married at St. Patrick's Church in Medicine Hat Sept. 21, but Father Maes told them in late August that they could not be married in the church because of Ling's involvement with Planned Parenthood.

### Nine Italians, including Capuchin friar, busted in Padre Pio scam

ROME (CNS) — Nine Italians, including a Capuchin friar, were arrested in late August on charges of fraudulently collecting $200,000 in donations by using Padre Pio's name. Italian authorities said members of the alleged fraud ring ran an association called "Padre Pio With the Children" that sold mail-order Padre Pio videos and books with the claim that the bulk of the money would benefit children in developing countries. Capuchin Father Alfonso Parente, 40, once a member of the famous Italian saint's friary in the southern town of San Giovanni Rotondo, served as honorary president of the association and provided a written endorsement guaranteeing that the beneficiaries would be children. Italian investigators said none of the money collected went to charity.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**New Los Angeles cathedral opens**

**The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels is pictured Aug. 29 in Los Angeles. The new $163 million cathedral complex — a 3,000-seat main church, 11 chapels, bell tower, conference center and public plaza - was dedicated Sept. 2. It replaces the earthquake damaged Cathedral of St. Vibiana.**

### New bishop installed in nation's biggest diocese

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (CNS) — A South Dakota parish priest and novice pilot was ordained Aug. 22 as bishop of the largest diocese, geographically, in the country. Msgr. Donald Kettler of Sioux Falls, S.D., became the fifth bishop of Fairbanks — the 410,000-square-mile diocese of northern and western Alaska that is home to 20,000 Catholics — in front of an estimated 1,000 people at Fairbanks' John A. Carlson Community Activity Center. Archbishop Roger L. Schwietz of Anchorage was the principal celebrant. Attending was Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, the pope's representative to the United States. "I love being a pastor, so that's what you're going to get from me," Bishop Kettler told the crowd. "I will pray with you, and I will suffer with you. And hopefully, I will provide some vision, but only with your support and your counsel and guidance."

### Knights of Columbus fund restoration of St. Peter's Basilica's crypt

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Knights of Columbus have donated $300,000 for the restoration of the oldest section of the crypt of St. Peter's Basilica, including its central arched walkway, two chapels and Pope Pius XII's tomb. The restoration work began in April and is expected to be completed by the end of October, said Bishop Vittorio Lanzani, delegate of the Fabbrica di San Pietro, the office that oversees the basilica. Much of the work involves "highly delicate interventions" on frescoes that date back 300 years, Bishop Lanzani said Aug. 29. He said restorers made some "significant discoveries" as they cleaned away layers of "white crust" and paint that had been added in later years. He declined to detail the discoveries until the project's conclusion, citing ongoing analysis. Bishop Lanzani said the Knights' donation would cover most of the project's cost.

### Life is a pilgrimage to be made with trust in God, pope says

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Comparing life to a sometimes-arduous pilgrimage, Pope John Paul II urged Christians to persist trustingly along their path to God even when the going gets rough. "The exhausting journey across the 'valley of tears' is transfigured by the certainty that the goal is God: he who gives strength, listens to the supplications of the faithful and becomes their protective 'shield,'" Pope John Paul said Aug. 28. The pope made his remarks during a weekly general audience at his summer residence outside Rome. Looking in good spirits, the 82-year-old pontiff joked and sang with the more than 3,000 pilgrims gathered in the residence's courtyard, which was drenched with rainwater from a downpour before the audience. "Thank God we escaped the heavy rain," he told the pilgrims, drawing laughs and applause.

This issue begins our weekly publishing schedule. Our next issue will be Sept. 13.

and Sr. Margie Hosch today. "Is Your God Too Small? A Retreat for the Divorced and Separated." This retreat runs through Sept. 15. For details call (828)926-3833.

**14** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Div. 1, an Irish Catholic inter-parish group confers the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in St. Pius Kloster Ctr., N. Elm St. and Cornwallis Dr. All Catholic women of Irish birth or spouses of members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians are welcome. Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance is today at 6:30 p.m. Contact Carol McGough (336)292-5474 or Joan Charbonneau (336)299-5767 for information. RSVP Alice Schmidt (336)288-0983.

**15** HAMLET — A celebration of Mexico's Independence Day starts today at 10:30 a.m. with a bilingual Mass at St. James, Hwy. 74. Opening ceremony is at 1 p.m. with dancing, music, Spanish food, Mexican games for children and a soccer championship game, etc. Questions? (910)582-0207

**16** CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Div. 1 Mecklenburg County, an Irish-Catholic inter-parish group, meets tonight, 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Interested in your Irish-Catholic roots? Call Jeanmarie Schuler (704)554-0720 with questions.

**18** CHARLOTTE — The Light Weigh is a 12-week Catholic spiritual growth weight loss program designed to help deepen your relationship with Jesus while learning to eat in moderation. Orientation is at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, tonight, 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center, room 103. For details call Connie Tobey (704)541-6858 or Deirdre Smith (704)540-2446.

**20** CHARLOTTE — Thank God It's Friday (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets tonight at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church parish center, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy, room 102. Monthly potluck dinner scheduled. For details call Trish Wilson (704)543-8986.

**21** BELMONT — St. Gabriel Health Ministry is offering a retreat, "Sensing God's Creation" today, 8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Sisters of Mercy Admin. Ctr., Curtin Hall. For information or registration, call Leslie Mason (704)847-7014 or Sara Ma (704)527-5812.

**21** CLEMMONS — A Grand Ultreya for the Cursillo Movement will be held at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd, today at 2 p.m. Fr. Edgar Holden will speak and an update on the state of the movement will be presented. Mass will be celebrated followed by dinner (bring your own to share). Call Tommy Barnhart (336)766-0377 for details.

**21** STATESVILLE — The Knights of Columbus will hold their annual yard sale at St. Philip the Apostle Church, 525 Camden Dr., 8:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. Call Ken Jewell (704)876-6404 for information.

**25** GASTONIA — Seniors and caregivers are invited to attend a Health and Safety Fair today, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Ln. Service providers will offer free information and screenings. Breakout presentations, munchies and door prizes will be provided. Questions? Call (704)370-3220 or (704)867-6212, Ext. 113.

**27** HOT SPRINGS — The Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy. 25/70, is hosting a women's "Dream Journey" retreat tonight, 7 p.m. through morning Mass with light lunch. Dr. Eileen Riordan will speak. For registration or information call (828)622-7366.

**28** CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo community will hold an Ultreya at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Our Lady of Assumption, 4207 Shamrock Dr. For details call Nam Le (704)549-1525.

# Parish extends invitation to college students



PHOTO BY MARY MARSHALL

**From left, parent Karen Hagen takes a flyer from John and Mary Pollich, and Carol and Dick Ford, Our Lady of Lourdes Church parishioners informing Wingate University students and their parents about the church.**

BY MARY MARSHALL
CORRESPONDENT

WINGATE — A downpour didn't dampen the spirits of members of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe as they welcomed parents and students to Wingate University Aug. 25.

Although Catholics are a minority on the predominately Baptist campus, Catholic students and parents seemed elated to find parish information and to speak with Our Lady of Lourdes parishioners in the university's student center.

"This is wonderful," said Kathy Hagen, a Virginia Beach resident whose daughter, Sarabeth, is a freshman with a full basketball scholarship. Hagen felt Sarabeth, a prodigy of Catholic school education, now had a connection for expanding her spiritual life while at college.

"We needed to find the church and it came to us," she added.

Knowing that other denominations handed out drinks and information at the center as students moved in each year, the Our Lady of Lourdes Women's Guild prepared flyers with church information and directions to welcome students to the area and to the church. The Women's Guild setup a table, served drinks, passed out information and answered questions.

In addition, students were invited to the annual parish picnic following the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sept. 8. Food, music and fun activities will highlight this event.

According to Our Lady of Lourdes parishioner Carol Ford, the outreach effort was well received. Her husband, Dick, added, "This is a wonderful opportunity to let students and parents know we are here."

"We're spreading the news of the Catholic church," said Mary Pollich. Her husband, John, added, "By reaching out to the younger community, we hope to expand our parish membership."

How can the students get involved?

Our Lady of Lourdes' members have worked diligently to revive the parish youth program for students in grades five through 12. College students could spice up the program by serving as mentors to the group, which is planning a "lock-in" in the church education building Sept. 28.

The lock-in event will kick-off the evening at 5:30 p.m. with Mass followed by a cookout and volleyball game. Doors lock at 8 p.m. when students will socialize, play games, watch videos and listen to music. Members of the youth group are encouraged to invite their friends.

# Teacher workshops on values

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Catholic school teachers around the Diocese of Charlotte will be taking turns in the students' seats.

The Religious Education Office has 30 training workshops planned throughout the year for all diocesan teachers. The workshops are intended to help them plant the seeds of Gospel values in the minds and hearts of students as a guide for their journey in life.

"The teacher must take diligent care to faithfully present the entire treasure of the Christian message," said Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of Religious Formation.

Sister Maureen has developed a book of standards adopted by the Religion Education Office for Religious curriculum in kindergarten through the 12th grade. The workshops are to further assist the teachers in implementing the standards and guidelines into their everyday curriculum, she said.

"All new teachers, whether they're teaching religion or not, must go through a period of training on the traditions of the church and Scripture to remind them that our schools are beacons of Catholic identity," said Sister Maureen.

Workshops for new teachers in the diocese were held in Charlotte, Hendersonville and the Triad area.

The next workshop, "Keys to Vibrant Worship: Spirituality, Community and Culture," will take place at Four Points Charlotte Uptown on Catholic Schools Educators Day Sept. 27. The event will feature the keynote session, "Catholic School as a Spiritual Community," as well as breakout sessions including "Called to Share the Story: The Educator as 'Storyteller of the World,'" "One Faith, Many Cultures," "Preparing Students for Liturgy" and "Developing Local School Liturgy Teams."

This workshop will also stress the important aspects of music and singing to liturgy and prayer with sessions "With Hearts, Hands and Voices: Catholic Spirituality in Song" and "Preparing Music for Liturgy."

Sister Maureen was pleased to note that Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte was recently honored for "Integrating Faith and Values in a Middle School Model" at the Boston College National Catholic Education Association conference June 28-30.

"We have the ability to pray, worship and integrate our faith and morality and not be afraid to address them," said Jerry Healy, principal at Holy Trinity. "What we're trying to teach our students is that we don't take our faith and our freedom for granted."

"All staff members, faculty and students contribute to the spiritual life of the Catholic school community, and are in turn shaped by the community," said Sister Maureen. "Our morning session (on Sept. 27) will explore these issues through prayer, presentation, personal reflection and peer conversations."

*For more information, visit the Catholic Education page on the diocesan Web site at www.charlottediocese.org.*



PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

**Sister Maureen Meehan leads a teacher workshop at Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte in August.**

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# Catholic high school students score big with sports

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

One of the big draws for secular high schools is the scope of their sports programs, and whether or not the schools have winning teams. For students attending the two Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Charlotte — Charlotte Catholic High School in Charlotte and Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville — those interested in athletics will not be left wanting.

"Our sports program is an expression of the entire vision of the school," said George Repass, principal of Bishop McGuinness. "Here we try to educate the entire child. Sports is not eliminated from this vision in that the faith and ethics dimensions of our sports program integrates nicely into it."

Augustinian Father James Cassidy, principal of Charlotte Catholic, stated, "We may not have the best facilities, but we sure have more spirit, more support and more fans, even at away games than the home teams do."

Kevin Christmas, Charlotte Catholic athletic director, said, "Our kids have a sense that they play for something bigger than the school itself. The fans are active participants in the game. In fact, we have the 'Duke fans' of high school basketball."

Both schools encompass this faith-based, value-centered approach to all of their sports activities. They hold small group worship activities at least once per season, if not per game.





PHOTOS BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**Above left, cross-country runner Chelsea Merrill, a junior at Bishop McGuinness High School, runs the track. Above right, members of the Charlotte Catholic High School soccer team at practice in August.**

"More of these liturgies are in the works for this year," said Jeff Stoler, athletic director at Bishop McGuinness.

Christmas said that before each game the football team attended a special Mass and had dinner together.

Elaine Grosnick, tennis coach at Charlotte Catholic, indicated that the team quickly forms as a family unit. "They work on getting along with each other while centering on their Catholic heritage," she said. "As they pray before each game, it is not so much to win as it is to have good attitudes, that they will not get hurt and that they will play to have fun."

Since Father Cassidy came upon the scene at Charlotte Catholic, all of the extra-curricular activity groups are required to have service projects. Some of these groups hold car washes and donate the proceeds to worthy organizations throughout the community. Members of the football team donate their time to read to younger kids, while members of the track and cross-country teams regularly visit the elderly at a local nursing home.

Overall, Bishop McGuinness, which belongs to the North Carolina Independent School Athletic Association of the Piedmont Conference, is still struggling to get winning teams for their sports program.

"We are looking to upgrade our entire sports program, which is limited by the number of students we have verses the number of activities going on," said Repass. "One of the things that leads to accomplishment of this goal this year was hiring Jeff (Stoler) as a full time athletic director, something we never had before."

Charlotte Catholic, the only private school in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, has almost twice the student body to draw from and has been able to achieve remarkable success. The school became number one in the league by winning the Wachovia Cup for Winter Sports, Class 2A Division. Both men's and women's soccer teams won the state title under the coaching expertise of Gary Hoilett.

This year's soccer team captain, A.J. Harper, attributed the team's success to, "Hard work, with the team working for each other. We represent not only the school, but also for our faith. We pray before each game, and before the big games we attend Mass."

He added, "We have a lot of good juniors coming back, so we should be in good shape for this year."

Co-captain Adam Stafford, a two-year veteran, said, "We accomplished a lot last year through the process of rebuilding. We worked well as a team and put out a lot of effort. Hopefully, we can do the same this year."

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

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**Post-vacation days present spiritual challenges, pope says**

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — It's not always easy to go back to work and school after summer vacation, but that's where Christians are called to make a difference, Pope John Paul II said. "Holiness is obtained ... not by avoiding reality and its trials, but by facing them with the light and strength of the spirit," the pope said at a Sunday blessing Sept. 1. He said returning to the daily grind after summer holidays can sometimes be a difficult psychological adjustment. "But it is in this 'weekday' world that God calls us to attain a maturity of spiritual life, which consists precisely in living ordinary things in an extraordinary way," he said. The pope made the remarks in the courtyard of his villa at Castel Gandolfo outside Rome, where he planned to remain until the end of September.

**Catholic schools prepare for solemn commemorations of Sept. 11**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — For many Catholic schools around the country, Sept. 11 commemorations are not going to be big events. In fact, many are simply having a time of silence, prayers for peace or Masses in remembrance of those who died. In the New York Archdiocese, which includes schools fairly close to ground zero, Catholic schools are starting their day with a prayer service and then tying prayer flags — long red, white and blue ribbons with the inscribed words, peace, love and fortitude — on flag poles. Students at Kingston Catholic School in Kingston, N.Y., have been making origami cranes for friends of the school as symbols of peace and healing. And artwork from students at St. Francis of Assisi School in the Bronx will be part of an exhibit in remembrance of Sept. 11 at the local hospital, Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center.

**Catholic high school launches innovative 'work and study' school year**

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Lisa Williams has big hopes for her 14-year-old son, Fulton Washington Jr. As Washington started his freshman year at Verbum Dei High School in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Watts, he was ready to study — and work. In an innovative program to help students fund their private school tuition and gain valuable job experience, Washington will attend Verbum Dei four days a week and work at a corporation one day a week. Working while in high school, said Williams, offers her son valuable experience and opportunities to meet new people and learn communication skills. "It will teach him a sense of responsibility in his life and how to give back to the community by working," Williams added. "It's going to give him less idle time. He's going to be busy, busy, busy!" Verbum Dei faculty, students, parents, foundations and the business community celebrated the kickoff of the new Corporate Work Study Program Aug. 19.

**New program aims to restore lost tradition of walking to school**

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Most baby boomers remember walking or biking to school. Increasingly, that is becoming a foreign experience for today's schoolchildren, said Alice Tibbetts, director of a new program called Safe Routes, which is designed to get kids out of cars and on their feet and pedals. The program kicked off in January with the goal of helping public and private schools encourage their students to walk and bike to school — or form car pools at the very least. Tibbetts searched for a school that would be interested in being a pilot school for the program. Having sent her twin boys to St. Mark School in St. Paul for a year, she and other parents approached principal Molly Whinnery, who quickly and happily agreed. "We increased walking by 53 percent," Tibbetts said. "I think that the feeling around the school (about the program) is even more dramatic than those numbers show. A lot of parents commented on the reduction in traffic."

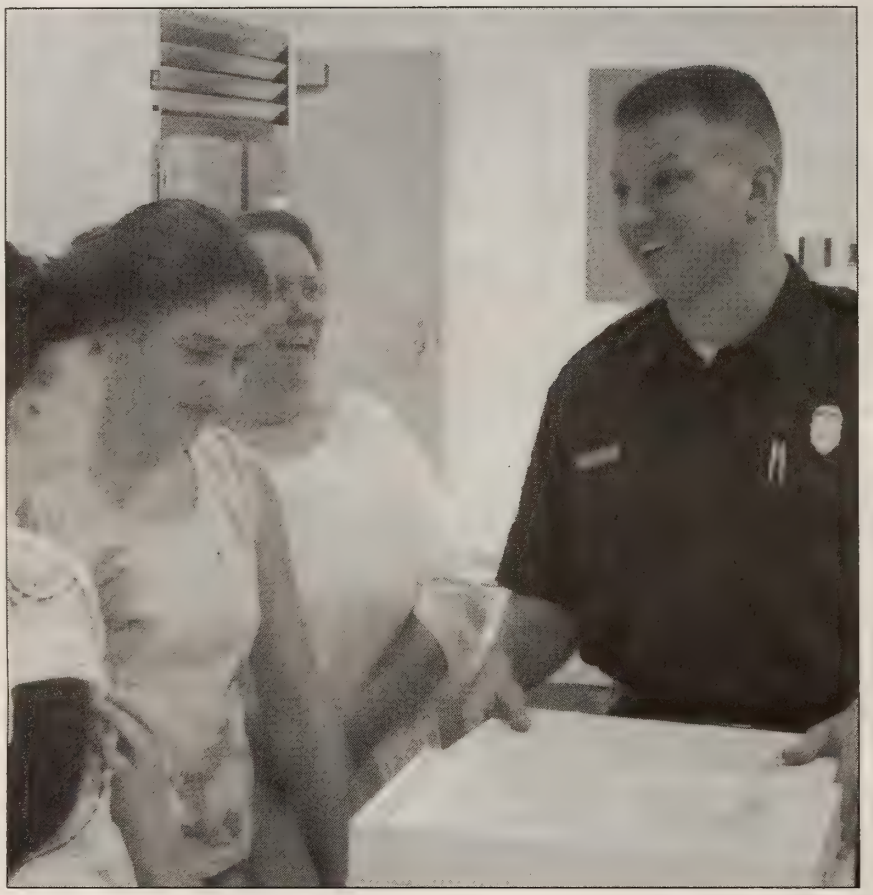


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

**Girl Scouts bake cookies for firefighters**

**Firefighter Lane Bradford of Station 1 accepts several boxes of Girl Scout cookies baked by Girl Scout Troop 1132 at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte Aug. 30-31. Troop 1132 baked over 1,500 cookies for Charlotte area firefighters to show appreciation for all that firefighters do day in and day out.**

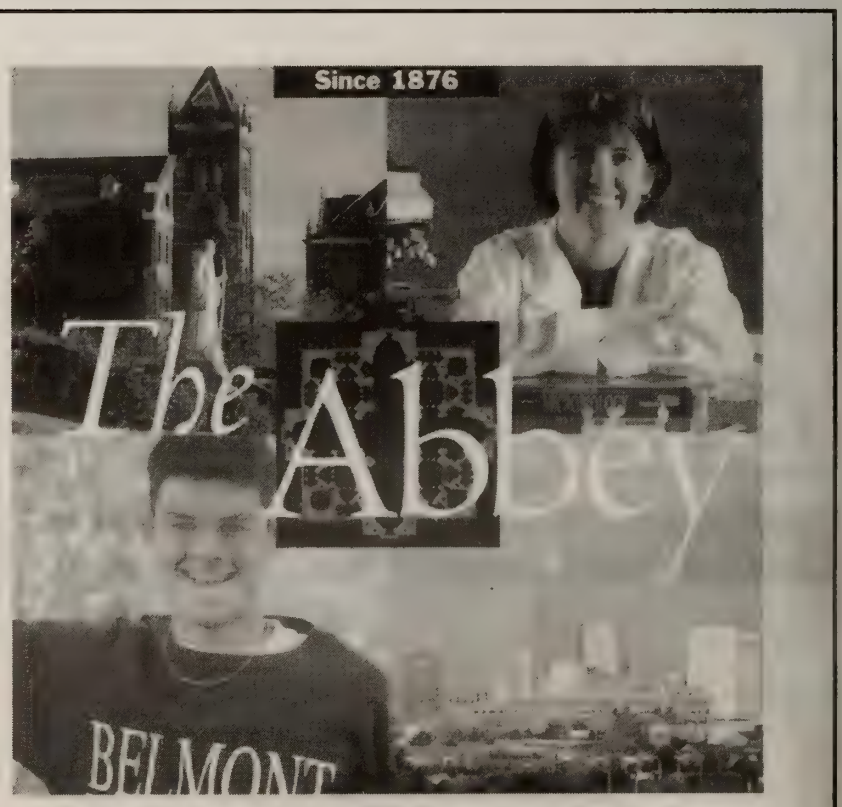
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# Woman's devotion to Catholic school endures after death

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

WINSTON-SALEM — Teresa Lasecki Talbert loved people and she loved Catholic schools.

"She was always real interested in doing all that she could to help people," said Mildred Lasecki, Talbert's mother. "I think Teresa would have wanted this scholarship for a student who desired a Catholic school education but couldn't afford it."

That scholarship is the Teresa Lasecki Talbert Scholarship, set up by Talbert's family to benefit students in need of tuition assistance at Bishop McGuinness High School (BMHS) in Kernersville.

"It's fitting that there be a scholarship at Bishop McGuinness in honor of Teresa," said Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro and a friend of the Lasecki family. "It shows the great love her family has for the Catholic Church and their appreciation for Catholic education."

Talbert, a long-time parishioner of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, died Dec. 28, 1999 after a bout with cancer. She was a graduate of St. Leo School and the 1971 class valedictorian of the original BMHS in Winston-Salem.

"(Bishop) McGuinness graduates are widely esteemed for their scholarships, dependability and trustworthiness," said Teresa in her graduation speech. "It is our duty to uphold these standards. We should be different from the graduates of other high schools. ...Each graduate in this auditorium is special and outstanding."

"She was very dedicated in the original days of Bishop McGuinness," said Marilyn Lasecki, Talbert's sister. "She was involved in almost every aspect of that school, such as the yearbook and extra-curricular activities."

"She had a life-long relationship with the Sisters of St. Joseph who were models in faith for her when she was at St. Leo School and at Bishop McGuinness High School," said Father O'Rourke.

Talbert graduated Radford University in Radford, Va., with a bachelor's in nursing. Taking care of others seemed to come naturally for her, according to her family. For 21 years, Talbert worked at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center as a staff nurse and later as a nursing recruiter.

"She recruited all over, even in foreign countries, to get good nurses to come to this area," said her sister. "She believed in helping others to make life better for themselves."

"Teresa's life of service as a nurse provided an excellent vehicle for her to put into practice what she experienced and shared within the Catholic faith community," said Father O'Rourke.

"When she was interviewing nurses, she said she could always tell by the way they spoke and wrote if they were educated in a Catholic school," said her mother.

"We valued the fact that there was a Catholic school and that we had the opportunity to attend," said Marilyn Lasecki. "Teresa was very dedicated to the Catholic way of education and she held that close to her all through her life."

**"(Bishop) McGuinness graduates are widely esteemed for their scholarships, dependability and trustworthiness."**

**Teresa Lasecki Talbert in her 1971 graduation speech**

The scholarship was set up through the Foundation of the Diocese of Charlotte as an endowment to benefit BMHS students. An endowment is a permanent fund placed in the diocesan Foundation that earns income over time. The original amount is not spent, but the income can be used in a manner stipulated in the endowment agreement, according to Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization established to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations.

Not only are people in the diocese giving of their current income, said Kelley, but more and more people are taking another step in stewardship by giving their cumulative assets to take care of the church.

In addition to a bequest in a will — in which you can stipulate that the Foundation or named endowment receives a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or other remainder after other bequests are filled — there are five other primary ways to donate an endowment to the diocese, according to the Gina Rhodes, diocesan director of planned giving. They are:

— Gifts of cash, securities, real estate, or other assets, which is an ideal method when the donated assets are highly appreciated.

— Gifts of life insurance, which allow you to make a gift that might be larger than if you were to give an asset outright. You can donate a paid policy that you already own, or you can purchase a policy to donate.

— Life income arrangements, which allow you to make a gift during your lifetime while retaining and even increasing your income from those assets for the remainder of your life. This includes trusts and charitable gift annuities.

— Gifts from retirement plans, which you can designate your endowment as the remainder beneficiary of an IRA, 401K, or annuity to receive what is left in your retirement plan after your death.

— A gift of life estate in real property, which allows you to enjoy your home or vacation property during your lifetime, while giving you the satisfaction of knowing your church will benefit from the gift after your death.

*To learn more about planned giving or to set up an endowment, call Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301, or Gina Rhodes at (704) 370-3320.*

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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# Priest retirement collection benefits the faithful of diocese



By JOANN S. KEANE
EDITOR

When they pass the plate for the second collection this weekend, Bishop William G. Curlin hopes you remember the good and faithful priests who serve and have served this diocese.

If you miss the weekend opportunity to include your donation, you can still contribute to the priest retirement and benefits collection. Envelopes are readily available in your parish office, should you wish to contribute or perhaps make an additional contribution.

"The priests retirement fund provides monthly retirement benefits for our retired priests," said Bill Weldon, chief financial officer for the Diocese of Charlotte. "Approximately two-thirds of the funds collected will benefit diocesan priests, and the remaining one-third will benefit religious order priests.

"In order to determine the annual amount needed to fund the diocesan plan, an actuarial firm is hired to perform an actuarial valuation of the plan," said Weldon. "This involves projecting the future retirement benefits of all diocesan priests based on anticipated benefit levels and projected years of retirement. This insures the funds will be available when a priest becomes eligible for retirement benefits."

The average parish's assessment is an amount roughly equal to one and a half times the normal weekly offertory, said Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte. Gaddy uses that formula, too, as a suggested point for contribution. If, for example, your weekly parish contribution is $30 dollars, consider a donation of $45 for the priest retirement and benefits collection.

"We appeal to all the faithful of the diocese to be as generous as possible," she said.

The goal for the 2002 collection is $923,994, of which $308,000 is earmarked for the pension funds of the religious orders whose members serve within the diocese.

Of the 130 priests in active service to the faithful of western North Carolina, an additional 25 are retired, and 50 are members of religious communities, said Bishop William G. Curlin in a recent letter to every Catholic household.

"It's more than a retirement plan, this is our way of providing for the priests who serve us so faithfully," said Weldon.

With this collection, "we have the opportunity to express our gratitude for the many years of service our priests have given," said Bishop Curlin.

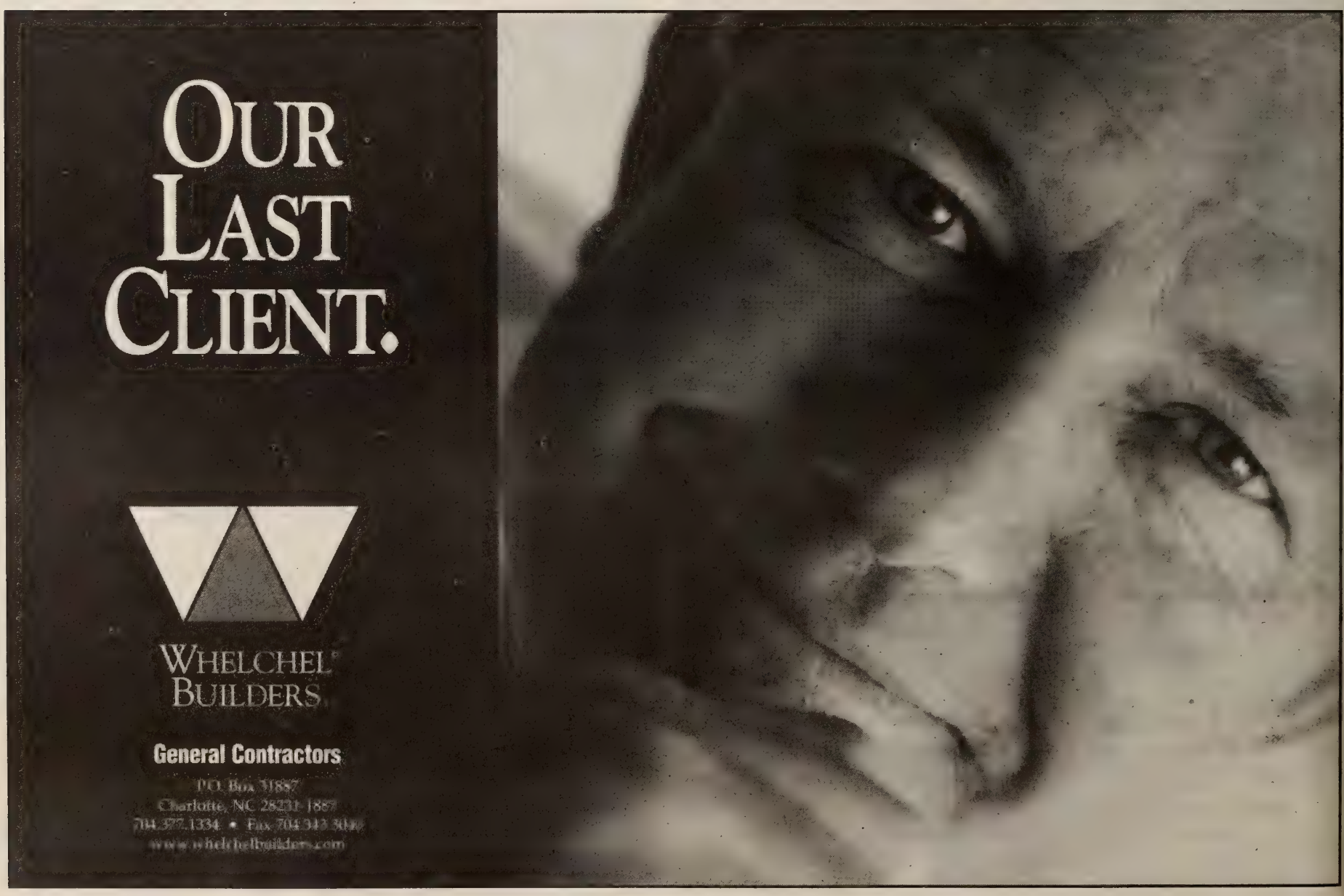
*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org*



**Brevard Knights of Columbus present shrine**

**Knights of Columbus Jack Driscoll Council 8886 presented a shrine of Our Lady, Queen of Life to Sacred Heart Church in Brevard on the feast of the Assumption Aug. 15. Council 8886 raised the funds and constructed the cedar and stone structure in a garden setting, enclosing the statue of Our Lady, Queen of Life holding the child, Jesus. The dedicatory plaque states the shrine is, "Dedicated to the sanctity of life."**

COURTEST PHOTO



# Psychologist professes monastic life at Belmont Abbey

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

BELMONT — A thriving psychologist decided to forsake all earthly possessions for a monastic life of chastity and poverty.

"There was something missing from my life. I had a home, successful career, etc., but I was unfulfilled. It was a little void that started to grow," said Brother Agostino Fernandez, O.S.B. "I began to realize that God was calling me and I asked, 'Why now?' Then it occurred to me — I was ready now."

Brother Agostino made his solemn monastic profession of vows in the Abbey Basilica at Belmont Abbey College Aug. 24. It was the culmination of four years of training, preparation and prayer.

"The monastic community accepts Brother Agostino as their brother for life, and pledges their support, charity and care for him for the rest of his life," said Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B., abbot of Belmont Abbey and celebrant of the rite of solemn profession. "He will also become a member of the monastic chapter at Belmont Abbey, enjoying full active voice in the deliberations and decisions of the monastic community."

Born in Cuba, Brother Agostino came to the United States with his family in the 1960s and settled in Philadelphia, Penn. After earning a bachelor's in music and a master's in psychology from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., Brother Agostino went to work as a psychologist for the public school system in Fairfax, Va.

He was 39 years old when he felt the void within him that he realized could only be filled by service to God. In discerning his vocation, he visited a Trappist monastery in Virginia. Since he wanted to remain on the east coast and be part of a small monastery where he could use his skills, the Trappist vocations director recommended Belmont Abbey.

Founded in 1876, Belmont Abbey is a Benedictine monastery that shares its 700 acres with Belmont Abbey College. The monastery's 20 members pray and work together according to the teachings of the Gospel and the wisdom of St. Benedict.

Brother Agostino visited Belmont Abbey five times before finally applying to the monastery, but he said the Abbey felt like home from the very first visit. "When I came here, everything fit," he said.

Brother Agostino came to the Abbey at a postulate, someone contemplating monastic life, for several months in the spring of 1998, said Abbot Solari, and returned to make his profession of temporary vows in the winter of 1999. It would be three years of discerning and study before he could make his final profession of vows.

"Since I've been here, I haven't had any doubt about my monastic vocation," said Brother Agostino.

By undertaking his vows, the former school psychologist has accepted a life of prayer, of celibate chastity, of dispossession of personal belongings and of commitment to growth in charity, in accordance to the Rule of St. Benedict.

"He comes to us bringing his talents and gifts," said Abbot Solari. "It is an affirmation of the monastic life of Belmont Abbey that someone like him would commit to our community."

"God has prepared me for this point in my life, and I rely upon faith and grace to help me through all the challenges ahead," he said.

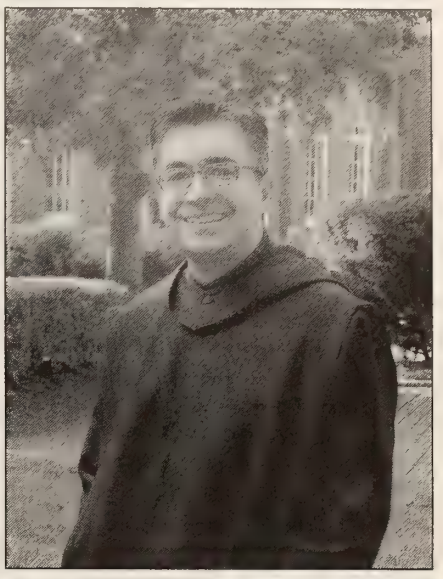
Brother Agostino returns to St. John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minn., to complete his masters in theology with a minor in schematics. He eagerly looks forward to returning to Belmont Abbey in December.

"I'm very excited and it will be great to come back home for good," he said, expecting to wear "many hats" upon his return to the monastery.

"His assignment now is to finish his studies at St. John's," said Abbot Solari. "His talents make him a suitable person in both the monastery and the college. When he comes back, we'll discuss the various options for where his talents will best be used."

Brother Agostino is open to all the possibilities, whether he is instructing novices, acting as a counselor at the college, being a part of the vocation discernment process developed by Abbot Solari, or all three combined, he said.

"I bring my experiences and education to Belmont Abbey and the college to touch the lives of others in my own unique way," said Brother Agostino, "while in the context of the 1,500-year tradition of the Benedictine monks."



Courtesy Photo

**Brother Agostino Fernandez, O.S.B., made his solemn monastic profession of vows at Belmont Abbey Aug. 24.**

Brother Agostino is grateful for the support of his family and friends, and was touched that so many of them were able to attend his profession of vows, which he considers "the most important day in a monk's life."

To those in attendance at the Mass, Brother Agostino heartily proclaimed, "This celebration is not just about my personal and spiritual response to God's call, but rather it is a communal celebration in which we all accept God's call."

"I am very happy that God called me," he said.

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*




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### Diocese collaborates on video to help children cope with Sept. 11

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (CNS) — The upcoming anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks could raise concern and even fear in children, as well as their parents, teachers and counselors. In anticipation of these feelings, schools in the Rockville Centre Diocese collaborated with Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre; Project Liberty, a crisis counseling service funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; a local family counseling center; and the diocesan television station to produce three videos in which children, parents, teachers, and counselors discuss their memories, fears and hopes on the first anniversary of Sept. 11. "The first anniversary is coming whether we do anything about it or not," said Ursuline Sister Joanne Callahan, diocesan superintendent of schools. "We wanted to find a way that we could commemorate those events to help students express their feelings and try to understand those feelings about what happened that day and to help them see their hopes for the future."

### More passengers, workers visiting airport chapels, priest says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Amid increased security at airports and greater uncertainty in the aviation industry in the year following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, more travelers and staff are seeking out airport chapels and chaplains. "More and more people ... are taking advantage of time in chapels, participation in services, time to talk with chaplains, whether there are security issues or not," said Father John Jamnicky, coordinator for the Human Mobility Apostolate of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington. At Washington's Reagan National Airport, which was closed after the attacks until Oct. 4 and only returned to full service in mid-April, the crowd gathered for Sunday Mass has often spilled out of the chapel and into the hallway, according to Father Jamnicky. But at other airports, where chapels and ministry offices are not located beyond security checkpoints, passengers and staff are finding it difficult to go to Mass and get counseling.




CNS PHOTO BY THOMAS F. MOLONEY, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC



**Above, tourists gather on a hillside at the temporary memorial site in Shanksville 11, 2001, killing all 44 people on board. The temporary site draws some 6,000 Catholic elementary schools take part in the making of a video to help childr regarding last year's Sept. 11 attacks. The video was made at the Rockville Cen N.Y., and will be distributed to schools in the diocese.**

### Pastor of Catholic church near ground zero sees role in healing

NEW YORK (CNS) — As the Catholic church closest to ground zero, St. Peter's has again become a part of history, the special history that began a year ago and will continue into the indefinite future. "Part of our purpose for the next couple of years will be tied to the healing of people in this neighborhood, throughout the city and around the world," Father Kevin V. Madigan, pastor of the church, said in an interview Aug. 26. "That mission has been thrust upon us. People expect that." As the first Catholic parish established in New York — in 1785 — St. Peter's had participated in a lot of history before Sept. 11. "In the 1700s and 1800s, the parish went through fires, riots and a cholera epidemic," Father Madigan said. It was also the parish where St. Elizabeth Ann Seton entered the Catholic Church, and the parish of Pierre Toussaint, the Haitian who was brought to New York as a slave and later freed, and who is now proposed for canonization.

### Sister clings to faith a year after brother's Sept. 11 death

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Time keeps deceiving Mary Ann Papp, a New Jersey mother of two whose brother was killed last year in the collapse of the World Trade Center. Sometimes, because the pain is still so raw, Sept. 11 seems like yesterday, but other times it seems she has lived with the inescapable memory of that day far beyond just one year. For Papp, a parishioner at St. Rose of Lima in Freehold, N.J., the nine months between last September and this June are a blur. She can hardly recall the soccer games and school functions she must have attended. But now, as the one-year anniversary of Sept. 11 approaches, she feels it is time to regroup and move on, relying on the strength of her faith to carry her through. "I don't understand this in a human sense," she told Catholic News Service in an Aug. 27 telephone interview from her home in Freehold, "but past experience shows me that God has always carried me."

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CNS PHOTO BY ED ZELACHOSKI, CATHOLIC ACCENT

**where United Flight 93 crashed on Sept. s each week. Below left, students from derstand and talk about their feelings ocese's television station in Uniondale,**

### Muslim-Catholic dialogue stronger in year since Sept. 11

WASHINGTON (CNS) — One positive offshoot of the tragic events of Sept. 11 has been that relations between the Catholic Church and Muslim leaders have solidified and grown. Catholics and Muslims for years have engaged in dialogue about issues of common concern, noted John Borelli, associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. That background proved to be especially important when the terrorist attacks focused sometimes unwelcome attention on Islam. Muzammil Siddiqi, director of the Islamic Center of Orange County, Calif., said "from the first day" the Catholic Church has been supportive of the mainstream majority of Muslims who do not interpret the Prophet Mohammed's teachings as encouraging terrorism. That support from the hierarchy also was manifested at the community level, in the form of joint prayer services, a series of open meetings and a surge of interest in basic information about Islam, he explained. In fact, the course for interreligious relations followed by the Catholic-Muslim dialogue should be a model for other faiths, Siddiqi said.

### Franciscan promotes bell-ringing ceremonies to remember those killed

NEW YORK (CNS) — For Franciscan Brother David Schlatter, Father Mychal Judge was not only a friend and a mentor, but a source of inspiration. The inspiration led Brother David to work as a chaplain with firefighters in Wilmington, Del., and to initiate "The Remembrance Project," a bell-tolling service honoring Father Judge and the other New York firefighters who died in the World Trade Center attacks. Father Judge, chaplain of the New York Fire Department since 1992, perished on Sept. 11 near the lobby of One World Trade Center, while administering last rites to a fallen firefighter. He was 68. Brother David first met the late Franciscan 34 years ago when Father Judge, then an assistant at Sacred Heart Church in Rochelle Park, N.J., came to Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y., to lead a retreat. Father Judge's attitude and love for the Franciscan life and ministry immediately impressed Brother David, who was a freshman at the time. "He was very happy doing the work he was doing," he said. "His enthusiasm was evident."

### Immigrants, refugees on roller coaster of changed policies since 9/11

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When foreign terrorists attacked the United States last September, immigrants in this country suddenly felt their status change, both as a result of new government policies and in unofficial ways. Mere days before the Sept. 11 attacks, the outlook for immigrants seemed rosier than it had in years. President Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox were talking about how to make the U.S.-Mexico border more open. Long-time efforts to legalize the status of many illegal immigrants seemed to be bearing fruit. And Bush had recently announced an almost unheard-of expansion of the number of refugees who would be admitted to the country in the coming year. Today, not only are those developments stuck on the shelf, but a series of policy changes and new laws have made life increasingly difficult for immigrants, both legal and illegal. Programs to help immigrants with everything from their legal problems to job training have been swamped. In the New York City area, in particular, church-run programs expanded to meet new demand from people who lost their jobs after the World Trade Center towers collapsed.

### Catholic Charities of New York, Brooklyn focus on Sept. 11 victims

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Catholic Charities organizations of New York, which began programs of services to those affected by the destruction of the World Trade Center immediately after the attack, are continuing these services a year later and projecting extension of the special effort for two more years. Msgr. Kevin L. Sullivan, Catholic Charities director for the Archdiocese of New York, said in an interview Aug. 27 that the experience of the Sept. 11 disaster demonstrated the importance of the church having a structure already in place when such events occur. "We did not have to start from scratch on Sept. 12," he said. "We built on a staff with a capacity developed through its history that enabled us to meet this emergency critical need." Robert Siebel, chief operating officer for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Brooklyn and the person in charge of its response to the Sept. 11 attack, said assistance was being given within hours after the towers were hit.

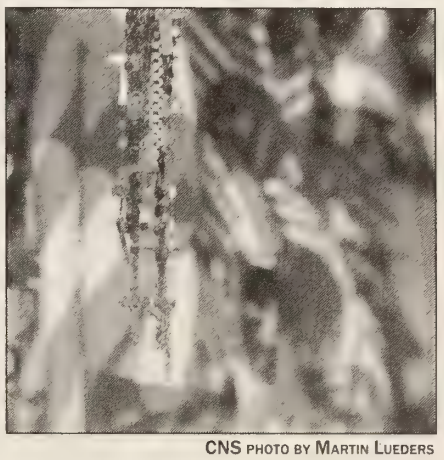


CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

**Above, firefighter Russell Bakunas places flowers near a bust of Franciscan chaplain Father Mychal Judge in late August at Engine Co. 1's firehouse of the New York Fire Department. Father Judge died while ministering at the scene of the World Trade Center attack last Sept. 11. The chaplain who took Father Judge's place said the firefighters miss him deeply, and know he gave his life for them. Above right, religious and patriotic symbols are left on a daily basis at the Shanksville, Pa., hillside where United Flight 93 crashed on Sept. 11, 2001, killing all 44 passengers on board.**

## In Prayerful Remembrance

Bishop William G. Curlin cordially invites you to join him for a Mass of Remembrance at 7:30 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral on Wednesday, **Sept. 11.**



CNS PHOTO BY MARTIN LUEDERS

### Pentagon heals, returns to business, but Sept. 11 memories live on

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — Nearly a year after American Airlines Flight 77 smashed into the Pentagon, killing 189 people, the five-sided headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense is a different place. The transformation has been gradual. As the building is rebuilt and its occupants recover physically and mentally, the tragedy has become many things — bond, motivation, even the stuff of miracles. But life goes on. "Perhaps rightfully so, it's almost business as usual," said David Theall, a public affairs specialist who narrowly escaped a huge fireball after being blown through a wall Sept. 11. "More and more things are returning to normal." It's taken tremendous effort, however, because as John Donavan, senior civilian adviser to the Chief of Public Affairs, said, "People who work here spend a tremendous amount of time here." And the building is awash in reminders.

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# Sister says challenge is to create space for God

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — Sister of Christian Charity Josita Marks, a former teacher, principal and director of faith formation, explained at the Franciscan Center Aug. 20 how all Christians have a common call to not only be united in Christ, but "To Be Ministers of the Sacred."

Sister Josita arrived in Greensboro last year to become director of Justice and Peace at the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, which is currently under construction and is expected to be completed within the year. Sister Josita, a native of Waterbury, Conn., has "Proved to be quite a tremendous asset to the Franciscan Center since her arrival. She is indispensable," said Franciscan Father Louis Canino, director of the center.

Sister Josita and Father Canino both give talks and seminars throughout the Triad and beyond.

Stressing the similarities and the differences between Catholicism and Protestant denominations in her recent seminar, Sister Josita made it clear that every baptized Christian is a minister of the sacred.

"Each (person) acts as an agent for God, and if we are to carry out the design of the Almighty, each must know what that design is," said Sister Josita. "Accordingly, each is called to become a living sacrament — a sign and the means by which we and others can experience and celebrate God's love and mercy as he uses the ordinary (us) to bring about the extraordinary (self-sacrificing divine love).

Sister Josita said each of us must be consumed by an active burning love for our neighbors. "We must be aflame with the love of God and must love the one next to us," she said. "When you can achieve the goal of making the inner self and the other united as one, then you have reached the unity that holds all things together. And he is God, the point upon which everything turns."

Using the example of a candle surrounded by a glass globe, Sister Josita described holy as creating space around the sacred.

"The challenge," she said, "is to create space and to make time (for God)." To accomplish this, she said, "We must go to our closets and close the opening between our spiritual and physical worlds so that we can communicate with God with our inner sight found within our hearts. For we are surrounded by God as a fish is surrounded by water."

"Life isn't fair. Life happens," concluded Sr. Josita. "We need to go through it and must step out of it. Then, as we become aware of the sacred in and around us, it will overflow to everyone else."

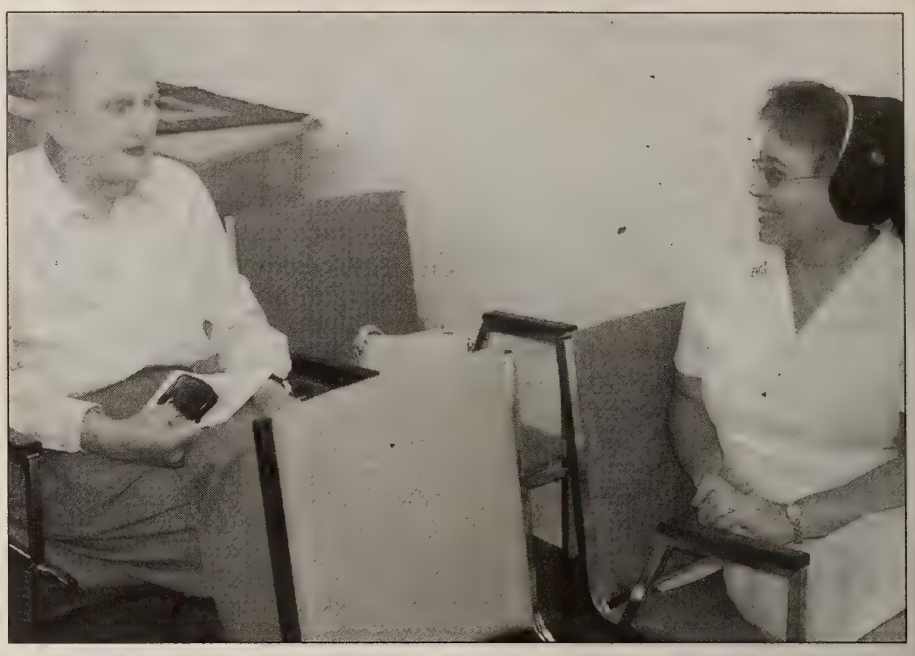


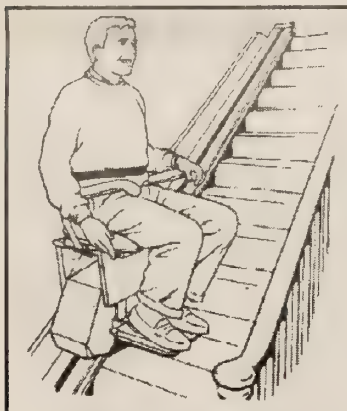
Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

**Don Bonnet, a parishioner at Our Lady of Grace Church, talks to Sister Josita Marks at the seminar "Our Call: To Be Ministers of the Sacred" at the Franciscan Center Aug 20.**

Bill and Mary Ann Scherff, parishioners of Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church of Greensboro, both enjoyed the seminar. "The program was excellent," said Bill. "It reminded us to be in touch with God; that we need to represent the Lord to all others."

Susan Stack, a parishioner of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, agreed. "Not only did she (Sister Josita) give us ways to deepen our awareness of the presence of God by creating space, but she explained a lot of words and meaning of the things we thought we knew," said Stack. "I have a new way of looking at the Our Father and Matthew 6:6, which will transcend to other areas of my life. She is a good teacher and a good example."

*Contact Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

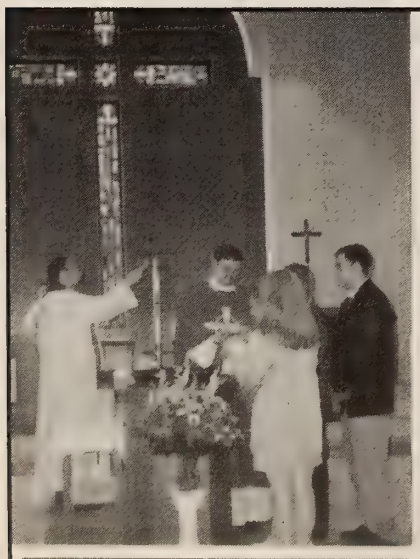



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# Art project paints new lives for Charlotte homeless

By MARY MARSALL
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — The homeless people, or "neighbors," who frequent the Urban Ministry Center no longer idle the area just waiting for job opportunities or phone calls. Instead they're discovering hidden talents, as volunteers and local artists ignite their creativity through clay, paints, mosaics, bricks and timbers.

Called "Art Works 945," the summer art project brings out the best in people whose self-esteem has been squelched.

The program began last summer when neighbors painted a colorful skyline panorama on a drab wall across from the Center with a grant from the Arts and Science Council.

This summer, a $10,000 grant from Myers Park Presbyterian Church funded the four-day a week project — three days of visual art and one day of writing.

The Urban Ministry Center is located in the former Seaboard train station. In the spirit of hospitality, the Center offers counseling, phone access, bus passes and other basic services to help the neighbors become self sufficient.

But this summer, it offers an art program that's brought out the best in the neighbors, presenting them with a new dimension to brighten their outlook on life.

Under the guidance of coordinators Anna Judy and Lawrence Cann, who volunteered at the Center four years ago as Davidson College students, artist and volunteers have brought the arts to the neighbors. It's a mixture with amazing results — neighbors have discovered hidden talents, and in the process have put aside unhealthy traits that hindered their growth. Like the down-on-life alcoholic who dusts the cobwebs from his soul with each stroke of a paintbrush — he becomes so engrossed in his painting the he forgets about drinking.

Gardens, painted rocks, concrete tables and a tile walkway replace weeds and out-of-control brush that once covered the lot across from the Center. Owned by a local businessman who gave the Center permission to beautify and use the land, today the lot is a vibrant park for untold stories. Volunteers and neighbors cleared the land and in the process discovered large rocks, which they toppled to define the area. Armed with brushes and gallons of paint, neighbors reflected their thoughts — flowers, crosses and flags from native countries.

When artist Kay Ethridge brought 200 pounds of clay, neighbors made and painted 15-inch tiles that, after glazing, became steppingstones to the park. Cann purchased sheets of board, cut them in half and, as he removed the lids to a spectrum of paint cans, he encouraged neighbors to express their feelings, dreams and visions. The completed works now decorate a chain link fence, magically transposing drab diamond shaped wires into a kaleidoscope of colors.

Neighbor Wanda challenged herself, moving from one artistic media to another. With cracked pottery donated by local potters and a volunteer who perused Goodwill Stores snatching up china, Wanda created a mosaic on a wall mural. The program has changed her life, she said.

"Lawrence has given us something to keep up busy — to keep us out of trouble," she said.

And for Wanda, that has been a positive effect that has stifled her drinking.

Other neighbors have found jobs thanks to the program, such as the brick mason student who helped erect brick columns in the park. A local businessman liked his work and offered him a job — it's a new beginning, one that blossomed through a challenging project.

For two months, Ameri Corp volunteers, who work with the AIDS population, devoted their Fridays to designing a garden. An Eagle Scout planted vegetables that the neighbors proudly tend.

Cann cemented a post in the ground randomly adding railroad nails. Using bright colors, neighbors painted the bottles, tipped them upside down and inserted them on the nails thereby creating a bottle tree.

"This goes back to African history where natives put gourds on dead trees to drive away evil spirits," said Cann. "Here it's a southern garden ornament."

The public is invited to the Art Works 945 gala celebration from 6-8 p.m. Sept. 14 at the Center, located at 945 N. College Street. Proceeds will compensate artists and fund annual Art Works 945 projects.

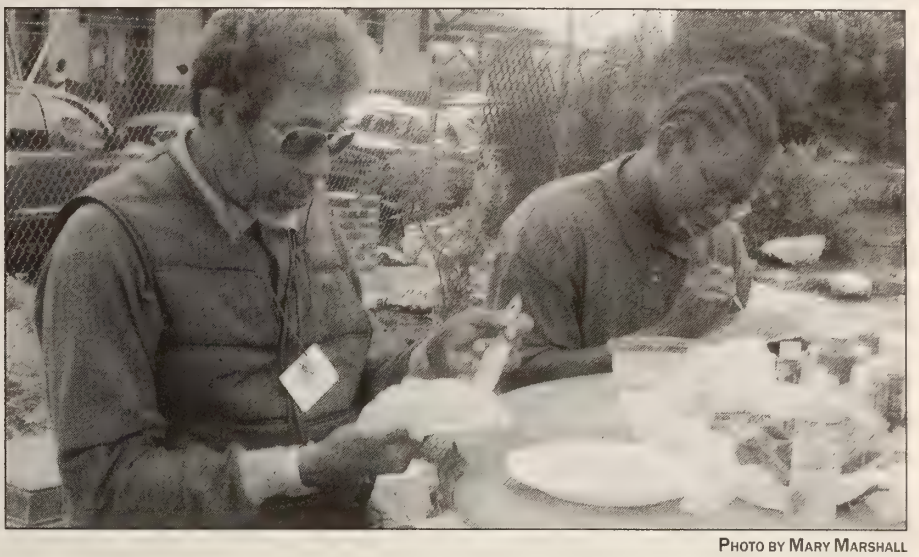


Photo by Mary Marshall

**Luis and Timothy, "neighbors" of the Urban Ministry Center in Charlotte, made masks of themselves for "Art Works 945." The masks will be mounted on a board along with text of their stories for display inside the Center.**



Photo by Mary Marshall

**Annie, a "neighbor" of the Urban Ministry Center in Charlotte, holds a mask that she created.**

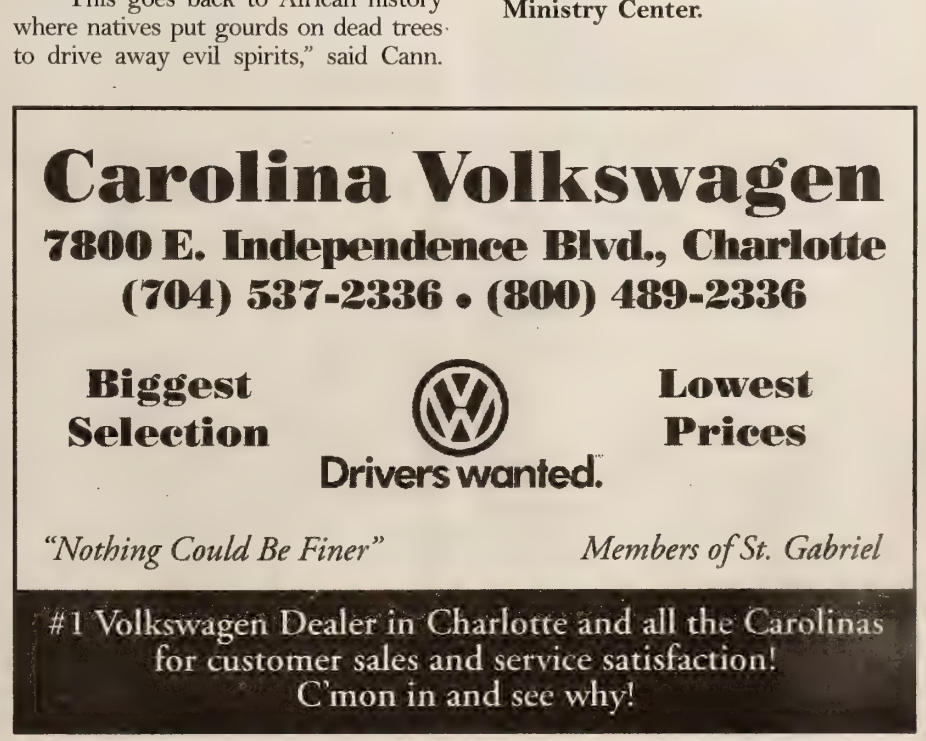


Photo by Mary Marshall

**A "bottle tree," created by "neighbors" of the Urban Ministry Center.**







**Book Review**

# Books examine religious impact on America

REVIEWED BY PATRICK J. HAYES
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Trying to separate Catholic religious orders from American culture is like trying to take the white off rice. Two books examining the impact of men and women religious on America are part of a recent wave of "Catholic studies."

The first book is a rare thing — a history written by a 19th-century African-American nun. "No Cross, No Crown: Black Nuns in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans" is the story of the 1842 founding of the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans, written by one of their own, Sister Mary Bernard Deggs, between 1894 and 1896. The editors of this book write: "That a small band of Afro-Creole women founded a religious community in the antebellum South was remarkable. That we have a personal account of the founding years is extraordinary."




The order was founded against the prevailing wishes of women religious already established in New Orleans. The new order admitted Afro-Creole women, some born free and others born slaves. They worked with the city's outcasts. They ran schools for young girls of African descent, asylums for orphan boys and homes for poor women and the elderly. Sister Mary Bernard herself had been one of the young children the original foundresses educated and so had absorbed the stories of the order's beginnings. Her history leaves no unpleasantry out, for these she considered the sources of grace ("no cross, no crown").

Financial strain was constant, but this is still an upbeat story. Sister Mary Bernard writes about the power of the sisters' charity: "We have had many women of the grandest and richest families of New Orleans come and live in our house, ... many of whom ... had even owned slaves in former times. We have the mistress and her slaves in there at the same time and they live like angels together. It is a very striking thing to see their love."

Sister Mary Bernard wrote in English, but she was dyslexic and French was her primary language. This edition's editors, Virginia Meacham Gould, a New Orleans-based historian, and Charles E. Nolan, the archdiocesan archivist, took Sister Mary Bernard's journal and transformed its unusual English prose into this more accessible account. Additionally, the editors provide a full complement of explanatory notes and a very useful introduction.

Contemporary American Jesuits and former Jesuits are the subject of "Passionate Uncertainty: Inside the American Jesuits," written by Peter McDonough, author of an earlier book on Jesuits, "Men Astutely Trained" (1992), and Eugene C. Bianchi, a former Jesuit and professor emeritus of religion at Emory University. They make some challenging claims from beginning to end.

For instance, they suggest that because traditional Jesuit apostolates are being served well by increasing numbers of the laity, mainly in response to a decline in Jesuit numbers, "the functional rationale of the priesthood is undercut." Is lay service in the church really a deterrent to young men entering religious life?

The authors used surveys to gather their data from current and former Jesuits. The responses show a great depth of honesty. This book provides a forum to air the needs and desires of "the long black line." The book may trouble some readers because the authors' bald interpretations point to an order in disarray, yet one clinging to the ideals set long ago by St. Ignatius Loyola himself.

*Hayes is a doctoral student in ecclesiology at The Catholic University of America and an adjunct professor at Fordham University in New York and Fairfield University in Connecticut.*

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings:*
*Sept. 8, 2002*

Sept. 8, Twenty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time
Cycle A Readings:
1) Exodus 33:7-9
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
2) Romans 13:8-10
3) Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

By BEVERLY CORZINE
Catholic News Service

I would have to choose September as my favorite month in the school calendar. By the time September arrives, classes have been in session almost a month — time enough for students and teachers to discern each other's scholastic foibles and move into the rhythm of the fall semester.

Although actual fall weather only exists hundreds of miles to our north, the sky is changing to a deeper blue, and there is the sacred promise of cooler days in the not too distant future.

In my senior English classes, we have just finished reading the exploits of the epic hero Beowulf. This day, this ordinary morning in September, my first period class and I are discussing courage, self-sacrifice, honor and the importance the Anglo-Saxons placed on the preservation of their tribal stories. Student conversation moves to examples of real-life people such as Jesus, Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

They connect literature to real life — the teacher's dream.

As the passing period begins, I take my usual place at the door to wish students a good day and to greet the next class. But this passing period will be like no other because it is Sept. 11, 2001.

When students begin to enter our hall, a certain unknown energy accompanies them like an unseen presence that rolls onto a beach in a late night movie. I know something bad has happened, but, clearly, I would never have guessed the real-life carnage and death-defying courage we were going to witness.

In second period we find television reception impossible, Internet access is jammed, so we huddle around the radio and listen. One of my senior boys asks me privately, "Mrs. Corzine, do you think the class really understands what's happening?" The look of pain in his eyes tells me that he does.

As the clock ticks and the holocaust of 9-11 rages, I say to my students, "If you are a praying person, perhaps this would be a good time to remember all the people who are suffering and dying right now." Heads nod in agreement. The classroom is dead quiet except for the radio news.

I have no doubt that Jesus is there in our midst, just as he promises in the Gospel.

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of September 8 - September 14**

**Sunday (Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Ezekiel 33:7-9, Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 18:15-20; **Monday (St. Peter Claver),** 1 Corinthians 5:1-8, Luke 6:6-11; **Tuesday,** 1 Corinthians 6:1-11, Luke 6:12-19; **Wednesday,** 1 Corinthians 7:25-31, Luke 6:20-26; **Thursday,** 1 Corinthians 8:1-7, 11-13, Luke 6:27-38; **Friday (St. John Chrysostom),** 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-27, Luke 6:39-42; **Saturday (Exaltation of the Holy Cross),** Numbers 21:4-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17

**Scripture for the week of September 15 - September 21**

**Sunday (Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Sirach 27:30—28:9, Romans 14:7-9, Matthew 18:21-35; **Monday (St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian),** 1 Corinthians 11:17-26,33, Luke 7:1-10; **Tuesday (St. Robert Bellarmine),** 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31, Luke 7:11-17; **Wednesday,** 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13, Luke 7:31-35; **Thursday,** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 7:36-50; **Friday (St. Andrew Kim Taegon and St. Paul Chong Hasang and Companions),** 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 8:1-3; **Saturday (St. Matthew),** Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:9-13

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# 'One Hour Photo' develops chilling premise

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Writer-director Mark Romanek's, "One Hour Photo" (Fox Searchlight), is a sordid thriller about obsession, misguided revenge and deep-rooted psychological problems which result in chilling actions.

Yet despite the story's ugly twists, Robin Williams' nuanced and ultimately moving performance captures the humanity of his troubled character.

Williams' past few movies, such as the mean-spirited "Death to Smoochy" and the grim "Insomnia," have seemed like purposeful departures from the actor's more treacly fare, including the sappy "Patch Adams." But his performance in "One Hour Photo" is the most effective of these digressions.

Wacky comedian Williams disappears into Sy the photo guy, a pale misfit with thinning, close-cropped blonde hair. Seymour "Sy" Parrish toils behind the counter of a one-hour photo lab in the giant, sterile discount store, SavMart. Hardly noticed by most, he seems to blend into the store's bright florescent lights and nondescript decor.

Yet there's something slightly off about Sy, despite his chipper facade. His view of the world, like the view out of his cracked car windshield, is distorted.

Among his favorite customers are the tony Yorkins, who, to Sy, are living the ideal suburban family life. With her good looks and pleasant manner, mother Nina (Connie Nielsen) always greets Sy with a smile as she entrusts her family photos to him. Accompanying her to the store is 9-year-old Jake (Dylan Smith), an all-around good kid. And though he has yet to meet him, Sy knows Will (Michael Vartan), the family's patriarch, through the photos.

This photogenic family suggests to Sy the kind of blissful happiness that so often proves elusive for many, especially pitiable Sy. However, the audience soon learns that the harmonious condition of the Yorkins is not all it seems.

Sy's attentions to the Yorkins, while excessive, aren't exactly threatening. Yet his obvious loneliness and longing for human touch hint at the possibility of something unsavory around the corner. The audience begins to see Sy's attachment to the Yorkins creep into an unhealthy state when, while dining alone at a diner, he shows the waitress copies of the family's photos — which he has furtively printed at work — and claims to be their Uncle Sy.

Up until now, Sy has vicariously enjoyed the Yorkins' family life without overstepping any bounds. But the story slips into more sinister territory when two things trigger Sy's deep-seated problems. A large discrepancy is found between the number of photos paid for and the number printed and Sy is unceremoniously fired from his beloved job. Sy's world is further shattered when photos left by a sultry customer suggest she is having an affair with Will.

Distraught that "his" perfect family has been smashed to smithereens by Will's careless and foolish selfishness, Sy takes steps to exact revenge on behalf of the innocent members of the Yorkin family.

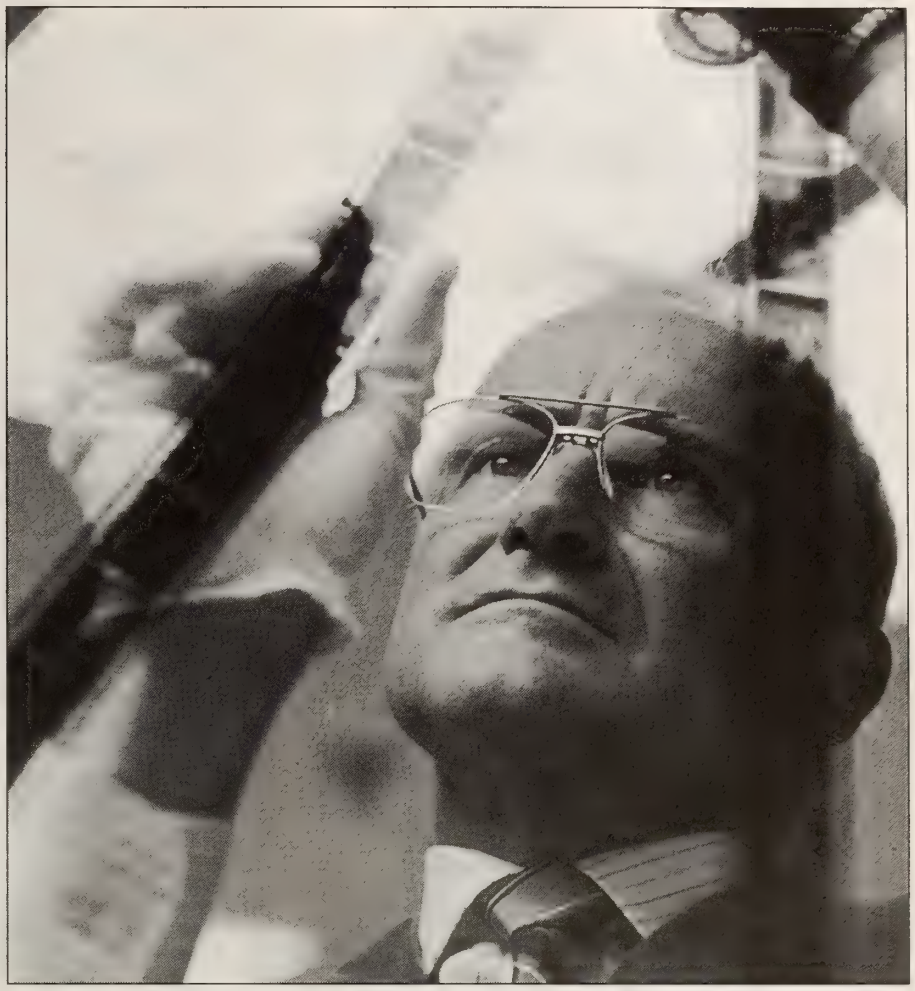
The film is effectively constructed, keeping the viewer absorbed despite beginning with the ending and telling the story in flashback with Sy's steady, detached voice-over narration.

As the story builds to its climax, though, it becomes like watching a car wreck — the viewer is unable to keep his eyes off it despite the unpleasantness. However, viewers should be warned that there is a particularly upsetting sexual scene that is stomach turning, although it does serve to illustrate the depths of Sy's psychological problems which lead to his cruel behavior.

Coming from a music video director, Romanek's first feature film has none of the frenzy usually associated with such work. Instead, the restrained "One Hour Photo" is a creepy suspense film that succeeds in both engrossing and unsettling the audience, though clearly its disturbing subject matter won't be to everyone's taste.

Due to an extramarital affair, a disturbing sexual scene with brief nudity, menacing violence and sporadic rough language with an instance of profanity, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

*Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*



CNS PHOTO FROM FOX SEARCHLIGHT

**Robin Williams stars in movie 'One Hour Photo'**

**Robin Williams stars in a scene from the film "One Hour Photo." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

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## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# View end of world with hope, commitment to peace, pope says

BY JOHN NORTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II said Christians should view the end of the world with hope and trust in God's plan and with a renewed commitment to build a "civilization of love."

At his weekly general audience Sept. 4, the pope focused on an Old Testament canticle of Isaiah that he described as a "prophetic vision of the last days."

"This vision is a call to hope and trust in God's saving plan. Christians see this hope fulfilled in Jesus Christ and the church," he said.

To accommodate the roughly 8,000 pilgrims, the gathering was held in the Vatican's audience hall rather than at the pope's summer villa, where he has been staying since early July. It was the pope's first visit to Vatican City in more than eight weeks.

The pope traveled to and from the audience by motorcade, not by helicopter as in past years. Earlier in the summer, a Vatican official said traveling by car was thought to be more comfortable for the 82-year-old pontiff.

In his audience talk, the pope called Isaiah's canticle, found at the beginning of the Book of Isaiah, "truly marvelous" and a work of "messianic hope in elevated poetic language."

The biblical text foresees that in the last days, "at last the world will find peace in obedience to God's law and his word," the pope said.

He said ancient Christian writers interpreted the canticle as a prophecy of Christ's coming.

"In the mystery of the church, all humanity draws near to God and shares in the peace brought by Christ," the pope said.

"We Christians welcome the prophet's appeal in a particular way, and we seek to lay the foundation of that civilization of love and peace in which there is no more war, 'no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away,'" he said, quoting from the Book of Revelation.

## Guest Column

JANICE RITTER
GUEST COLUMNIST



### Much going on in Catholic schools

Another new school year is upon us. This time of year is always exciting and energizing. In every classroom, teachers and students begin the task of learning new skills and meeting new challenges. Likewise, parents find new and creative ways to support our schools.

This year, several schools in the Diocese of Charlotte have new or improved learning spaces. St. Michael School in Gastonia opens a new wing that houses a media center and middle school classrooms. St. Leo School in Winston-Salem has a new wing and renovated classrooms. Immaculata School in Hendersonville is how pleasantly air-conditioned. By Thanksgiving, Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem will move to their new campus. The building that was Bishop McGuinness High School (BMHS) in Winston-Salem will become the new Our Lady of Mercy Elementary School.

These exciting changes are due to the dedication, generosity and hard work of school staff, parents and parishioners.

During this year, renovations will be taking place at Charlotte Catholic High School (CCHS). St. Matthew School in Charlotte will be completed and ready for the All Saints School community to relocate there. Work will also be progressing on the new St. Mark School in Huntersville, set to open in the 2003-04 school year and bring the number of diocesan schools to 18.

The process of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) continues. While this process is demanding, it is very worthwhile and places a focus on continual school renewal and improvement. Last year, BMHS successfully completed the peer review. This year, CCHS and St. Michael prepare for peer review visits, which are a critical part of the entire SACS process.

Opening our schools to a visit from an outside team of professional educators, many of whom have no prior knowledge of Catholic education, provides us with the opportunity to view ourselves through the eyes of others.

When you are involved in Catholic education on a daily basis, as a teacher, administrator or parent, you grow quite familiar with what makes our schools different from public or private schools. It sometimes takes an outsider to help us see our own treasure.

What first impresses peer review team members are our students, who are polite, considerate and demonstrate an ability to follow rules — a credit to their parents and their schools. Team members are also impressed with our test scores and academic programs. They appreciate that we are current with instructional materials, technology and professional development.

What the team members recognize as our most valuable asset is our ability to make prayer a part of everything that we do.

In Catholic schools, we are fortunate to be able to offer our students the opportunity to include prayer and spirituality into the daily rhythm of school life. Our students grow aware of the importance of taking time personal and community prayer. Their faith is enhanced and enriched because of this.

As our nation remembers the events of Sept. 11, our students will be able to engage in prayer as a way to reflect and remember. Our ability to include prayer in our school and develop our students spiritually as well as academically, physically and emotionally is what sets us apart from other schools.

On behalf of all our school communities, I thank you for your continuing support of Catholic education.

*Janice Ritter is the acting superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Charlotte.*



## Guest Column

FATHER JAMES F. HAWKER
GUEST COLUMNIST

### The Catholic schoolteacher: Witness to hope

Only a month or so ago, Pope John Paul II met in Toronto with young people from around the world. During the gathering, the Holy Father shared a life-giving vision with those in attendance. In a magnificent manner, the Pope exercised his role as teacher, as catechist, as witness.

It should be abundantly clear that the message of hope he proclaimed must be echoed in the parishes and schools. While it is true that the Catholic school does nurture academic excellence, cultivate a spirit of self-discipline and ensure a safe, secure environment, its mission cannot be limited to achieving that threefold purpose. Yet, on occasion, people erroneously view the Catholic school simply as a convenient alternative to public education. Others perceive it as a relatively reasonable private school. In both instances, there is an incomplete and inaccurate understanding of the nature and purpose of the school.

In order to appreciate the foundation on which it rests, to understand the breadth and depth of its mission, to grasp the ultimate reason for its existence, one would be well advised to listen to and reflect upon the message of John Paul II, a witness to hope.

In doing so, it is essential that one recognize that the ultimate aim of the Catholic school is not simply to impart knowledge. Rather, it should be viewed as an environmental setting within which the formation of its participants as friends, disciples and witnesses of Jesus Christ are nurtured and nourished.

As I observed — through the wonder of television — the youth in Toronto, it was apparent that they were touched deeply not only by the pope's words, but by the quality of his presence.

Undoubtedly, they could appreciate the relevance of the rather familiar statement, "No one stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child." The physically frail and fragile pope embodied that sentiment as he spent himself selflessly to be with those whom he loves. Is it any wonder, then, that one of the youth, speaking for all in attendance, stated, "Holy Father, you are our compass. Your faith and courage are beacons to light our way."

Those who teach in the Catholic school, like John Paul, are called to be witnesses of faith, hope and love. Regardless of whether they are teaching math or science, geography or history, the teachers, following the lead of Pope John Paul II, strive to remind those whom they serve that each has value and dignity as a beloved child of God, that all are to be responsible even now as agents of peace, hope and joy in their homes, their school and their neighborhood.

In other words, the children and youth, even in the springtime of their lives, are to be salt and light. Too often the vocation exercised so magnificently by teachers in the Catholic school is not appreciated; yet their devotion and dedication are jewels in the crown of the church's educational mission as they both comfort and challenge those who they serve. The diocese is blessed beyond measure by those marvelous men and women who are both teachers and witnesses to hope within our schools.

*Father Hawker is vicar for education and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.*



# Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

### Sign up for Peacemaking 101

Every year kids go back to school planning on some improvements. Maybe you want to keep tidier notebooks or do all your homework on time. Those are fine ideas, but I would like to suggest another goal in the context of your Christian life.

This year, when you go back to class, be a peacemaker in your own life.

It's easy to talk about how the Israelis and the Palestinians need to make peace. It's not hard to think up ways other people could solve their struggles. The real challenge for peacemaking comes when one of the people in the fight is you.

Jesus made it clear that making peace was not just a nice idea. It was a basic requirement for Christian living. Right now, you could probably list three people at school for whom you hold some kind of a grudge.

The guy who insulted you in the lunch line.

Your former boyfriend or girlfriend, the one who went out with somebody else behind your back.

The kid who spread rumors about you.

The student who got the part you wanted in the spring musical.

The wise guy in English who makes condescending remarks about anybody else's ideas.

Often we don't even notice that we are not at peace. We just think that there's something wrong with the other guy, who is too selfish, too stupid or too inconsiderate to see things our way.

If you spend time grinding your teeth, because somebody angered you or hurt your feelings, you are not at peace. If you avoid certain people or don't have lunch at certain tables, the peace in your heart is troubled.

If you're holding a grudge, or nursing an old resentment, it's time for you to face the challenge of peacemaking. Staying angry is the most natural thing to do — one of the things we humans are best at. Jesus calls on us to do something totally unnatural.

There is no instant or easy formula for making peace. If there were, a long list of ancient hatreds would have been laid to rest long ago. Peacemaking, however, has three clear components: thoughts, words and deeds.

First, declare peace. If the conflict was internal (a burning annoyance or resentment), there's no need to say anything out loud. Just internally declare peace, saying to yourself, "Doug, I'm not going to be angry about your stupid jokes anymore."

If your conflict has been out in the open, tell the person of your intention to make peace. No lengthy explanation is needed. A simple statement will do. "Jenna," you might say, "I'm not going to avoid you anymore — I figure we might as well get along."

You may get a frigid reaction. "Sure, like I want to get along with you!" You offer peace and then live it out, whatever the reaction may be.

Next, stop throwing wood on an old fire. No catty remarks behind the other guy's back. No grinning while other people put him down either. When your intent is to make peace, you need to bow out of the hateful talk altogether.

Finally, live as if you don't have the old grudge anymore. Talk to the person as often as the opportunity arises. Look for chances to say or do things that help the person. Translate your intentions into actions.

Sign up for a new course this year: Peacemaking 101. The homework can be tough, but you're really going to love the Teacher.

# Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

### Fulfilling marriages, and lives, need welcomed rediscoveries

Vacations, especially family vacations, should be times when we still ourselves. They are times when we are more attentive to life. And from that stillness and attention we recognize God in us and we are more open to God's always-abundant grace.

We just returned from our annual end-of-summer family vacation in Michigan. This year we spent a few days in Ludington. One evening, we had dinner at P.J. Steamer's, a popular local eatery in town. Our table was at a window that gave us a view of the marina and a sunset. Just being together with each other, our 20-year-old daughter and almost-17-year-old son in the picturesque setting was enough to still us and capture our attentions.

Yet God's grace was more abundant than we expected that evening. After dinner, we decided to finish our glasses of wine on the deck. The kids took the car to do some around-the-town sightseeing. Shortly after we sat down, another couple sat at the table next to us. They asked us about the menu and what we had for dinner. Then a much deeper conversation ensued that was about life and the surprises it brings.

They were married 18 years and had just reconciled after a near-divorce. They shared with us many of the lessons they had learned along the way — about how they discovered that for marriage to be life-long they had to rediscover each other, and how it took almost divorcing to learn this. They shared with us how much they valued the life they had built. Yet, through life's messiness they had become blind to it.

Another couple was seated at the table on the other side of us. They were elderly, but as they joined our discussion they revealed that they were relatively newlyweds who were both previously widowed. They shared how they thought that the experiences in their first marriages would give them more insights and a leg up on making their marriage work. Yet, what they found was that their marriage had to get beyond experiences and expectations of their previous marriages, and that there were new lessons that had to be learned to be able to make their marriage work.

As we engaged in conversation with these couples we didn't reveal to them our work as marriage ministers. We shared, as they did, many life lessons that marriage has taught us. We all agreed at the end our fellowship that we were well fed at P.J. Steamer's in Ludington in more ways than one.

Later we reflected on how generous our God is in giving us rich experiences with our family in such a beautiful setting. And then God fills our cup to overflow with unexpected and unanticipated grace in marriage community with four strangers. How blest we are!

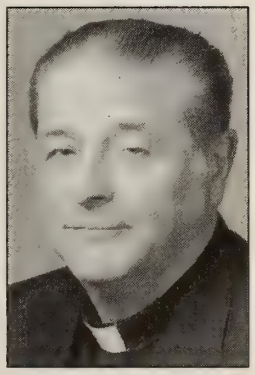
Questions for Reflections:

— How has God's grace been more evident to you when vacationing?

— What situations brought you unexpected and unanticipated grace from God?

— How frequently do you find good in the still moments?

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

### Can a Catholic marry a Mormon in a Catholic church?

*Q. I am a Catholic widow and am attracted to a widower. His second wife died, but his first marriage ended in divorce many years ago. The man is a baptized, non-practicing Mormon, and both his marriages were performed in the Mormon religion.*

*He feels he is really a baptized Christian and that this should make it possible for us to have a Catholic marriage.*

*If I ever remarry I want it to be in the Catholic Church. Is it possible for a Catholic to marry a Mormon in a church service? Is Mormon baptism actually considered valid? Must he apply for an annulment for us to be married in the church? (Wyoming)*

A. It is not impossible for a Catholic-Mormon marriage to take place in a Catholic church. Any marriage between two people who are not Catholic, however, if they are free to marry, is considered a valid marriage. Your friend's first marriage appears at first glance to be such a case. Some action by your diocesan tribunal would be necessary, therefore, before he is free to marry you in the church.

The circumstances of his baptism will affect what that action might be.

The Catholic Church recognizes as valid the baptisms of many other Christian denominations. One condition, however, is that the baptism be conferred in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in the traditional sense of Christian belief in one God and three persons.

For this reason among others, Mormon baptisms are not recognized as valid by the Catholic Church. While many, perhaps most, Mormons often claim that theirs is a Christian religion, that claim is disputed by all Christian denominations of which I'm aware.

Mormon adherents profess to believe in God the Father and in Jesus as God. Their understanding of these truths is, at very least, eccentric when compared with Catholic doctrine. According to Mormon teaching, there is not one God, but several gods who, through countless generations, produce innumerable children.

By a sort of sexual union with female counterparts, these gods bring into existence additional beings, including Jesus and other earthly inhabitants, who take bodies here after a pre-existence in heaven.

In the translation of the Bible by Mormon founder Joseph Smith, for example, it is claimed that Jesus was the procreated son of "Elohim" and a goddess mother. Jesus then became divine by obeying the rules established for Latter Day Saints, the Mormons.

One Mormon holy book states: "Our Heavenly Father and Mother live in an exalted state because they achieved a celestial marriage. As we achieve a like marriage, we shall become as they are and begin the creation of worlds for our own spirit children" (Achieving a Celestial Marriage, first section).

In light of these ideologies, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith ruled June 5, 2001, that Mormon baptisms cannot be considered valid. Among other reasons, it was explained, according to Mormon teaching the baptism formula cannot be a true invocation of the Trinity.

Since your friend is not a practicing Mormon he is perhaps unaware of these official doctrines. Please talk with the priest in your parish, or another priest or tribunal official in whom you have confidence, explain the particulars, and ask him or her to help you.

## Role as Irish fair's 'colleen queen' links teen to late father

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (CNS) — A "queen" lives in Brooklyn, and her name is Kaitlyn Stackpole.

The junior at Bishop Kearney High School in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Bensonhurst was to represent the Irish community as its Colleen Queen at the 22nd Annual Great Irish Fair Sept. 7-8 at Coney "Ireland," with the proceeds being forwarded to Catholic Charities.

"I am very proud to have the honor of serving the Great Irish Fair as its colleen queen," said Stackpole, a member of Good Shepherd Parish who will soon turn 16.

Stackpole, the second oldest of five children, is an outstanding Irish step dancer, a successful student and a talented volleyball player for the Bishop Kearney varsity squad. She also has the distinction of being the daughter of an American hero.

Her father, Capt. Timothy Stackpole of the New York Fire Department, was one of the 343 firefighters who perished at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. Two days before his death, Capt. Stackpole was honored at last year's Great Irish Fair as its Irishman of the year.

"I feel like I am following in my father's footsteps," said a reflective Kaitlyn Stackpole.

She recalls vividly her father's last days on earth. "My dad loved the Great Irish Fair. The whole family would attend every year. It was a great time to see friends and other family members.

"Last year I was in a real jam," she said. "I wanted to go to the Irish Fair, especially with my dad being honored as the Irishman of the year, but I also had a volleyball tournament for Bishop Kearney. My dad was so great, just so understanding. He told me to go to the tournament and try my best. He was always like that — just so encouraging all the time."

"In a way I wish I had gone to the fair last year," Stackpole added, "but I know my dad wanted me to play in the tournament. I think it was kind of special that my dad saw all the people he loved for the last time, family members and friends. He saw so many of them at the Great Irish Fair, an event that he loved so much."



COURTESY PHOTO

**Girl Scout wins Gold Award**

**Erin Pohlman, a parishioner of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point and a member of Senior Girl Scout Troop 791, was presented with the Gold Award — the highest award in Girl Scouting — by the Girl Scouts Tarheel Triad Council on Aug. 25. A Girl Scout for 12 years, Pohlman — a freshman at N.C. A&T University in Greensboro — earned the award by fulfilling requirements recognizing a Senior Girl Scout's commitment to excellence and community. Her projects included helping Cadette Troop 307 earn the American Patriotism Interest Project Badge, creating and distributing flyers on "How to Respect and Display the American Flag," writing and presiding over an American flag retirement ceremony and creating a video of the ceremony to be used by Girl Scout leaders and their troops.**

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PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

**New columbarium at St. Margaret Church**

**Augustinian Father Francis J. Doyle, pastor of St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley, blesses the church's recently installed columbarium. With him are Augustinian Brother William Harkin (left) and Rev. Mr. Gerard LaPointe. The columbarium, which has 96 niches that each hold up to two urns, was blessed on the feast of St. Augustine Aug. 28 following a Mass in his honor. Carved around the columbarium's top are St. Augustine's words, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."**

## Maryland parish throws a lifeline to stranded visitors from Poland

OCEAN CITY, Md. (CNS) — When their summer jobs in this country fell through, seven young adults who had traveled to Maryland from Poland got together and turned to the Catholic Church.

Two months later, thanks to parishioners of St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish in Ocean City, all seven have jobs — and some have two jobs. But more importantly, they say, they have found new friends far from home.

The five men and two women — all college students or recent graduates — began their own friendships as they traveled to the United States in June. Only Robert Rydz and Kamil Klopotowski, both 23, knew one other before the trip. All seven were headed for Ocean City, a resort town on the Atlantic Ocean.

"We met at the airport (in Poland) and we decided to stay together," said Grzegorz Podgorski, 23.

They needed each other soon enough.

All had the proper visas and work permits and what they thought were secure jobs and housing, but an influx of Eastern European students to the Delaware and Maryland beach resorts made this a tight summer job market. Businesses that normally begged for employees now had too many applicants.

Podgorski, for example, was supposed to work in a restaurant. "The manager, when we came to see her, she said she was very sorry but she could not engage us because she was overstaffed," he said.

The rest heard a similar story — no job and, because housing was supposed to be part of the package, no place to stay. They pooled their meager resources to find a motel room.

Rydz and Klopotowski looked in Ocean City and even took a bus to look for work in Rehoboth Beach and Dewey Beach in Delaware and Salisbury in Maryland — but found nothing.

"We (looked) every day, all day," Rydz said. "It was very exhausting and it was depressing." Added Klopotowski: "We were almost at breakdown."

On June 24, their first Sunday in Ocean City, Podgorski and Karol Wozniak, 23, made their way to the 11:30 a.m. Mass at Holy Savior Church, a mission church of St. Mary Star of the Sea.

"They came up afterward," said pastor Father John Klevence, "and said they had arrived, they were supposed to have jobs but now they didn't, they were supposed to have a place to stay and now didn't. Could the church help?"

The parish sprang into action. Parishioner Anne Marie Dickerson, owner of a local motel, provided a cottage free of charge until the students could get on their feet; within two weeks, when two of the seven had obtained jobs and earned paychecks, the students were paying their own way.




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# St. Joseph sister ministers to many through teaching

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — "I always wanted to be a teacher," said Sister of St. Joseph Helene G. Nagle. "I knew from the time I was 3 years old. We would come home from school and play school. I was always teaching my dolls and teddy bears."

Although she wanted to teach, she didn't realize she'd combine that with a religious vocation.

Helene Nagle and her older sister, Marianne, grew up in Philadelphia's Chestnut Hill neighborhood. Helene's elementary school teachers at St. Helena School were Sisters of St. Joseph, but for high school, her mother sent her to St. Basil's Academy, which she felt had a more liberal curriculum; all of Helene's friends went there, too.

Still, she spent time with the St. Joseph Sisters. In those days, the nuns didn't drive, so in her senior year Helene chauffeured the sisters at her parish.

"I just got to know them so well," she said. "I saw how much fun they were and how well they got along."

But they didn't seem to be looking at her as a prospect for their order. Her eighth-grade teacher would point out the girls she thought would make good nuns. Helene was never chosen.

"I wasn't really hurt," said Sister Helen. "I was annoyed. No one was inviting me. Or maybe she was challenging me. I've thought of that, too."

"I remember thinking about (being a sister) very seriously," she said. "I had everything I wanted. I was going with a great boy. I'd made all-city varsity basketball and field hockey on the All-Catholic League. Life was just wonderful, but still I wanted more. I wasn't especially devout. I went to church and liked it. I enjoyed religion class all the way through high school."



St. Joseph Sister Helene G. Nagle

Something about religious life clicked for her. "I went and talked with one of the sisters."

Her decision to embrace religious life caused an uproar at home.

"I had a very difficult time with my mother," Sister Helene said. "She offered me the world, even a new car. She said, 'Please don't do this. You enjoy life too much. Why lock yourself up in a nunnery?' When I took my final vows, all that stopped. I think my mother thought I had too much going for me."

She entered the order in September 1956, at age 18, and never looked back.

Sister Helene spent five of her eight formation years teaching in McSherrystown, Pa. Summers, she studied for her bachelor's degree in education at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia.

After professing her final vows, her first assignment was in a Pennsylvania coal-mining town. "That's where I got my devotion to the Salvation Army," she said. "When the mines caved in twice, we were there with them waiting with the families. It was probably my first experience with real social work, waiting with those families. We (Sisters of St. Joseph) were a community that always said we were ready for any good work. That was the good work of the time."

Other assignments have included teaching or principalships in Vienna, Va., Hillcrest Heights, Md., and at St. Helena, her old parish. While there, she earned a master's in counseling psychology at Chestnut Hill College.

Sister Helene taught seventh- and eighth-graders at St. Leo School in Winston-Salem before becoming principal at St. Ann School in Charlotte 12 years ago.

For two weeks each summer, she teaches abandoned handicapped children in a Missionaries of the Poor shelter in Kingston, Jamaica.

"These children are abandoned because of tribal beliefs," Sister Helene said. "These are handicapped children, who are thought to be a curse on their families. The mother leaves the child at the hospital or puts it out on the street at age two (when the child is weaned). The Missionary Brothers go out and collect the children."

It's very different from St. Ann's, but Sister Helene isn't bothered by such differences.

"I grew up that way, that I could do anything I put my mind to," she said. "Sports helped. I think that being a principal, you live your life in an element of surprise. One phone call can cost you three hours. You never know what's going to be on the end of that."

"Someone said to me once, 'You may or may not like this, but can you turn your back on this?'" she said. "I think some people have temporary vocations. They serve the church as long as they can, and then there's something else waiting for them. I've never had any doubts. I've always enjoyed the teaching. I couldn't wait to teach. So I say I'm still playing school."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*


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Romans 14:7-9

# The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Solidarity in Action
National Black Catholic Conference
...PAGES 8-9

SEPTEMBER 13, 2002 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 11 Nº 44

## Vatican accepts bishop's resignation; diocesan administrator appointed

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignation of Bishop William G. Curlin. Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States, made the announcement Sept. 10 in Washington, D.C.

Canon law requires bishops to turn in their resignations when they reach 75. Bishop Curlin, bishop of Charlotte since 1994, turned 75 on Aug. 30.

"I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, for allowing me to serve these past eight years in a diocese that is so rich with so much promise for the future of the Church in North Carolina," said Bishop Curlin.

The bishop has plans to stay in Charlotte, and "looks forward to living here, as a member of the diocese," he said. Bishop Curlin plans to spend time working with the poor, sick and homeless.

During their Tuesday, Sept. 10 meeting, the diocesan college of consultors elected Father Mauricio West, chancellor and former vicar general to serve as diocesan administrator.

Father West will serve as diocesan administrator until the Holy Father appoints a new bishop.

"It was a unanimous decision," said Father Ignatius Zampino, O.F.M. Cap, senior consultor and pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte. "Father West brings a lot of expertise to this position."

"I am honored to be elected administrator by my brother priests," said Father Mauricio West.

"I am optimistic that our diocese will continue its growth and we will receive even greater blessings under our new leadership," said Bishop Curlin.

# Middle schooler gets vocal over 9/11 tragedy





Photos by Joann S. Keane

**Olivia Myrick, performs her 9/11 song at the Pastoral Center Mass, then signs an autograph for Dr. Cris Villapando, director of Faith Formation.**

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Like so many students at Holy Trinity Middle School, 12-year-old Olivia Myrick was deeply affected as events unfolded Sept. 11, 2001. But unlike her classmates, Myrick's father, Tom, was on board a plane that fateful day.

"When Mr. (Gerald) Healy announced what was happening over the speaker, I panicked," said Myrick, now 13.

Myrick went to the office and called her mother, Pat, at home; she was relieved to hear that her father's plane had safely landed in Baltimore, Md.

"When I got home, I wrote everything I was feeling down into a poem," said Myrick.

Having taken piano lessons for five years, she eventually added music to the words and the poem evolved into "I Hope I See You," a three-minute song recently recorded onto CD and dedicated to those who lost their lives Sept. 11.

As part of the first verse: "To every fireman and medic, who came at the first yell, and died while helping others, you served your country well."

"I've written other songs, but this is the first one that's meant a lot," said Myrick. "It gives a good message and I think everyone can relate to it."

The second verse: "The act was meant to weaken, but instead it made us strong. From now on we'll be fighting for what is right, and try to do no wrong. So may God bless the Americans, in Heaven and on earth. Let all of his people unite, and be all that we're worth."

"It's a beautiful song. I was very moved by it," said Healy, principal of Holy Trinity. "I thought it was incredible that a young lady had the talent and wisdom to write such a song."

"I must have heard it a couple of hundred times," said Tom Myrick. "It still gets to me."

In December, Myrick performed the song in Greensboro during the N.C. state convention of the Beta Club, an organization for honor students.

"I was very nervous," admitted Myrick. "There were thousands of people there. It was the first time I had sung something like that in front of so many people."

Andy Kaufman, band director at Holy Trinity, wrote and recorded the background music

See VOCAL, page 7

# Catechists celebrate "Living for the Lord"

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

Catechists around the diocese are looking forward to another year of teaching the faith.

"Faith formation is about our attempts to evangelize and catechize everyone from womb to tomb so that they attain an intimacy with our Lord, Jesus Christ, that produces conversion," said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"We don't know everything we need to know about God by being baptized — that's only the invitation," said Peg Ruble, central region coordinator for faith formation. "To know our role with God, we have to seek it. Faith formation gives us the opportunity to reflect on our lives and God's love and see what that calls us to."

"Faith formation is an important part of everyone's daily life and faith," said Sister Ann Lyons, southern region coordinator for faith formation. "It gives us the encouragement to face what happens in our lives."

Faith formation in the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte is divided into four regions — central, northern, western and southern — with approximately 3,000 catechists of varying levels throughout, according to the Office of Faith Formation.

On Sept. 15, the catechists will celebrate Catechetical Sunday, followed by Faith Formation Week in the Diocese of Charlotte.

See FAITH FORMATION, page 4

Common vision needed for unified church ...PAGE 5

Prose blooms from tragedy ...PAGE 7

Women religious finds her place in community, social ministry ...PAGE 16

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### Scholars call for changes in Christian teaching on Judaism

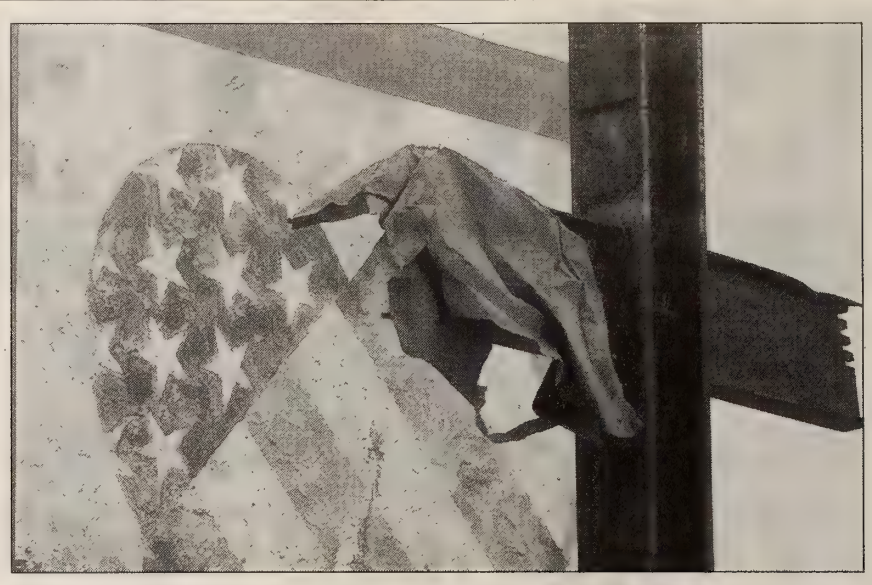
WASHINGTON (CNS) — A group of top Christian scholars specializing in Christian-Jewish relations has called revising Christian teaching about Judaism and the Jewish people an "indispensable obligation of theology in our time." The scholars said, "God's covenant with the Jewish people endures forever." They sharply repudiated "supersessionism," the once-common Christian belief that God's covenant with the followers of Christ has replaced or superseded his covenant with the Jewish people. The 10-point statement was issued in six languages in Boston Sept. 5 by the ecumenical Christian Scholars Group on Christian-Jewish Relations. It is titled "A Sacred Obligation: Rethinking Christian Faith in Relation to Judaism and the Jewish People." It comes on the heels of a statement in August by a national Catholic-Jewish consultation in which Catholic participants repudiated "campaigns that target Jews for conversion to Christianity." The ecumenical group struck a similar note, saying, "Christians should not target Jews for conversion."

### Priest says Mother Teresa heard Jesus tell her to found order

ROME (CNS) — According to letters that have come to light since her death, Mother Teresa heard Jesus tell her in an interior, mystical way to found an order dedicated to the poor, said the postulator for her canonization cause. She described the "interior locutions" in confidential letters to the then-archbishop of Calcutta, India, to explain her inspiration for the order she wanted to found in his archdiocese, said Missionaries of Charity Father Brian Kolodiejchuk. "Mother never wanted to say anything about it in her lifetime," Father Kolodiejchuk told Catholic News Service Sept. 9. "The whole focus was on Jesus. She said if people find out about the beginning, then they are going to pay more attention to me and less on Jesus," he said.

### Bishops' sexual abuse committee expanded

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse has been restructured and expanded. Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, announced the restructuring and named 10 new members Sept. 5. Archbishop Harry J. Flynn of St. Paul-Minneapolis will remain the chairman of the committee. Previous members who will continue to serve are: Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn. (Region 1); Bishop John R. Gaydos of Jefferson City, Mo. (Region 9); Coadjutor Bishop Joseph A. Galante of Dallas (Region 10); and Bishop George H. Niederauer of Salt Lake City (Region 13). New appointees include: Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y. (Region 2); Archbishop Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Archdiocese of Philadelphia (Region 3); Auxiliary Bishop W. Francis Malooly of Baltimore (Region 4); Bishop Thomas J. Rodi of Biloxi, Miss. (Region 5); and Bishop James A. Murray of Kalamazoo, Mich. (Region 6). Also: Bishop Thomas G. Doran of Rockford, Ill. (Region 7); Bishop Blase J. Cupich of Rapid City, S.D. (Region 8); Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif. (Region 11); Bishop Robert F. Vasa of Baker, Ore. (Region 12); and Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston, S.C. (Region 14).



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Cross stands as memorial at New York Ground Zero**

**The last remaining girders of the World Trade Center towers stand in the form of a cross at a memorial inside ground zero in New York Sept. 10. Various memorials ringed the site where the towers fell Sept. 11, 2001, after two hijacked planes hit the buildings. A red, white and blue heart covered the entire side of a nearby building.**

### Zambia rejects genetically modified food meant for starving, CRS says

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — A warehouse full of food for starving Africans cannot be distributed because the Zambian government will not accept genetically modified food, a Catholic Relief Services official said. "We are waiting in the hope that a solution will be found soon," said Jennifer Lindsey, CRS director of media relations. "The corn is not really perishable but it's the people who are facing a time limit," she said. The U.N. World Food Program has said that Zambia is the only famine-hit southern African country to reject genetically modified food aid after concerns raised by Zimbabwe and Mozambique were resolved.

### Much of U.S. bishops' sex abuse policy already in canon law

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Much of what is in the U.S. bishops' national policy on clergy sex abuse of minors was already permitted to diocesan bishops by the 1983 Code of Canon Law governing the church. Canon law and supplemental legislation give a bishop in his own diocese authority and flexibility to handle local sex abuse cases. This includes the power to permanently remove guilty clergy from the priesthood. But other aspects are problematic and may not be resolved until the Vatican responds to the U.S. bishops' request to approve norms which would legally establish their "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" on a national level, said several canon lawyers interviewed by Catholic News Service. The Vatican response may provide necessary guidance on how dioceses mesh the national policy with existing canonical laws and procedures, they said. Currently there are some ambiguities regarding penalties, what constitutes sexual abuse, the statute of limitations and due process, they said.

### Russian orchestra, children's choir serenade pope at summer villa

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — A Russian orchestra and a children's choir serenaded Pope John Paul II at his summer villa, and an appreciative pontiff said their music reflected humanistic and spiritual values. The pope also took the opportunity to express his warmth to Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei II, who helped send the performers off for an international tour. The performance Sept. 8 in the courtyard of the papal residence featured the Russian State Symphony Orchestra, the choir of the Russian Academy of Choral Art and the UNESCO children's choir. The pope thanked the patriarch for the "noble message he sent for this occasion" and added: "To him go my deferential and cordial thoughts." He also thanked Russian diplomatic officials who attended the evening concert at Castel Gandolfo.

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## Diocesan planner

**September**

**16** ASHEVILLE — The St. Martin De Porres Pro-Chapter of the Dominican Laity will be meeting tonight and every third Monday at 7 p.m. in St. Justin's Ctr. at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For information, contact Beverly Reid (828)253-6676.

**19** CHARLOTTE — "Grief Sharing Series: Video and Discussion Group" is being offered once a week starting today, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., for 13 weeks. Each session will be held at St. John Neumann, 8451 Idlewild Rd., in the Council Room. Call Amy Deal for information and sign-up! (704)573-1023.

**19** WAYNESVILLE — St. John Church, 234 Church St., will offer Inquiry Sessions beginning tonight at 7 p.m. for those persons interested in the Roman Catholic Church. Baptized Catholics who wish to receive further sacraments are also invited. Call (828)456-6707 or (828)648-7369 with questions.

**20** CHARLOTTE — TGIF, a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets tonight at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church parish center, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy, Room 102. Monthly potluck dinner scheduled. For details call Trish Wilson (704)543-8986.

**21** BELMONT — St. Gabriel Health Ministry is offering a retreat, "Sensing God's Creation" today, 8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Sisters of Mercy Admin. Ctr., Curtin Hall. For registration, call Leslie Mason (704)847-7014 or Sara Ma (704)527-5812.

**21** CLEMMONS — A Grand Ultreya for the Cursillo Movement will be held at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd, today at 2 p.m. Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. followed by a potluck. Next Ultreya followed by School of Leaders with potluck and childcare will be Sept 22, 1:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy. Questions? Call Dan Hines (704)544-6665.

**21** STATESVILLE — The Knights of Columbus will hold their annual yard sale at St. Philip the Apostle Church, 525 Camden Dr., today 8:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. Call Ken Jewell (704)876-6404 for information.

**22** HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For information, call Helen Gillogly (828)883-9645.

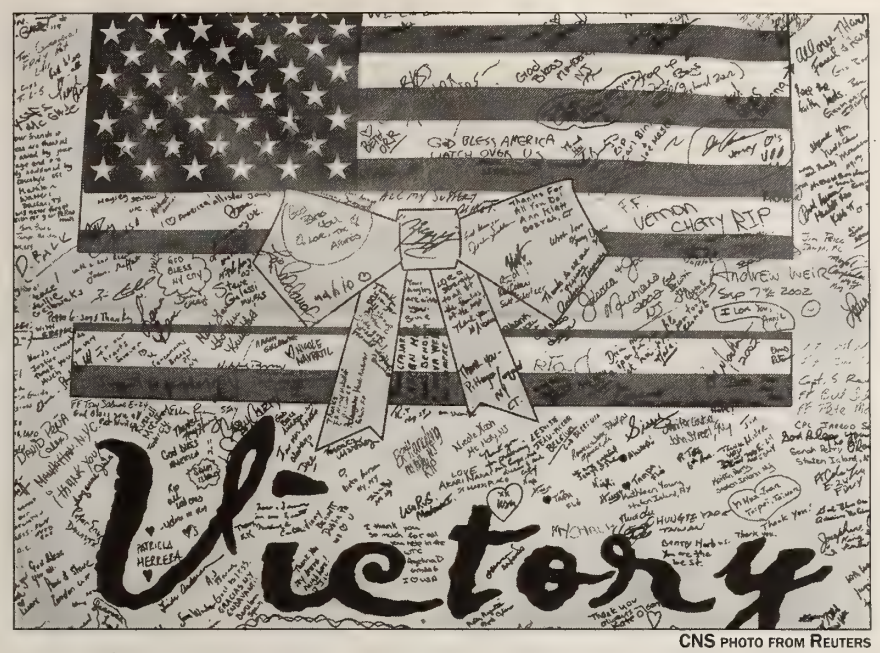
**23** BELMONT — The 50-voice Wroclaw University Choir Gaudium (from Charlotte's Polish Sister City) will perform today, 8 p.m. at Belmont Abbey Basilica, 100 Belmont-Mount Holly Rd. Cappella music and choral

### Catholic chaplain opens historic session of Congress in New York

NEW YORK (CNS) — The chaplain of the House of Representatives opened the special session of Congress in New York Sept. 6 with an invocation asking for the blessing of God on the historic occasion and acknowledging that "you alone can renew us." Recalling "the tragic events that occurred here," Father Daniel P. Coughlin also prayed that "the vision of the founding fathers" would live again to "assure the freedom of the law-abiding people of this nation." In a ceremonial one-hour session, Congress gathered on the site where the Continental Congress met from 1785, the new Congress elected under the Constitution continued to meet until 1790 and George Washington was inaugurated as the first president in 1789. After the session, the visiting senators and representatives were guests at a luncheon hosted by New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. In the afternoon, they went to the site of the World Trade Center, where the Senate chaplain, the Rev. Lloyd J. Ogilvie, offered prayer and presided at a wreath-laying ceremony.

### Faith in the fields: Catholicism flourishes at Carolina migrant camps

WILSON, N.C. (CNS) — Father Jerome Chavarria rings the bell a third time and swats at the swarming flies that bite above his clerical collar. A yellow Labrador and a pit bull momentarily quell their lazy wrestling. Slowly, hinges squeak across the L-shaped camp and men in dusty sandals and tank tops emerge into the evening heat. As they gather in a loose circle, Father Jose Chavez straightens his stole and raises a hand in blessing. "En el nombre del Padre y del Hijo y del Espiritu Santo." For 10 years the two Redemptorist priests have toted Mass kits and catechisms from camp to camp during the summer months. Along with a donated statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, they bring the sacraments to the migrant workers who travel from South and Central America to toil in the cucumber and tobacco fields of Wilson and Rocky Mount.




CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Poster hangs at former World Trade Center**

**A poster containing messages of support for the United States hangs near the site of the former World Trade Center in New York City Sept. 9. Sept. 11 marked the first anniversary of the attacks on the United States.**

### Pope urges world to address 'underlying causes' of terrorism

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged the international community to address the "underlying causes" of terrorism, saying inequalities and injustice can lead desperate people to turn to violence. While terrorism and disregard for human life can never be justified, he said Sept. 7, history shows "that the recruitment of terrorists is more easily achieved in areas where human rights are trampled upon and where injustice is a part of daily life." He said, "The international community can no longer overlook the underlying causes that lead young people especially to despair of humanity, of life itself and of the future, and to fall prey to the temptations of violence, hatred and a desire for revenge at any cost." The pope made his remarks during a meeting with Britain's new ambassador to the Vatican, Kathryn Frances Colvin, at his summer residence outside Rome.

### Vatican newspaper denounces Scottish film as 'rancorous provocation'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican newspaper denounced a film by a Scottish Catholic director that portrays life inside asylums once run by Irish nuns, calling the movie an "angry and rancorous provocation." In a Sept. 5 review, L'Osservatore Romano said "The Magdalene Sisters" sinks to "coarseness" and "banality" in telling the story of four women who are brutalized by nuns in a "Magdalene asylum" for unwed mothers and other young women in 1960s Ireland. "If he wanted to inform his own church ... about the scandal of certain psychopathic detention centers in Ireland and Scotland, the director certainly could not have achieved his goal with this angry and rancorous provocation," wrote Father Franco Patruno, an art critic for the newspaper. The film, by director Peter Mullan, was shown in early September at the Venice Film Festival, where it was up for a Golden Lion award.

### Vatican official says war on terrorism must be war for global justice

PALERMO, Sicily (CNS) — A Vatican official said the war against terrorism unleashed after Sept. 11 must become a struggle for the "rule of law" and justice, not simply the imposition of the policies of stronger nations. "A fight against terrorism that does not want to limit itself to the elimination of a few personalities considered dangerous should become by its nature a fight for values and for the equal coexistence between peoples," said Archbishop Diarmuid Martin. "The less one faces the great social injustices and imbalances, the greater the risk of strengthening that climate of insecurity that helped foment the very terrorism this war seeks to eliminate," he said. Archbishop Martin, Vatican representative to Geneva-based U.N. organizations, made his remarks Sept. 2 in Palermo, Sicily, at a peace forum organized by the Italian Catholic Sant'Egidio Community.

### U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan get 15,000 'military rosaries'

DALLAS (CNS) — Rosary makers across the Dallas Diocese are closing in on their goal of making 15,000 "military rosaries" for the U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan since the terrorist attacks Sept. 11. The red, white and blue rosaries were the idea of Our Lady's Rosary Makers of America International, based out of St. Monica Parish in North Dallas. The group started by assembling about 100 per week in December. The ambitious project quickly picked up steam when nearly a dozen parishes, schools and lay groups joined over the next couple of months. More than 12,000 rosaries have been assembled and mailed with a booklet on how to say the rosary, according to Rosary Makers member Donna Hunter. She said help has come from members of six parishes in Dallas and two in Richardson, as well as the Missionaries of Charity in Dallas, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and teens participating in the diocese's Mission Possible summer service program.

music from the Renaissance to the present will be featured. Open to public. No admission charge. For details call (704)334-3468.

**23** NEWTON — The Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group is for Catholic girls ages five and up. The group will be meeting at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For details, call Debbie Vickers (828)495-2039

**23** MAGGIE VALLEY — Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Ln, hosts Fr. Terry Hyland today through Sept. 27. "The God of New Beginnings" retreat will foster the ongoing process of conversion from God's invitation to Christian maturity. Need details, call (828)926-3833.

**25** CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend the monthly bereavement Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, that will be taking place tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704)334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones to be remembered at Mass.

**25** GASTONIA — Seniors and caregivers are invited to attend a Health and Safety Fair today, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Ln. Service providers will offer free information and screenings. Questions? Call (704)370-3220 or (704)867-6212, Ext. 113.

**25** GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women invites all ladies to the fall luncheon at the remodeled Knights of Columbus Hall on Horse Pen Creek Rd. A social will be at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon today. Betty Mica will speak on antiques. For information or reservations call Janet Law (336)288-6022.

**25** GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane (336)665-9264 for time and location.

**27** HOT SPRINGS — The Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy. 25/70, is hosting a women's "Dream Journey" retreat tonight, 7 p.m. through morning Mass with light lunch. Dr. Eileen Riordan will speak. For registration call (828)622-7366.

**28** BELMONT — The Church of Mary, Queen of Apostles, 503 N. Main St., is hosting an annual fall festival today beginning at 10 a.m. with games, arts and crafts, community booths, story telling and food. Bingo is held at 4 p.m. with BBQ chicken plates being offered. A live band "Small Fish Adventures" will entertain teens from 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Questions? Call Jennifer Church (704)651-9605 or (704)824-7097.

**28** CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo community will hold an Ultreya at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Our Lady of Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr. For details call Nam Le (704)549-1525.

**28** HICKORY — Lenoir-Rhyne College, Mauney Music Building, corner of Stasavich Place and 8th Ave. NE, will hold workshops titled Keys to Vibrant Worship today starting at 8 a.m. This targets pastoral ministers and parish teams, but all parishioners are welcome. For registration in this diocesan liturgy day, call Sr. Maureen Meehan (704)370-3268.

**30** CHARLOTTE — "Lunch & Learn" program will be held today, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in St. Gabriel Ministry Ctr., 3016 Providence Rd. Debi Lee will address in-home care and Marsha Ghent will discuss the Family Caregiver Support Program. Area home health agencies will be available. No fee or registration. Bring bag lunch. Dessert and beverage provided. Questions? Call Suzanne Bach (704)376-4135 or Eileen Correll (704)364-5431.

# Diocese welcomes new faith formation coordinator

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — On Aug. 1, the Diocese of Charlotte welcomed Franciscan Sister of St. Joseph Ann Lyons as the new southern region coordinator of faith formation.

"What I would like to bring to the position are the gifts and talents that I have," said Sister Ann. "I'm hoping to share them with the catechists that we already have here so that we can continue to build on what has already gone on in the diocese."



Sister of St. Joseph Ann Lyons

Sister Ann, who recently earned a master's in theology from Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C., served as the director of religious education pastoral associate at St. James Church in Savannah, Ga., for the last 10 years.

"Prior to that I had been in education," she said. "I taught grade three all the way to seniors in high school, and spent 16 years in administration in high schools and grade schools."

Those schools include a girls' academy in New York, an inner-city co-ed high school in Michigan, a private Catholic school and a large parish grade school in Massachusetts, and an all-black elementary school in Alabama.

Originally from Lawrence, Mass., Sister Ann heard the call to become a woman religious over 40 years ago. "I think part of it was the deep faith that I was raised with in my family," she said. "I attended Catholic schools with the Franciscan sisters educating me and I always admired those women and looked up to them."

It was two years ago that Sister Ann felt her the call leading her to work in faith formation.

"When I went back to school to get my master's degree, I was looking to change my field of endeavor and I wanted to get involved with faith formation," she said. "I felt it was an important aspect of what was needed in the church at this time, especially in the area of adult education."

The reason being, she said, is "because even in the general directory of catechesis, it says that faith formation of adults are the center of the church's catechetical mission. So I see us doing more work in that area," she said.

Faith formation of all ages is important, she said, because it "gives us the encouragement to face what happens in life."

Sister Lyons looks forward to working with the parish catechetical leaders in the southern region, and having attended a Catechist Recognition Process (CRP) workshop for phase one and phase two certifications at St. Vincent de Paul in Charlotte Aug. 24, Sister Ann felt the CRP is something for which the diocese should be proud.

"Having worked in a number of dioceses, I'm impressed with the work that they have put into developing this program, with the quality of the presentations, and also with the dedication of the catechists who went there and participated in the process," she said.

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

# FAITH FORMATION, from page 1

"Catechetical Sunday is the national celebration of the ministry of catechesis in the United States," said Villapando.

"It's the Sunday we celebrate those who are willing to give of their time and their talent to teach in the area of faith formation," said Sister Ann. "It's important that we make the rest of the church community aware of all these people who are willing to give of their time."

The context of community is essential for faith formation, said Villapando. "It's not an one-on-one endeavor," he said. "The focus is this community of disciples intimate with Jesus Christ and being converted; upon conversion, they carry on his mission."

"Father Ken (Whittington) will be introducing all of our catechists and doing a blessing during the Sunday Mass," said Terri Martino, faith formation coordinator at St. Charles Borromeo in Morganton.

The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops declares a common theme for the entire nation to stimulate and motivate the catechists, said Villapando. "Catechetical Sunday is normally held the third Sunday in September to kickoff the year," he said.

"The idea is like the beginning of the school year," said Ruble. "We also begin our formal catechesis programs."

This year's theme is "Living for the Lord." In August, Villapando sent a letter to all parish catechetical leaders with a list of 34 ideas on how to celebrate the week with their catechists, parents and learners of all ages. Villapando has been gathering the ideas on list for over a period of six years.

At St. Charles Borromeo, faith formation classes, which are overflowing with students of all ages, are all held on Sunday mornings. "We think it's important to have families together," said Martino. "We use every space we can for faith formation classes."

Being a good catechist is more than relaying information, said Martino. "Faith formation is more than religious education, more than teaching doctrine," she said. "Catechists make the faith real and alive so the students make it a permanent part of who they are."

Though they may conduct faith formation in different ways, many catechists shared similar reasons for their involvement in faith formation.

"God called me, and I answered," said Ruble. "I do believe I was called and formed for it through my life."

"I get as much out of it as anyone in the program," said Martino, who is a convert. "It's added a lot to my faith to meet who I've met and share my faith in those classes. I can't imagine doing anything else."

"Ever since I was a young person, I have always taken great spiritual gratification from experiencing changes in people," said Villapando, who said real conversion in people is a grace from above.

"I can cooperate on a level of instrumentality and bring about situations that are favorable for the work of the Holy Spirit," he said. "If I can have some roll in facilitating change and bringing about environments that would promote conversion, for me that is what life is about."

"God is there and he's definitely in our lives," said Ruble. "To help other people see that is a joy and a privilege."

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*


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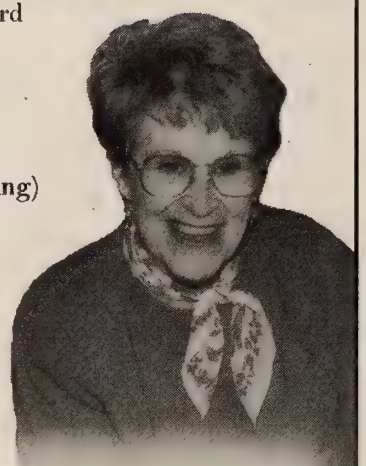
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# Common vision needed for unified church

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

HICKORY — "With a dual vision, the church is divided," said Father George Kloster. "We have to try and have a common vision. Vatican II gave us that common vision, based on good scholarship and rooted in good theology."

Father Kloster, vicar of the Smoky Mountain vicariate and pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville, spoke to 50 catechists and catechetical leaders at the "Footsteps of Faith" workshop at St. Aloysius Church Aug. 24.

The Footsteps of Faith workshops help catechists (religious education teachers) to satisfy the training requirements for the certification process in the Diocese of Charlotte. Those attending this workshop had a choice of four afternoon sessions — "Morality," "Catholic Social Teaching," "Skills and Theory" and "Sacraments." Peg Ruble, central region coordinator for the diocesan Office of Faith Formation, organizes the workshops.

Two of the sessions on were taught in Spanish for catechists who are working with Spanish-speaking children.

Father Kloster's talk was also translated into Spanish. Believing that Vatican II was based on "impeccable sources," Father Kloster gave those in attendance reasons why he thought the reforms of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) were important for the Catholic Church today.

He spoke about, "What many people are calling the restoration of the church," in which some think it is, "time to go back and reestablish traditions that are the bedrock of the Catholic faith."

He said that one of the main proposals of that group was to return central authority to the Vatican, with, "A tremendous importance on the sole authority of the pope as the leader of the church."

This conflicts, said Father Kloster, with the principle of collegiality, which was established with Vatican II. This principle is the shared responsibility and authority that the whole college of bishops, headed by the pope, has for the teaching, sanctification and governance of the church.



Photo by Ellen N. Sigmon

**Father George Kloster speaks about church theology and reforms at the "Footsteps of Faith" workshop at St. Aloysius Church Aug. 24.**

Father Kloster said that the church, before Vatican II, had been, "Profoundly influenced by the Council of Trent (1545-1563), the reaction of the Catholic Church to the Protestant Reformation."

When Pope John XXIII was elected in 1958, "He knew that the Catholic Church he had inherited was a church of reaction. He realized that it was time for the church to come out of its reactionary mode and go back to what the church was supposed to be," said Father Kloster.

The pope turned to three sources for the renewal of the church — the Scriptures, the writings of the fathers of the early church and the history of the church, said Father Kloster.

"The most authentic years of the church were the first 300," he said. "During that era, the church was aside from the secular society. It had no role or standing in the government, so it was probably the church at its best.

"If we are a people of faith, we know our one foundation is God," said Father Kloster. "The only guarantee we have is our faith and our relationship with Jesus. Jesus had nowhere to lay his head. He traveled light. Accepting discipleship means accepting vulnerability."

He hoped that the restoration movement seeks a reduction of that vulnerability by putting the people's faith in institutions, in church and in cannon law. "Life becomes much more simple. We go back to the church being the center of our life, our focus," he said.

"It is my hope and my trust," he said, "that the concept of the pilgrim church prevails, because it recognizes that the church has weaknesses, and that we have to depend on the Holy Spirit for guidance as opposed to the leadership itself."

Father Kloster's talk followed a short morning prayer service held in Spanish and English. Participants were able to look at a variety of religious education materials at displays set up by publishers and bookstores during lunch, and then attend the afternoon workshops.

# Coin collectors disappointed when Vatican euros sell out in advance

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A long line of disappointed coin collectors left the Vatican empty-handed when a rare set of Vatican euros sold out in advance.

The proof sets, each containing eight coins and a silver commemorative medallion, were supposed to go on sale to the public at the Vatican's coin and stamp office Sept. 10, but an unusually high number of advance orders depleted the production run of 9,000.

The Vatican canceled the scheduled public sale a few days earlier, but that did not stop eager collectors from lining up early in the morning, hoping that a few sets would be made available.

Proof sets are the highest quality coins produced and are generally made for collectors only. This Vatican set was being sold to the public for 75 euros, about $75.

Vatican euros have become somewhat of a sensation among coin collectors. Produced in small numbers, they bear Pope John Paul II's image on one side and the regular euro denominations on the other.

Only 69,000 sets of the Vatican coins were made in 2002, and they were sold to the public for 12 euros each. The Vatican put a limit of two sets per customer, and people waited hours in line for the chance to buy them.

Today, the same sets are being sold at prices exceeding $800 on Web sites like E-bay.

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### Zambian archbishop says he thinks he was manipulated into marriage

ROME (CNS) — Zambian Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo said he thinks he was manipulated into an arranged marriage so that followers of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon could use him to establish a "parallel Catholic Church" in Africa. Archbishop Milingo, who renounced his short-lived marriage to a Korean woman and made his peace with the Vatican, made the comments in the book "Fished Out of the Mud," to be published soon in Italy. Brief excerpts were published Sept. 8 by Italian newspapers and the Italian news agency, ANSA. The 72-year-old archbishop, who dropped out of public view after the scandal and is currently said to be residing at a retreat house in Argentina, said he still does not understand fully what led him to stray from his vocation and his church.

### Woman develops program to ease loneliness of dying patients

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (CNS) — "It means a lot just to know someone here cares." These are the words of a terminally ill prison inmate, but Donalyn Gross knows that they convey the feelings felt by many who are near death. Gross has been working with the sick and dying for more than 26 years, and her experiences have been the foundation for the Good Endings Program that has been instituted in nursing homes throughout the country. Good Endings is a program designed by Gross to ease the pain and loneliness experienced by those who are sick and dying in nursing homes. The core of the program is a group of volunteers who make up a "vigil team." The members of this team are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to ensure that someone is always available to sit with the dying. Such commitment from the volunteers provides comfort and relief for both the patients and their family members.



CNS PHOTO BY DANA WIND, NC CATHOLIC

**Migrant workers wait for Mass to begin at N.C. camp**
**Migrants workers wait outside their modest quarters for the start of an outdoor Mass at a camp in Wilson, N.C., in late August. Two Redemptorist priests travel from camp to camp celebrating Mass and holding Bible study for workers from South and Central America who toil in cucumber and tobacco fields in North Carolina.**

### Family has role in tragedy of crash, triumph of miners' rescue

SOMERSET, Pa. (CNS) — The chance that Somerset County would ever become part of world history even once was between slim and nothing. But in less than a year the southernmost county in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown was the scene of two historic events. One ended in tragedy and the other in triumph. The odds were even longer that the same family would play prominent roles in each of the events. Mike Svonavec and his uncle, Jim Svonavec, became major players in each event. Mike Svonavec of Svonavec Inc. owns the 300 acres of land in Shanksville where Flight 93 went down on Sept. 11. Jim's company, J&J Svonavec Excavating, worked closely with the FBI from day one at the crash site. Less than a year later, Jim's life became even more interesting with the Quecreek Mine disaster and rescue July 24. "My company constructed the canopies to the mine entrances and did a lot of other work for the coal company," he said. "I knew each of the miners personally. We helped in their rescue and were right there when they pulled the nine miners to safety." Both Svonavecs are parishioners of St. Peter Parish in Somerset.

### Lots of Irish-Catholic tales to tell in new show, actress Hunt says

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — Bonnie Hunt, the Catholic star and executive producer of the new ABC comedy "Life With Bonnie," will have no shortage of stories to tell in the sitcom, which will air 9-9:30 p.m. Eastern time Tuesdays this fall. Hunt plays a wife and mother who also hosts a morning TV talk show in Chicago. Each episode will have an entirely unscripted talk-show segment with guests famous or not-so-famous. The show's writing staff is also developing a series of fake clips from "movies," seemingly part and parcel of every interview talk show these days. "We're having so much fun writing them," Hunt told TV writers in Hollywood. Another aspect that will be explored is the Catholicism of Bonnie's fictional family. There's a crucifix on the wall in the master bedroom, and Hunt's character wears one at home and on her talk-show job. "I can't wait to use all this stuff from my childhood. It's endless," Hunt said.

### Catholics must speak out against immorality, says Vatican official

ARICCIA, Italy (CNS) — U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, the Vatican's top communications official, said Catholics must speak out courageously against immorality like abortion and homosexual activity despite the risk of causing offense. "We know well that today many people are prisoners of the 'politically correct,'" the archbishop, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, said Aug. 29 at a media conference organized by the Pauline Fathers and Brothers in Ariccia, south of Rome. "They are afraid of speaking against abortion, adultery, homosexual activity, contraception and premarital relations because it could be considered offensive in our increasingly tolerant society," he said. But, he said, "We, as Catholics and Christian communicators, are obliged to speak the truth, in season and out of season, even when it is 'politically incorrect.'"


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# Prose blooms from tragedy

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — Sean O'Brien's soul singes with grief when he flashes back to his brother, Tim O'Brien, and brother-in-law, Steve Tighe, fighting to escape the perils of the Twin Towers on Sept. 11.

Through his poem, "From Darkness Into Light," which O'Brien believes was written with the spiritual guidance his brother and brother-in-law, O'Brien finds a comfort and solace that he shares with others in hopes that it too will bring them a moment of peace.

On Sept. 11, 2002, local parishes read the poem during their memorial services.

In the poem, O'Brien captures God speaking to those in the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon and on the airplanes during their last few minutes on earth. He visions God holding their hands and bringing them peace. O'Brien addresses the victims' concerns about their families: "How will they handle this, how will they get by?"

O'Brien depicts that God responds, "It will take time, but I'll set their hearts free. I'll send all the angels to be by their side to watch over them, protect them and act as their guide."

O'Brien and his wife, Heather, and their three children are with family members in Long Island this week for the first anniversary of Sept. 11. No major memorials are planned. It's a time for the family to gather at church. There will be reminiscing mixed with laughter and tears.

Life was typical for the Irish-Catholic family of seven children growing up in Long Island's Rockville Centre. O'Brien, now a financial advisor at Axa Advisors in Charlotte, met Heather at Florida Atlantic University. Following graduation, they settled in Charlotte — midway between Heather's folks in Florida and O'Brien's clan in New York.

O'Brien's Long Island reunions were happy times, but that changed on Sept. 11, when Tim and Steve, who worked for Cantor Fitzgerald on the 105th floor of the World Trade Center, perished. Combined, they leave behind seven children.

"When I first saw the towers in flames, I tried to call New York," said O'Brien. "Flooded circuits squelched contact. I felt out of the loop. One report said people escaped from the upper levels, another said they didn't. It was like being on a roller coaster from hope to despair."

Reality set in and O'Brien realized there was no way his loved ones could have escaped. Tormented by visions of his brother and brother-in-law screaming in pain as fire consumed their bodies, O'Brien yearned to be with family.

That evening, the O'Brien's, who are members of St. Mark Church, attended a memorial at St. Matthew Church where the congregation, witnessing their despair, gathered around them and offered comfort through prayer.

"I felt Tim and Steve were there with us, strengthening us," said O'Brien

Faith has played a vital part in O'Brien's life since that day. When he visited ground zero following the attack, he carried a prayer he had written to Tim and Steve and placed it in a plastic bag. Adding several pieces of rubble from the World Trade Center, he chucked the bag into the middle of the site, seeing this as a merging of prayer and mass destruction.

"These events have changed my life," said O'Brien. "Every thought consumes me; everything that happens now is somehow correlated to 9/11. People need to return to a normal life, but life isn't normal for us anymore. I feel like the world has gone by and I'm trying to catch up. It's a very painful time."

O'Brien sought counseling to help him. He also found peace by writing the memorial poem that came to him one sleepless night. "Tim and Steve are always with us, but I feel that were truly with me that night, giving me a message that brings peace to those last minutes that so haunt my thoughts."

O'Brien's mission is to spread the poem far and wide through his Web site. Many readers have experienced a strengthening of faith. Their email responses have been a bright spot in O'Brien's life.

O'Brien continues to have flashbacks. When he sees a group of kids playing soccer, he visualizes his brother-in-law on the field coaching his youth soccer teams. The dribbling of a basketball brings back thoughts of Tim, who was an All American basketball player at Hartwick College.

"Life is different for all of us," he said. "Along with many others, we appreciate family time and don't take things for granted. We realize that is was not God who 'let' this happen, but rather, a group of people who abused their right to 'free will' choosing evil over good."

*To read O'Brien's poem, visit www.fromdarknessintolight.com. Comments are greatly appreciated.*

# VOCAL, from page 1

for Myrick's performance.

"She came to me and said 'I've got this song in my head. If I sing the song can you put music to it?'" said Kaufman. "It really had an affect on me. At that point, I decided to give it my all to make it sound like a great, finished piece of music."

Acting as her producer, Kaufman accompanied Myrick into the studio in August of this year. Additional vocal tracks were added to enhance the song.

"It was a wonderful collaboration. I couldn't be happier with the CD and with Olivia," said Kaufman. "She acted like a true professional, and took musical direction better than most professionals."

Several people have already asked for copies of the CD, according to Healy.

"My sister uses the song in her prayer group up in New York," said Healy. "Hopefully, there will be a demand for it."

"I would like to have seen the CD marketed and sold with the money going to benefit 9/11," said Kaufman. "I think we just didn't move fast enough, but maybe it's not too late."

Myrick performed the song for her classmates during the Sept. 11 Mass at Holy Trinity and for Bishop Curlin at the noon Mass at the Pastoral Center.

"Olivia's an incredible young lady, and a wonderful role model for the rest of the students," said Healy.

While she thinks becoming a professional singer would be "a lot of fun," Myrick maintained, "I'm still a student. That comes first."

In the end, Myrick hoped the song would bring "comfort and peace" to those who lost someone Sept. 11. "We'll see them again in Heaven," she said.

*Contact Associate Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*


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5. Wouldn't you like to be able to discuss the Bible with your non-Catholic friends and help them understand the true interpretation of John 6, Matthew 16:18 and other passages in Scripture?
6. Do you have an interest in being more familiar with the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the writings of the early Church Fathers, the Saints, and the popes?
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## *Solidarity in Action*

# National Black Catholic Congress

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHICAGO — During the opening Mass of the first National Black Congress of the 21st century, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry of the Archdiocese of Chicago challenged participants to lead and be role models. "We see ourselves [as] ambassadors for the Church and enablers of the gifts of others," he said.

From across the country, approximately 3,000 African-American Catholics — including a delegation of 20 from the Diocese of Charlotte — gathered for "Black Leadership in the 21st Century: Solidarity in Action," the ninth National Black Catholic Congress. Initiated in 1889 in Washington, D.C. by Ohio newspaperman Daniel Rudd, the congress has been held every five years since 1987.

"I am always awed when I come to a gathering like this," said Willis Joseph, a parishioner at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte. "A lot of times in small groups, you feel like you're isolated, but when we come together like this, you get a sense of how we are a large group in the Catholic Church. We have a lot to offer, a lot to be proud of."

"This [congress] has been a deliberate attempt to invite and bring people together who are really involved in their parishes," said Father Wilbur Thomas, pastor of St. Lawrence Basilica in Asheville.

A decisive mission enveloped Chicago: A pastoral plan of action, springing from eight areas of concern to bring about a declaration of principals. Participants then take ideas back to their parishes and help set the wheels of change into motion.

"We truly have the leaders here," said Father Wilbur, who called the Charlotte delegates the ones who are in "the trenches doing what they can in their own parishes."

Ultimately, the group, in solidarity, would uphold the Declaration of Principals. Ribbons hung from name badges reading "of one accord" made it clear the there would be consensus. Eight areas of concern of African American Catholics were the guiding principals for directing collective ministry: Spirituality, Parish Life, Youth and Young Adults, Catholic Education, Social Justice, Racism, Africa and HIV/AIDS.

Those eight issues became the eight tracts for congressional members to follow. Small group breakouts brought dialogue, discussion and as the conference concluded, a blueprint of how and why to promulgate the topics. Moreover, a five-year plan was instituted for each issue, providing additional working tools take home.

Congress organizers hope the issues and principals become part of everyday discussion in not only the parishes, but in the wider community as well.

"We'll take the plan of action and begin to implement whatever is most important ... what seems to be do-able in the first year," said Father Wilbur.

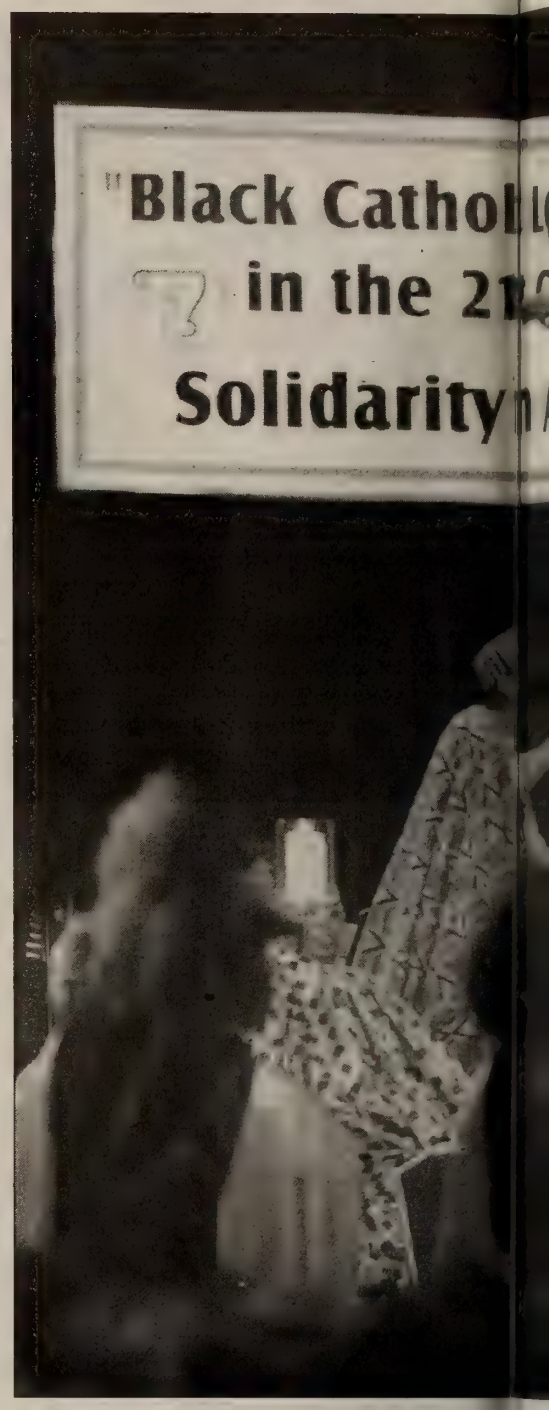
Charlotte delegates, on different congress tracts set out to absorb as much as possible on individual issues. Barbara Gardin, a parishioner of St. Helen Mission in Spencer Mountain, aspires to serve as a guide to the younger generation in her parish. Appropriately, Gardin took on the youth and young principle. She thinks youth and young adults often feel like they don't have a place in the church. "They [youth and young adults] are going to help the church grow. They have real vibrant thoughts and are very creative. We need to let them start leading themselves," she said.

Similarly, Rosheen Adams followed the youth tract. A member of Our Lady of Consolation, Adams thinks young people need to take a more active role in the church. An enthusiastic youth volunteer; Adams is "always interested in finding out ways to better connect with young people."

"We came to Chicago as men and women of faith ... to participate in an explicitly religious enterprise," said Auxiliary Bishop Gordon Bennett, S.J., from Baltimore during the closing liturgy.

"During these days, we have deliberated over many needs on our country and the world," he said. "I need hardly tell you that the success of any of these efforts in the future will depend to a very large extent on how completely, how generously, each one of us makes the sacrifice, offers his or her living body, and endures the ridicule and the scorn of others in the culture," said Bishop Bennett.

*Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org*




**Kenneth Louis, minister of music at Holy [illegible] the crucifix during Mass.**



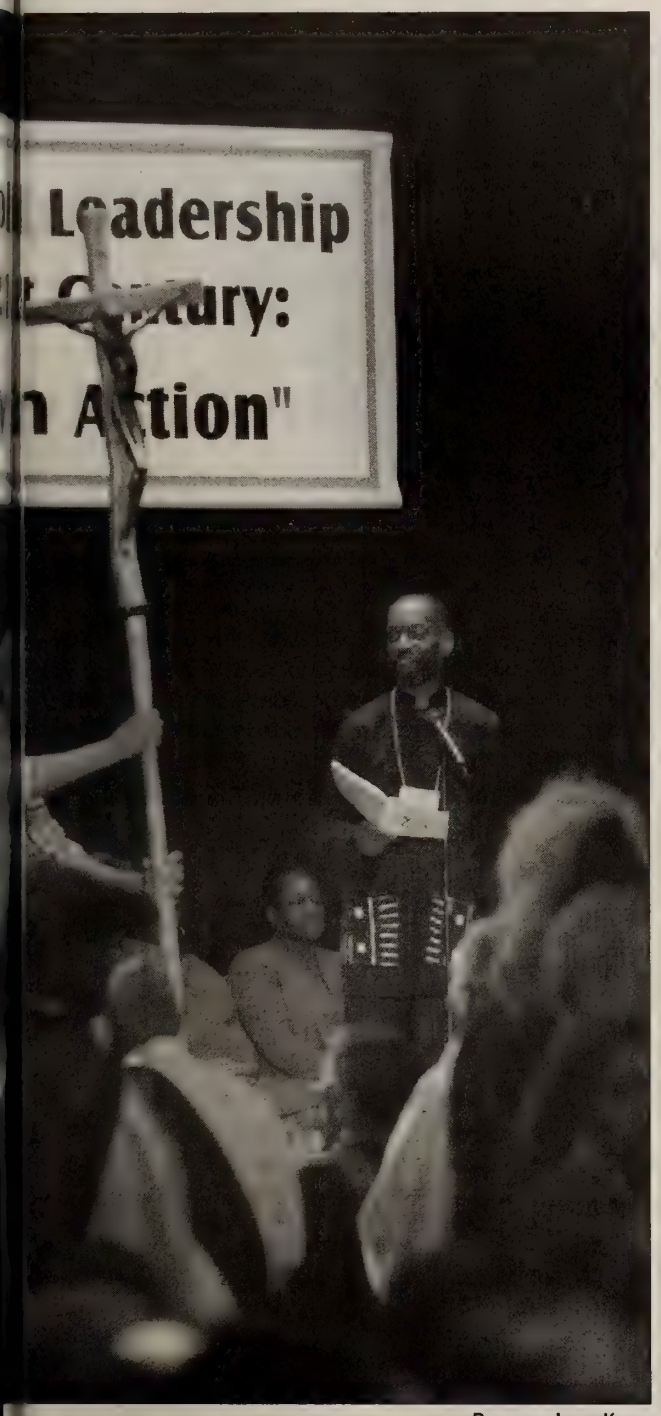
**Knights of Columbus flank the sides before the altar at the opening Mass of the IX National Black Catholic Congress.**



**Rev. Mr. Charles Knight, permanent deacon from Our Lady of Consolation talks with a sister from Louisiana between sessions.**

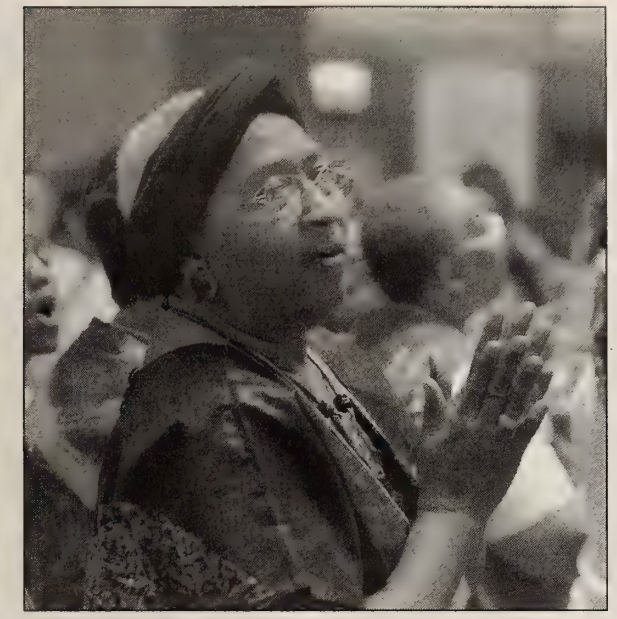


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PHOTOS BY JOANN KEANE

orter-St. Cyprian parish in Washington, D.C., places



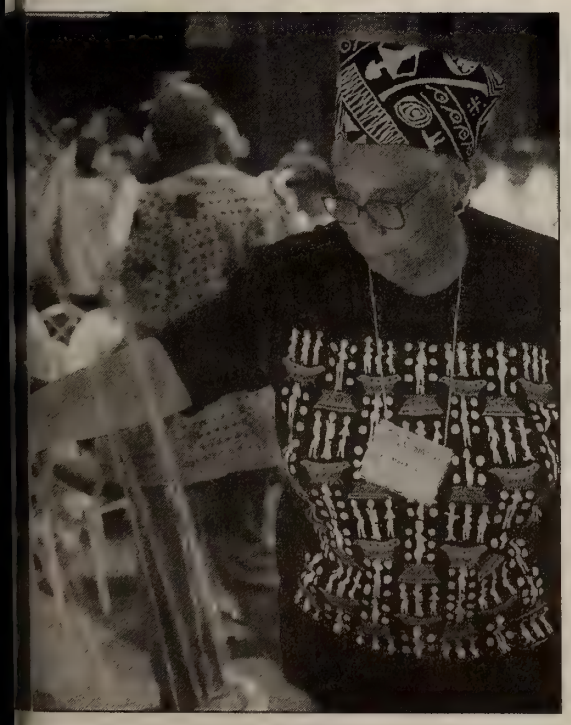
Katherine Gomez of St. Benedict the Moor parish in Winston-Salem claps along in praise during the opening session of the IX National Black Catholic Congress in Chicago.



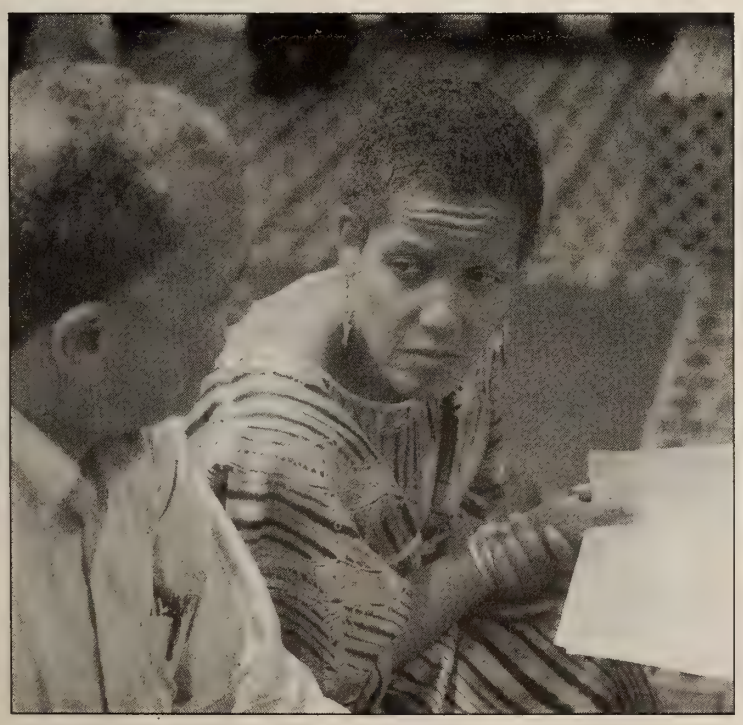
Barbara Gardin, a parishioner of St. Helen mission in Spencer Mountain makes the sign of the cross with ashes that were shared with all attending. To her left, Alberta Hairston, from St. Pius X in Greensboro, and to her right, Dale Brown of Our Lady of Consolation parish.



Bishop John Ricard, S.S. J., bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee and Bishop Charles Palmer-Buckle, bishop of Koforidua, Ghana share a gesture of solidarity. The African Bishop from Ghana spoke on global solidarity.

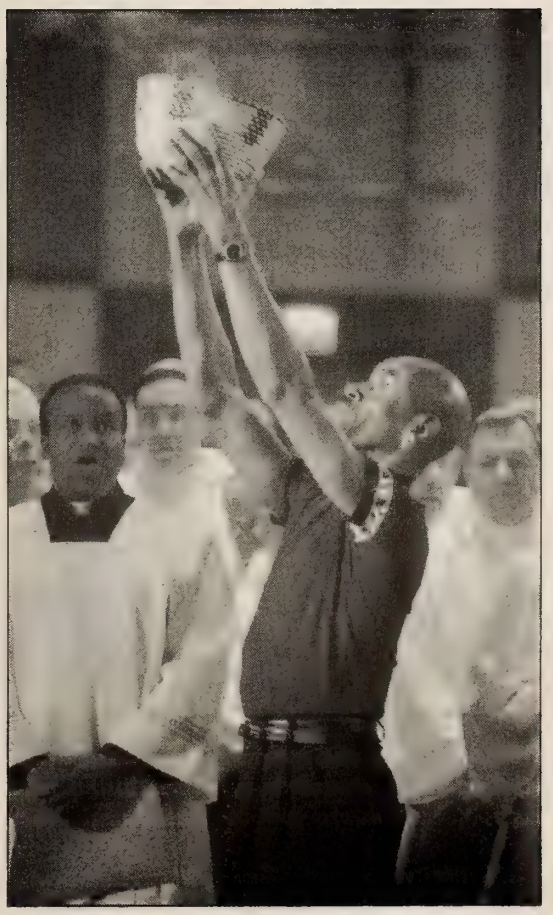


of St. Benedict the Moor parish in Winston- he congressional font. Participants brought dioceses, and the font of living water was



Above: Father Wilbur Thomas, pastor of St. Lawrence Basilica in Asheville and Toni Tupponce, member of Our Lady of Consolation talk during a congress break.

Right: Kenneth Louis carries incense during a procession.



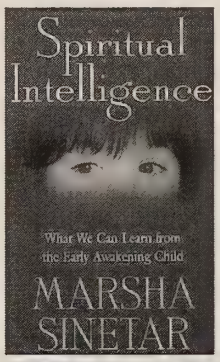
**Book Review**

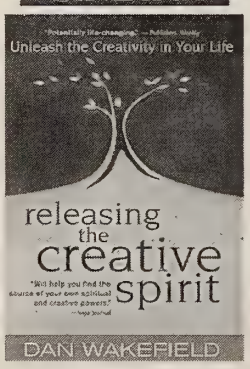
# Transformation through imagination

BY SISTER MONA CASTELAZO, CSJ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

All three of these books — "Spiritual Intelligence" by Marsha Sinetar, "The Teacher's Calling" by Gloria Durka, and "Releasing the Creative Spirit" by Dan Wakefield — celebrate creativity, imagination, spiritual awareness and moral values.

Parents, teachers and all seeking wholeness will benefit from a careful reading of "Spiritual Intelligence." Sinetar is an educator and an author of many works, among which is "The Mentor's Spirit." Sinetar describes "early awakeners" as children gifted with inspired thought who begin to "be about the Father's business" at a young age. Attentive to a deeper level of thought, they ponder life's mysteries through solitary play and imagination, contributing to the world in their own time and way.




A vital mental energy makes early awakeners lively, hopeful, motivated and spunky. They are faithful to the good, not merely to legalism, requiring mentors who will encourage creativity rather than over-obedience or rigid control. Sinetar believes that adults can learn from these youngsters to live from an inner vision, transcending "adjustment" in order to affirm authentic experience. Limiting "unwholesome compliance" and at times expressing "positive rebellion" protect one's personal gifts and spiritual integrity.

"The Teacher's Calling" is a gem that all teachers will appreciate. Author Durka teaches religion and religious education in the graduate school of Fordham University. She sees teachers as "ministers of personal and social transformation" who teach from the heart, responding to a call for an inward focus that lays claim to one's soul. Teaching is a vocation full of adventure, surprises and opportunities for personal growth, requiring ongoing self-knowledge as well as knowledge of one's students and subject.

Teachers need both love and courage to face new classes, to let young people into their lives, and to motivate them to grow toward full humanity, which in turn makes them more God-like, a process that furthers the kingdom of God.

The creative teacher knows that education is not "for something, but of someone." It is not a matter of passing data impersonally in a mechanical way. Durka quotes Gabriel Moran in this matter: "Any teacher who can be replaced by a machine (or a book) should be." Students need to be able to reflect and to learn how to live well spiritually and morally, developing into good persons who will reject the moral relativism prevalent today.

Because good teachers allow themselves to be vulnerable, they face mystery, risks and uncertainty. But "the passion for the possible" brings joy and nourishment to those who teach in the hope that "what we have loved, others will love" (William Wordsworth).

In "Releasing the Creative Spirit," Wakefield, an award-winning author, encourages creativity for all. His message is that being awake and aware leads to a spirit-filled, creative life, whereas spiritually "sleep-inducing distractions and diversions" stifle creativity.

Through descriptions of his own experience, he shows how numbing addictions lead toward oblivion and how creativity requires clarity of spirit, mind and body. The author dispels the myths about creativity — that is, that one must be on drugs, male, young, unhappy, lonely, self-absorbed, reckless, strange or neurotic in order to be creative or artistic. He draws examples from a wide variety of creative people, including Paul Cezanne, Judy Collins, Thomas Merton, Feodor Dostoyevsky, Billie Holiday, Hildegard of Bingen and many more.

Wakefield states that meditation, silence and a simplified lifestyle counteract the outer and inner noise that attacks creativity, which he sees as an "affirmation of the animating spirit within." The book contains exercises for developing creativity through drawing, writing, music, nature and the appreciation of others' creative works. Also included is a chapter on how to live an entire day in a creative manner.

# Word to Life

*Sunday Scripture Readings:*
*Sept. 15, 2002*

*Sept. 15, Twenty-fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time*
Cycle A Readings:
1) Sirach 27:30 to 28:9
Psalm 103:1-4, 9-12
2) Romans 14:7-9
3) Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

BY BOZENA CLOUTIER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Some years after the end of World War II my mother made a pilgrimage to Lourdes. On the first day there she made her way to the baths and joined a long line of people. In front of her were two women, mother and adult daughter, and they were speaking German. The older woman had to be supported because she was in constant jerky motion from some affliction.

Standing in line at Lourdes my mother experienced great tension. She spoke fluent German. On the one hand she very much wanted to speak with the women in their own language, on the other she was filled with bitterness at all the collective and personal pain Germany had inflicted on Poland and her family during the war.

How could she forget that her beloved youngest brother had been executed in a concentration camp, that her house had been looted, that her favorite aunt had been buried alive as a terrible punishment for not claiming German ethnicity?

In the end, the sacredness of the place and her own deep faith convinced her to speak to the two women. As they moved slowly toward the baths, the women talked about themselves and why they were in Lourdes.

The older German woman had come to seek healing from the affliction that kept her body in exhausting perpetual motion. She told what had happened to her.

She was in Dresden during the prolonged Allied blanket bombing of that city. The house she was in collapsed, and she was trapped under the rubble. It was three whole days before she was dug out. She lived, but was left with this terrible palsy. She wept telling her story, her daughter wept and so did my mother.

"Could anyone refuse mercy to another like herself, can she seek pardon for her own sins?" asks Sirach in the first reading. My mother could not. In that encounter she experienced in a profound way that suffering respects no categories and that the pain of this German woman was no different from the pain of a Polish woman.

**QUESTIONS:**
Do we prefer the Old Covenant law of "an eye for an eye" for others and the New Covenant promise of forgiveness for ourselves? How can we soften our hearts toward others, so that we forgive more readily?

## Weekly Scripture

**Scripture for the week of Sept. 15 - Sept. 21**

**Sunday (Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Sirach 27:30—28:9, Romans 14:7-9, Matthew 18:21-35; **Monday (St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian),** 1 Corinthians 11:17-26,33, Luke 7:1-10; **Tuesday (St. Robert Bellarmine),** 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31, Luke 7:11-17; **Wednesday,** 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13, Luke 7:31-35; **Thursday,** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 7:36-50; **Friday (St. Andrew Kim Taegon and St. Paul Chong Hasang and Companions),** 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 8:1-3; **Saturday (St. Matthew),** Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:9-13

**Scripture for the week of September 22 - September 28**

**Sunday (Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Isaiah 55:6-9, Philippians 1:20-24, 27, Matthew 20:1-16; **Monday,** Proverbs 3:27-34, Luke 8:16-18; **Tuesday,** Proverbs 2:1-6, 10-13, Luke 8:19-21; **Wednesday,** Proverbs 30:5-9, Luke 9:1-6; **Thursday (Sts. Cosmas and Damian),** Ecclesiastes 1:2-11, Luke 9:7-9; **Friday (St. Vincent de Paul),** Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, Luke 9:18-22; **Saturday (St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions),** Ecclesiastes 11:9—12:8, Luke 9:43-45

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# Lousy plot sinks 'City by the Sea'

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A father attempts to mend his tattered relationship with his son in the disjointed drama "City by the Sea" (Warner Bros.).

Director Michael Caton-Jones' somber film was inspired by journalist Mike McAlary's 1997 Esquire magazine article, which told the story of the real-life LaMarca family. Caton-Jones has taken a few dramatic liberties in retelling the story of how respected New York City homicide detective Vincent LaMarca (Robert De Niro) deals with his drug-addicted son, Joey (James Franco), who has committed a murder.

With the atavistic theme of self-destruction, the ironic premise of the story is slowly developed. Vincent's father was executed after the notorious murder of a baby 40 years earlier in Long Beach. After dedicating his life to being a cop, Vincent then sees his own son accused of murder.

Respectable performances rise above the clichéd script, but the movie's sluggish pace and the predictable plotting diminish what could have been a more dramatic and compelling film.

Walking up and down the decaying boardwalk of Long Beach, Joey attempts to pawn his guitar for cash to buy heroin from low-life dealer Snake (Brian Tarantina). After the two get high, Joey suddenly finds himself struggling with and half-unconsciously stabbing a burly dealer attacking Snake.

Meanwhile, back in his New York City apartment, Vincent is visiting his girlfriend Michelle (Frances McDormand), who lives one floor below him. Even though the couple has been dating a year, Michelle has no idea about Vincent's past, much less that he is a divorced father who left both his wife (Patti Lupone) and son nearly 14 years ago.

As the two-track plot unfolds, Vincent is assigned the homicide case and Joey is on the lam, then Vincent discovers that Joey is the murder suspect (bringing Vincent back to his old Long Beach haunts) and their two stories intersect. In the course of the investigation, Vincent discovers that his own unresolved pain and failures as a father have deeply influenced Joey's life. He must now face up to his responsibilities and mend broken fences in a last attempt at redemption.

De Niro fits the beleaguered New York City cop profile well. But it is a coin toss whether audiences will respond favorably to this familiar role, or be tired of such a portrayal. Franco is in constant agony, resulting in his character becoming tiresome instead of eliciting viewer sympathy.

Bruce Springsteen's dilapidated hometown of Asbury Park, N.J., stands in for Long Beach, looking every bit an abandoned, rundown town. The residents of Asbury Park are likely to be unhappy with the terrible manner in which their town has been portrayed.

"City by the Sea" clumsily conveys that each individual, no matter what his past may be riddled with, ultimately must take responsibility for his own actions and forge a better life. But the movie takes a long, meandering path to get out this message, and not a whole lot else is offered to reward the viewer for patiently sitting through it.

Due to recurring drug content, some violence and much rough language with some profanity, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

*Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.*



CNS PHOTO FROM WARNER BROS.

**James Franco and Robert De Niro star in the dramatic film "City by the Sea." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

## Video Reviews

*NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting. Theatrical movies on video have a USCCB classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

**"The Bells of St. Mary's" (1945)**

Director Leo McCarey's sequel to 1944's "Going My Way" pulls out all the emotional stops in a sugary confection that takes happy-go-lucky Father O'Malley (Bing Crosby) to a poor parish with a crumbling school run by overworked Sister Benedict (Ingrid Bergman). Though their conflicting views on education have less to do with the plot than the chasm between their personal relations, Bergman's shining performance as the idealistic nun is still worth watching. Sentimental yet warm picture of Catholic life in an age of innocence. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Republic)

**"Ferris Bueller's Day Off" (1986)**

Director John Hughes turns in a lighthearted spoof about a teen-ager (Matthew Broderick) who has made a science out of truancy because he likes to take a break now and then to observe the world around him. The cheerfully implausible plot serves as the catalyst in changing the attitudes of his sister and best friend. Some vulgar language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Paramount)

**"Lean on Me" (1989)**

Formula feel-good bio of controversial Paterson, N.J., high school principal Joe Clark (Morgan Freeman) focuses on his mission to clean up the crime and graffiti-infested school, restore student self-pride and raise their abysmal reading scores. Fearless, funny and nasty, Freeman is a standout as he rejuvenates the school. Director John G. Avildsen's cartoon movie heroics may be simplistic and the screenplay may play fast and loose with the facts, but the film should speak to older urban adolescents faced with similar school blight. Much rough language, some violence and menace and a flash of nudity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Warner)

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# The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

### Pope says world must address injustices that lead to terrorism

BY JOHN NORTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At a special general audience marking the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, Pope John Paul II said it was "necessary and urgent" to address the global injustices that created the conditions for terrorism.

At the same time, the pope told some 8,000 pilgrims in the Vatican's audience hall no situation of injustice could ever justify terrorism, which "is and always will be a manifestation of inhuman ferociousness."

In prayers the pope led at the end of the audience, an Arabic-language petition asked God to help believers of all religions reject every form of violence and commit to dialogue to resolve conflicts.

The pontiff also asked for prayers for the Sept. 11 terrorists.

"May God show mercy and forgiveness for the authors of this horrible terror attack," he said in unscripted remarks in Polish.

Despite U.S. warnings of potential worldwide terrorism activity on the attack anniversary, security outside the hall seemed no tighter than usual. Uniformed Italian police officers casually leaned on crowd barriers in the late-summer sunshine, watching pilgrims pass through airport-style screening checkpoints. Nobody looked up when a low-flying jet roared overhead on a landing pattern for Rome's international airport.

At the audience, attended by U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Jim Nicholson, the pope devoted his entire text to remembering the terrorist attacks, saying the "barbarous and cruel" violence killed "many innocent brothers and sisters of ours."

"A year after Sept. 11, 2001, we repeat that no situation of injustice, no feeling of frustration, no philosophy or religion can justify" terrorism, he said.

Terrorism can never resolve human conflicts, he said, because "armed violence (and) war are decisions that only sow and generate hatred and death."

"Reason and love are the only valid means to overcome and resolve strife between persons and peoples," he said.

At the same time, the pope called for new political and economic initiatives to address "the scandalous situations of injustice and oppression that continue to afflict many members of the human family."

"When fundamental rights are violated, it is easy to fall prey to the temptations of hatred and violence. It is necessary to build together a global culture of solidarity that would give young people hope for the future," he said.

U.S. pilgrims at the audience said they were grateful for the pope's prayers and his participation in commemorations of the attacks.

# The Bottom Line



ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

### Fighting addictions: the spiritual factor

The headlines so often tell a tragic tale of destruction caused by binge drinking, alcoholic rage and violence, and drunk driving. Then we read other stories of recovered alcoholics and drug addicts, people who find a new path that stops their descent into horror and helps them get on with a good life. We read the stories and wonder what makes the difference.

Why is it that some people can move out of their tragic trap of drinking and/or drugs, while others remain lost?

This question motivated a reporter, Christopher D. Ringwald, to investigate what works when it comes to drug and alcohol treatment — and why. For a period of two years, he investigated programs and methods used to try to get addicts to stay clean, writing a series of articles for the Times Union newspaper in Albany, N.Y.

Ringwald also talked at length to alcoholics and addicts, and found a surprising and nearly common factor among those who were getting clean.

"Most mentioned spirituality or God, prayer or meditation, or serving others. They spoke of having an awakening or reorientation — radical or gradual — that allowed them to start life anew," Ringwald told me. "That, I decided, was the real action in the treatment and recovery of people addicted to drugs."

This insight put Ringwald on a new research path, traveling across the country to verify that what he had learned was not confined to one area. He was especially interested in understanding what "finding a higher power," a phrase he often heard, really meant to alcoholics and addicts, and why this seemed to hold a key to their recovery.

His research investigated a wide range of treatments, including programs using the famous 12-step approach of Alcoholics Anonymous, substance-abuse treatments at various centers, programs for addicted women, Native-American treatments and a historical look at the recovery movement.

His discovery, simply put, was that many recovered addicts had found a spiritual connection with something beyond the material — and this created an anchor of hope that helped them get liberated from their demons and take back control of their lives.

"Here's the truth about recovery for many addicts," says Ringwald. "Without a personal transformation, usually spiritual in nature, little happens over the long term."

Not everyone believes what he says. In his research, Ringwald found that many professionals and scientists prefer to attribute addictions to biology and generally ignore the role of faith in saving lives. Now he has written a deeply informative book with an opposing theme, titled "The Soul of Recovery, Uncovering the Spiritual Dimension in the Treatment of Addiction" (Oxford University Press).

Ringwald writes about addictions and the people stuck in these horror traps, emphasizing how spirituality provides a fuller understanding of the nature of addictions and helps people to overcome them.

I asked Ringwald if the fact that he is a devout Catholic influenced his research, and he said decidedly "yes."

"My Catholic faith showed me that belief makes a difference. It made me willing to take the beliefs of others seriously, especially those of addicts who recover by spiritual means," said Ringwald.



# Economy of Faith

GLENMARY FATHER
JOHN S. RAUSCH
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Putting a face on numbers

The tour of the Kentucky State Penitentiary took our group to the lower level of Cellhouse No. 3 to a room where a single, sturdy chair stood bolted to the floor. It faced a picture window with a curtain pulled back that separated the room for observers. Made of finished oak and equipped with restraints for arms and legs, Kentucky's electric chair startled some, while it evoked an audible groan from the group. The state used that chair to execute 163 inmates during the 20th century including seven in one evening in 1929 — a national record.

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky arranged the prison tour because it wanted to emphasize the Catholic perspective on crime and criminal justice outlined in the national bishops' 2000 pastoral, "Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration." The pastoral rejects punishment for its own sake, emphasizing instead its constructive and redemptive purpose. It seeks the abolition of the death penalty for the violence it inflicts on society.

While violent crime in the United States has declined about 20 percent in the last decade, the number of people in jail or prison has risen approximately 50 percent. A snapshot of the prison population, now at 2 million, shows about 70 percent functionally illiterate, perhaps 200,000 suffering from serious mental illness and 60 to 80 percent with a history of substance abuse. What society attempted to address in the past with anti-poverty efforts, education, health and addiction programs, it now lumps together in the brutalizing prison system. Ultimately, the bishops seek a criminal justice system that tempers justice with mercy. The tour tried to put human faces on the statistics of criminal justice.

Yet, behind some faces lie a history of extreme violent acts that tear community apart. When I pay my water bill at the Powell County courthouse, I walk past three stone markers of lawmen killed in the line of duty. A marshal died in 1913, but the other two, a sheriff and a deputy, died on the same day, Jan. 30, 1992. When the two tried to serve a warrant, they encountered a Chinese-made SKS assault rifle with a fully loaded 30-round clip. Within half a minute, they lay bleeding to death in the suspect's yard. During the tour, I actually met the man on death row who killed the officers from my county. After 10 years, he's seeking an opportunity to express his sorrow to the relatives of the victims. Restorative justice like this, the bishops teach, brings healing.

Another group of inmates, some in prison for over 20 years, founded the Children's Fund Project to provide financial aid to children in poverty and those with cancer. The core group solicits donations from fellow inmates, sells artwork and craft items, plus collects aluminum pop cans to raise its funds. In less than a year, CFP contributed over $1,000 to programs for needy children and supplied them with numerous hand-made toys. Besides helping the kids, CFP enables inmates "to give something back to society," as their brochure explains.

"How can we protect and rebuild communities, confront crime without vengeance and defend life without taking life?" asks the bishops' pastoral. Perhaps we start with the most fundamental teaching: every person, victim and offender, remains a child of God.

When I saw the electric chair, I asked the warden if I could sit in it. For one minute I felt a connectedness to the murderers and victims over the years. I prayed and reflected — society must learn to defeat violence not with physical, but with spiritual means.



# Faith Formation

GUEST COLUMN
FATHER JAMES HAWKER
GUEST COLUMNIST

### Living for the Lord

There are many valid, though incomplete, descriptions of the Catholic Church. Each captures an essential component of the magnificent mosaic whose foundation is Jesus Christ. One of the most insightful verbal images is, simply stated, a community of disciples.

As a community of disciples, the Church recognizes its responsibility to say, "yes" to Jesus. Yet in doing so, we, as the Church, realize that Jesus first said, "yes" to us. He has taught us by his words and works that each of us is loveable, valuable and irreplaceable. He has commissioned all of us to witness to his caring, compassionate presence to us and through us.

The theme of Catechetical Sunday (Sept. 15) is "Living for the Lord." Time and again, Jesus challenges us in Scripture to listen to him, learn from him, follow him, imitate him. In other words, each of us is called to live for the Lord. Realistically, however, it is essential to realize that we must first live in the Lord even as he lives in us.

How often I have been privileged to baptize an infant. On each blessed occasion, surrounded by the faith community, I have repeated the invitation and command communicated by the risen Christ on the mount of the Ascension: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the time." (Mt. 28:16-20)

It is precisely by being baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ that newborn believers live in Christ and he in them. Because of that grace-filled encounter, the process of being enabled to live for the Lord is initiated.

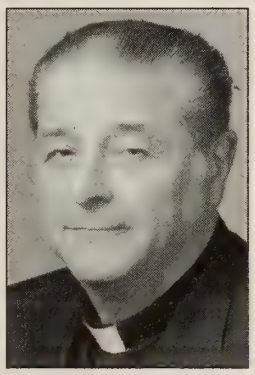
It is not surprising that in his final message to the Apostles, prior to his return to the Father, Jesus stressed the essential bond between baptism and education, teaching and transformation. The gift of faith shared at the time of baptism and sustained during sacramental encounters, especially the Eucharist, is to be nurtured and nourished as the renewing and relevant Word is proclaimed at every stage of the believer's life. Catechesis, then, is at the very core of the Church's mission.

Pope John Paul II has stated that the primary purpose of catechesis is not only to share information, as essential as that objective may be; catechesis is and must be concerned with the continuing formation of the maturing believer. More than 20 years ago he wrote, "The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy with Jesus Christ." (On Catechesis in Our Day). It follows, then, that catechesis is not directed simply to the head, but to the heart. Catechesis is concerned with enabling conversion as the message is intended to impact positively the vision and values, the attitudes and behavior of the hearer.

On Catechetical Sunday, the devoted and dedicated catechists who fulfill such a valuable and essential role in parishes throughout the diocese are acknowledged with gratitude. They, who witness to this active commitment to live for the Lord, invite and inspire those whom they serve to do the same.

*Father Hawker is vicar for education and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.*

# Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

### Am I a Born-Again Christian?

*Q. I was born and raised a Roman Catholic and still practice my faith. Sometimes I'm asked if I am a "born-again" Christian. When I tell them my background (baptism and all the rest), they say that is not enough. I must be born again for salvation. I'm not concerned about it, but what does "born again" mean? (California)*

A. In the Gospel of John (3:3), Jesus tells the Pharisee Nicodemus, "No one can see the reign of God unless he is begotten from above." The Greek word translated "from above" in many Bibles (e.g. New American Bible and the New Revised Standard Version) is also translated as "again" or "from the beginning" in some others.

A recent study reports that one-third of America's 77 million baby-boomers identify themselves as "born-again Christians." Nearly a third of those who say they are born again have some belief in astrology and reincarnation, and a large number are associated with no church.

Usually, however, the term is used in a more restricted sense, meaning only those individuals who have personally accepted Jesus Christ, in faith as Savior through his sacrifice on the cross, and who are committed to following his teachings and example.

According to most Protestant denominations, which emphasize such rebirth, these conversions take place often in the context of an "altar call" or similar event during a worship service, or perhaps in a private religious experience.

In Catholic tradition, being born again — and its consequences for our lives — is described by the rite of baptism, which our Lord speaks of two verses later: "No one can enter into God's kingdom without being begotten of water and Spirit."

The entire context of this section of John's Gospel, the four Gospels' descriptions of the baptism of Jesus, the fact that Jesus and the disciples went into the land of Judea and baptized others (Jn 3:22) and references elsewhere in the New Testament about the significance of baptism all point to the belief that to be born "again" or "from above" means to be baptized. (See, for example, Acts 2:38 and 22:16; and Col 2:11-13.)

The famous passage from St. Paul, read often at funeral liturgies, is typical. "Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life" (Rom 6:3-4).

There is no doubt that even the earliest church theologians and writers universally saw in baptism the rebirth Jesus called for. About the year 150 A.D., Justin the martyr, a most noted defender and interpreter of the Christian faith, wrote that those who are persuaded and believe what Christians teach and believe are "brought by us to where there is water and are regenerated (reborn) in the same manner in which we ourselves were regenerated. In the name of God the Father ... and of our savior Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit, they then receive the washing with water. For Christ also said, 'Unless you are born again, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven'" (1 Apologia 61).

If someone else asks if you have been born again, you can say: Yes, through my baptism into Jesus Christ, which I live out by my commitment to and love for him.

# Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

### Marriage takes a village

It's not everyday that we get the opportunity to take part in something historic. Recently, we had such an opportunity during the ninth National Black Catholic Congress in Chicago. Black Catholics representing dioceses across the country came to our hometown to deliberate, commemorate and celebrate as a people of the African Diaspora and of the Catholic Church.

As with any involvement that we have undertaken in the Church, we approached it from a marriage and family perspective. The lens through which we view this congress and the past three congresses since 1987 explores the implications for family life.

Our primary mission is to lift up the institution of marriage in the Church. Our focus is on helping people to discern a vocation to marriage rather than an entitlement. We do this through marriage education and catechesis, effective preparation for the engaged and ongoing encouragement and enrichment for married folk.

With so many leaders from around the country gathering in our backyard, we saw an opportunity to connect with others who have a stake in marriage ministry. On Friday, August 30, 2002 over forty people took part in a conversation about marriage ministry with Black Catholics. We gathered in the cafeteria of Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary, several blocks away from the Hyatt where Congress IX took place.

As facilitators of the conversation we hoped to share our vision of a "new" paradigm that viewed marriage as not just a private relationship between a man and woman, but rather a sacramental gift to the entire faith community. Intrinsic to Christian marriage is life in community on at least three levels: 1) marriage as a community (Koinonia) that mentors and supports other marriages; 2) marriage in the community (Witness) that teaches us about God's ever-reconciling love for us; and 3) marriage for the community (Service) that strengthens family life and parish life through mutuality, sacrifice and commitment to each other and the People of God.

The "new" paradigm would then create a fourth level that is marriage protected by the community. Indeed, it takes a village to raise and sustain a marriage. It's a concept that has consensus when it is pertaining to children. But it also applies to marriage. Especially in today's perilous culture of divorce, maintaining a marriage is too large a task for two individuals. In the words of Sr. Thea Bowman: "It takes a church!"

The conversation that ensued was inspiring. The idea of a national symposium on Black Catholic Marriage began to take shape. This event would explore the essence of being Black, Catholic and married. This gathering would set forth a vision of ministry and articulate a theology that would be foundational to effective outreach. The outcomes would be published and made available to all who serve marriage in the Black Catholic community.

The consensus was that the efforts toward the symposium and its outcomes would contribute to making marriage ministry more significant to the agenda of the National Black Catholic Congress, and that this should begin. We ask the entire Church to pray for this endeavor. History is in the making.

# High school students remember 9/11 with Mass

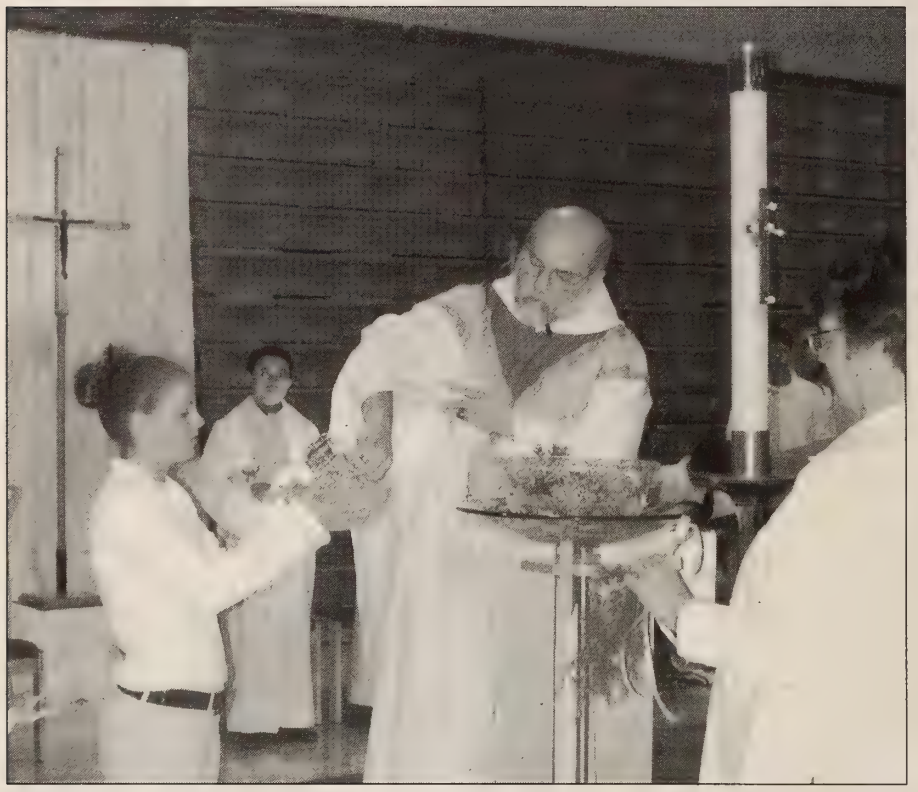


PHOTO BY MARY MARSHALL

**Father James Cassidy, principal of Charlotte Catholic High School, pours holy water into a basin held by student Katie Dunn during a 9/11 Mass held in the school gymnasium Sept. 11, 2002. The holy water was for students to bless those in attendance.**

BY MARY MARSHALL
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE —"A time to build" — students, faculty, and clergy reflected upon this theme as they celebrated Mass in the gymnasium at Charlotte Catholic High School Sept. 11.

Augustinian Father James Cassidy, principal of Charlotte Catholic High School, celebrated the Mass with Father Manuel Sundaram, part-time chaplain at the high school; Father Duc Duong and Father Carmen Malacari of St. Matthew Church; Father Richard Bellow, pastor of St. Gabriel Church; Father Christopher Gober of St. Gabriel Church; and Father Patrick Winslow of St. Vincent Church concelebrating.

It was the students' Mass as they helped prepare the liturgy, sang in the choir, played in the band, and assisted as servers, Eucharistic ministers and lectors.

As Mass was about to begin, students reflected on these thoughts: "We come together to remember those who lost their lives as well as those who selflessly gave their lives one year ago today. The vivid images of Sept. 11 prevail in our hearts and minds still. In contrast to the hatred and animosity which destroyed and continues to destroy, we, as a nation, as a body of Christ, can build, brick by brick, stone by stone all that was taken from us on that day."

"How do Catholic Christians respond to disaster?" asked Father Cassidy. "Christianity comes first; who you are as an American is formed by that Christianity."

The Pascal candle, as well as a 9/11 candle, flickered on the altar as students renewed their Baptismal promise and received the sprinkling of holy water. Father Cassidy stressed that Baptism is the most important day of our lives, as we become a part of the church. "For it is first and foremost that we are Christians," he said. "We gather here to celebrate a day when people died and went to heaven; so it is a feast day as these people were born to eternal life.

"Christ called us to love one another, to be a presence to one another, to build the church of God. You are the faces of the future," he said. "We ask God to grant us the courage to build, the grace to understand and the will to accomplish his work throughout the world. Today is a time of praise and remembrance. I thank you for the wonders that you are and the future you will be for us."

Junior Tricia Eichorn, a member of the Liturgy Committee, appreciates her family and friends more due to this tragedy. "I'm blessed to be with them each day and do not have to endure the suffering so many have experienced," she said.

Her cousin, junior Betsy Eichorn, also a member of the Liturgy Committee, said, "Our school community has united as one. This Mass allows us to mourn and rejoice at the same time."

Senior Chris Sheehan added, "Sept. 11 has enhanced our sense of pride. We've lost our innocence and been awakened to our vulnerability. All of us have changed in some way due to this tragedy."



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

**Parishioners brave maze**

**Capuchin Father Stanley Kobel (second from left), parochial vicar of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, stands with church members Sept. 7 in The Amazing Maize Maze, an 8-acre maze cut out of a corn field in Rural Hill Farm in Huntersville. The group took approximately 58 minutes to find clues to successfully navigate the maze, which was grown and cut by Catawba County Scottish Society volunteers and depicts Capt. James Jack's ride to deliver the Mecklenburg Resolves to the North Carolina Congressional delegates in Philadelphia in 1775.**


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# 'War of the human heart' must be won, Bishop Gregory says at Sept. 11 Mass

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The reason terrorists commandeered four jetliners and "flew fuel-laden planes into buildings filled with people" a year ago is because they lost "the war of the human heart," said Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., president of the U.S. bishops' conference.

In a homily prepared for delivery Sept. 11, the first anniversary of the attacks, Bishop Gregory said the terrorists "embraced the darkness of death and turned from the brilliance of light."

But war "is never truly won by those with the most potent weapons or the greatest strategic advantage," he added. "The only way you and I can ever defeat violence is to know Christ, to receive him in the holy Eucharist, to love him, and to choose life in him. Then we will know the 'peace the world cannot give' and joined to Christ we will be a leaven for peace in a world burdened by violence and hate."

Bishop Gregory was the principal celebrant and homilist at a noontime Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. He was in Washington to preside over a meeting of the U.S. bishops' 50-member Administrative Committee Sept. 10-11. Committee members were concelebrants at the Mass.

It was mere miles from the shrine, on the Virginia side of the Potomac River, where one of the four planes smashed into the Pentagon a year ago. Another plane, believed to be headed toward Washington, crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pa. Two other jets were flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center, both of which collapsed within two hours of impact, killing nearly 3,000.

In referring to the New Testament reading from the Letter of James, Bishop Gregory said, "So often we look to the causes of war 'out there.' That's relatively easy to do. 'It's those evil people doing those evil things.' But St. James tell us that war is not caused by external factors, but by 'the passions within your members,' or, in the words of the Holy Father: 'The human heart has depths from which schemes of unheard-of ferocity sometimes emerge.'"

This war, the bishop added, "must be fought within each and every human heart. Bloodied battlefields are but external manifestations of the unresolved wars which tear at people's souls. War begins, St. James tells us, by coveting, then proceeds to envy and finally breaks out in full-fledged violence.

"Each of us is a participant in that war, which uses weapons far more strategic than bombs and guns. It uses suspicion, innuendo and bald-faced lies," he continued. "Such a war may result in damage far greater than even mortal death — it cripples hearts so they cannot and will not trust, it renders us incapable of loving, and enslaves minds until they are unable to bear the truth. This damage seeps out onto the world stage, spreading its destruction and misery."

Bishop Gregory said, "Still immersed in a war against the terror which has attacked innocent life, we have come to know apprehension and even fear in our workplaces, our streets and even our airports in ways never before imagined.

"Our servicemen and women, always close to our hearts, continue to pursue strategies for defense and all of us seek ways to promote peace with an uncertain future in a very uncertain world," he said.


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# Woman religious finds her place in community, social ministry

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — The lumbering and easy pace of small-town living did not slow young Gretchen Reintjes down at all. She enjoyed her childhood in Big Lake, Minn., a town as big as a few city blocks, and has comforting memories. The snow provided a chilly but playful backdrop for the youngster who would skate on the town lake after shoveling snow, one of her wintertime chores.

Her father owned a machine shop while her mother, a former teacher, was the town postmaster. Her mother was the breadwinner, disciplinarian and instructor of the family. When young Reintjes would get out of school in the afternoon, she would go to her mother for her chore assignments. She would also receive books to read in her spare time for later discussions.



Sister Gretchen Reintjes

Even though there was no Catholic church in their town, the family would attend church in the nearby Diocese of St. Paul, Minn. Her Saturday faith formation classes were fulfilling, and she liked the nuns who taught her. Exposure to the women religious led to her thinking about a vocation, but she did not want to be a sister.

College with a nursing major was in her game plan, and in St. Paul, she attended St. Catherine, a college staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. She enjoyed her life away from home, but thoughts of religious life were ever-present.

"Even before I went to college, I knew what I had to do to be happy was to do God's will. It was pure and simple," said Sister Gretchen. "I thought I would go in a convent and be sent home. I was told that the nuns would send you home. I just couldn't picture myself as a nun."

She left school in 1953 and returned home in tears. A few months later, she answered her call and entered the convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Paul. Her new life was not always fulfilling to the young novice, but she persevered because she had found her niche. "The convent didn't attract me much. I was never unhappy, but there were times I thought I should leave," she said of her seven-and-a-half years before professing final vows in 1960. "They never sent me home."

During her time in the convent, she went back to her undergraduate institution and earned her bachelor's in biology in 1957. She began teaching high school biology in Grand Forks, N.D., and also taught in Minneapolis, Marshall and Waverly, Minn., and received her master's of biology in 1970 from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

She enjoyed teaching, especially in inner-city schools, where she was exposed to diversity and the issues that were plaguing the 1960s and '70s such as race relations and the protests surrounding the Vietnam War. "I got into community development at an interracial parish and worked to develop a co-op grocery. I also became involved in the peace movement, protesting the Vietnam War. It was an ecumenical effort; there was a lot of work with non-Catholics, and I liked working with them," she said.

She taught for 18 years, and for 10 of those years, she dressed in civilian clothes. After Vatican II reforms, many of the sisters left their habits behind, and Sister Gretchen followed suit. However, in 1978, she decided to dress in the traditional habit again.

"It was a period of searching for me. I had stopped teaching in 1975, went back to the provincial house in St. Paul and began working in the elderly sisters' home," said Sister Gretchen. "I felt I wanted to do it (dress in the habit). I felt that God wanted me to be in the habit. I said to God, 'when it becomes uncomfortable, I won't wear it anymore. The habit allows me to meet people that I may not have the chance to meet." Sister Gretchen wears her habit to this day.

When her mother became ill, she moved to Morehead City, N.C., where her older brother and his wife were living, to help take care of her. During those 10 years, she became involved with the Department of Social Services as a volunteer working with children in foster care and the elderly. Working with people was where she derived the most satisfaction, and she said that her work and caring for her mother was a reciprocal relationship. She was involved in programs in which her mother could participate.

Her mother passed away in 1990, but Sister Gretchen wanted to stay in North Carolina. She received permission to move to Greensboro to work at St. Mary Church in 1992 after working in a field lab for a year. She began working in refugee ministry as an advocate with the Montagnard and African communities; she works with filling out medical and legal forms, dental care, school registration and other areas.

"I have always been interested in working with international people and have a great compassion for people who have no home. I love the work I'm doing because it is our place in this world to share the riches we have," said Sister Gretchen. "By opening our hearts to the homeless, we are really helping people."

She feels that she made the right choice those many years ago and knows that she is where God wants her to be. "I have obeyed what I see as God's will through participating in community. If you have that gift, you have to respond to it, or you will not be fulfilled," she said. "(Being a woman religious) allows me to have a lot of children and to be able to do things for them. Being a nun, you can be all things to all people."

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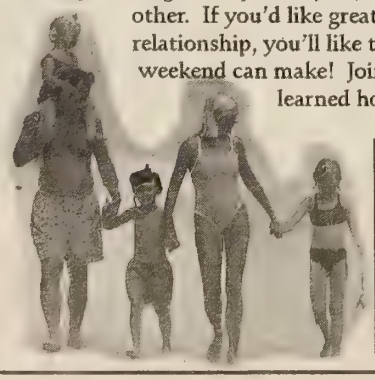
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